

MODERNIZATION OF SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP CAPACITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF RA PUBLIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Armen MELIKYAN

PhD applicant at PAA RA Department of Psychology and Political Science

Nairi SARGSYAN

PhD in Law, Doctor of Science applicant at RA NAS

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Introduction

Transitional transformations of social and political life in Armenia also changed public political perceptions. The challenge now is to adapt political perceptions and concepts to democratic standards. We suggest that as a result of the development of social partnership, the modernization of RA public policy should proceed according to the logic of "democratic consolidation". The concept of "democratic consolidation" was discussed for the first time in the scientific literature in 1986 by G.Donnelly and F.Schmitter [Sargsyan, 2022, p. 14]. This phenomenon was characteristic of changing, transitional societies and included key approaches to transition studies. Transfiguration is a path to "Uncertain of something". This means that the overthrow of the authoritarian system does not yet guarantee democratic consolidation, but it can transform into a new totalitarian system if the uncertainties and risks are not managed and true democratic consolidation is not formed. As a result, our understanding of modernizing public policy may be compromised, and the imperative to transform social partnerships may be suspended. In the above context, the article highlights the need for the irreversibility of democratization of transitional societies as a guarantee for the transformation of social partnership.

Methodology

In the course of work, we have observed scientific materials. As a result of the application of the comparative method, the importance of the proportion of strategic steps for the modernization of public policy, the increase of resource-creating capacities of civil society and the establishment of social partnership was pointed out. Through the system method, the problem was considered as an interconnected set of a number of elements, the idea of the need to arrive at structured, package solutions was put forward.

Literature review

Public policy is effective if the level of public awareness and civility is high [Pshavorsky, 2000, 21]. According to Jack Werner and Sean Grimelli, a number of stages of policy development are distinguished [Werner & Grimelli, 2023, 3-4]. Jenkinsy states that the selection of goals and the development of ways to achieve them must fit within

the remit of public policy actors¹. According to Jindal, public policy is the distribution of resources among groups in society [Jindal, 2023, 22].

Scientific novelty

As a result of continuous study in this field, the following approaches and ideas are worked out and justified as a part of scientific novelty:

- Formation of a new identity as a result of the socialization of the society.
- Oppose the awareness of collective interests within the social partnership to the insular consciousness.
- Distinguish between public policy and state policy.

Analysis

In the effectiveness of public policy, not only the role of the political electorate is emphasized, but also the degree of public awareness, the level of civilization [Pshevorsky, 2000, 21]. Thus, the existence of public policy itself is not yet an indicator of effectiveness. This is a rather complex process where society, different public groups, are socialized and create a new identity, therefore, the result can be both productive and chaotic. Ultimately, public policy must lead to the formation of an identity that, becoming the foundation of a new civil society, is capable of distinguishing civil disobedience and struggle from civil violence. We also consider the effectiveness of public policy in this way, that it is aimed at meeting universal needs and involves wide groups of citizens. Policy ensuring public modernization involves state institutions, CSOs, representatives of social partnership, forms agendas that predetermine targeted decisions and strategies for transformation of public life. Thus, public policy is a whole set of tools, as a result of which public problems are defined and resources are generated, followed by implementation processes. In this regard, we rule out the effective modernization of public policy in RA if social partnership continues to fail. The problem is to overcome the ways of working in social partnership caused by isolationist consciousness. Therefore, the modernization of social partnership in Armenia implies that systems involving the mechanism of protection of the interests of all parties are introduced into business relations, legal and practical platforms for the expression of pluralism are formed, where opinions are freely voiced and implemented through practical functions. The conclusion of tripartite agreements between the state, employers and labor collectives, the formation of commissions and the definitions of cooperation formats and agendas in themselves imply the introduction of democratic principles into the public political environment. The claim that it is difficult to believe that democracy as a value system exists in public policy, but social partnership as such is not established, is based on another question. Namely, what is meant by non-existent social partnership and the resulting response: it implies incorrect

¹ <https://www.lpcentre.com/articles/public-policy-analysis-a-comprehensive-overview>

socio-economic policies, non-legal approaches to management and redistribution of production means, lack of professional education, low level of civic and legal awareness. In these circumstances, it is difficult to talk about democracy in general, even if there are some fiscal freedoms and legal regulations to guarantee them and some established institutions. Democracy is not a formal speech, but a materialized way of life, which should reflect the image of social partnership and be the subject of the entire spectrum of public policy. It should not be forgotten that public policy has a direct impact on the living standards and activities of different classes of society. According to Jack Werner and Sean Grimmer, there are five stages of policy development:

- determining agendas,
- clarification of problems,
- developing a political line,
- making decisions,
- implementation and evaluation [Werner & Grimelli, 2023, 3-4].

For the modernization and democratization of public policy, some analysts refer to the experience of the Nordic countries as successful typical examples, where the localization, clarification and separation of social, political, and economic spheres is most effectively carried out, through which more targeted techniques are created during the process of increasing the effectiveness of public policy [Knutsson et al., 2017, 16]. One of the most comprehensive studies belongs to W. Jenkins: "On decisions made by a political actor or group of actors". Here, the selection of goals and the development of ways to achieve them must fit within the remit of public policy actors. According to Jindal, public policy is the distribution of resources among groups in society. It includes regulatory policy, constitutional policy, defines fundamental principles of public management. In foreign policy, it contributes to the realization of national interests, peace, stability and deepening of international integration [Jindal, 2023, 22]. Public policy should be considered as a means to transform the traditional-hierarchical social partnership. Civil society is, first of all, the new outline of thinking that creates an opportunity for the transformation of the old work environment, and as a result, modern models become vital and understandable. In particular, the use of new technologies in the work environment increases the level of education and the public becomes more self-sufficient. Considering the established civil society as a guarantee of effective social partnership, we believe that self-sufficient and educated work teams can create real opportunities to curb abuses and an effective working environment in order to overcome the existing institutional and substantive crisis.

Commonalities and problems existing in the public political environment of RA suggest that for the countries placed in the context of transition, such models may be more beneficial, thanks to which the product of public policy will be better distributed, including all layers of public interests. For the implementation of effective public policy

in Armenia, a critical-participatory model is desirable, where illogical aspirations are counterbalanced and restrained, and the mechanism of public pressure works effectively. On the other hand, the representation and participation of the state is guaranteed. While justifying this opinion, one should also rely on the realities that the dominant role of non-governmental organizations in public policy can be justified if the base of educational standards and public perceptions within the countries guarantees a high degree of autonomy and guarantees the effective policy results of public sector actors. RA is fundamentally on the way to the formation of civil society, there are huge gaps in terms of social dialogue issues, and we believe that the state should still play a decisive role in social partnership until all participating entities are institutionally formed. In that case, it can only be observed that the state delegates some of its powers to established entities, thereby also contributing to the further modernization of the sector. Public policy needs constant modernization, which in the era of digital transformations implies the introduction of a systemic, innovative culture with new thinking, behavior, and approaches that support innovative policy. Innovative thinking values the role of civil society in social partnership, which means limiting old traditional methods, constantly improving legal framework, renewing state institutions, contributing to the establishment of labor teams, making it an important platform for the expression of civic identity. Modernization of public policy is key for RA, because being a country bearing the legacy of the USSR, it did not have such a structure in institutional terms. It is unnecessary to substantiate with facts that there was no "Science Branch of Public Policy" in the USSR. Even today, the post-Soviet legacy has left its mark on Russian political science schools, and public policy is often identified with state policy. We believe that in authoritarian systems and transforming societies, collectivism continues to dominate, which can be characterized as a lack of pluralism and unilateral approaches to decision-making, which is often associated with the presence of coercion. One of the key steps on the way to public modernization, in our opinion, is the transition from collectivism to individualism. In other words, an individual citizen must first be formed, a person willing to fight for his own identity and interests, then this awareness will become an incentive, consequently, a person will find someone similar to him and realize his interests. Thus, in this case, the emerging collectivism is firstly multipolar, based not on dictates, but voluntarism and a strong emphasis on identity. Such civic groups, as elements of a new multi-form collectivism, clearly visualize their goals and define a number of strategic steps, some of which we can list:

- by setting goals, they demonstrate political and civic etiquette and proactiveness toward these issues;
- the ability to set agendas and develop concepts, while also legitimizing demands and exercising control;
- civil initiatives are also endowed with evaluation and monitoring capabilities, as a result of which the process is regulated and the final result is obtained;

• the result of the set goals is formulated. In other words, we can note that in this way we are witnessing the deliberative policy that was defined by Yu. Habermans, and whose characteristic was as follows, that it is necessary to have broad participation, coordination of interests, harmonization and active participation of citizens in all decisions taken.

Certainly, the public policy being formed in RA should have such a structure in the end, which should reform the state administration system, expand the scope of local government autonomy and expand the participation of civil society. These three institutions are essentially the main subjects of public life, and public policy should be built with the primary recognition of their interests and the recording of these facts at the core. One can agree with this formulation, according to which "Public policy is the activity of social groups and individuals to realize and represent their own conflicting collective interests, to develop binding decisions for the whole society, which can be implemented through state power." For the modernization of Public Policy in RA, the Public Council could play an important role in the implementation of some strategic principles:

- representing the interests of RA citizens and public associations in the development and implementation of state policy;
- raising, discussing and presenting the problems faced in various spheres of state and public life, both to state bodies and society;
- formation of traditions contributing to the establishment of civil society
- Supporting the implementation of civil initiatives aimed at protecting the legal interests, rights and freedoms of RA citizens, public associations..

Currently the Public Council has not managed to solve the defined problems and become a conciliatory subject of public life. Based on this claim, either the Public Council should be transformed by undergoing serious reforms, or it should be recorded that it did not become the bearer of the prescribed missions and as such does not express the interests of broad public groups. The analysis of the current problems in Armenia allows us to agree with a statement that one of the reasons is the institutionally weak representation of civil society, the sometimes fiscal existence of trade unions within the social partnership [Dekhanova, 2018, 24]. It is necessary to implement effective management in the enterprise, which is impossible if the appropriate social policy is not carried out. It is hard to disagree that the target of social policy should be considered a person [Kholostova, 2016, 395]. Experts singled out a number of principles of social policy, among which emphasize social solidarity, social partnership, social compensation, social guarantees, social support [Margulyan, 2011, 236].

Conclusion

As a result of the studies done in the article, we believe that the modernization of public policy, due to the socialization of broad layers, will pay special attention to the principle of social redistribution, from the stronger to the less powerful or the weak. is the in-

complete realization of this principle. Also, it awakens awareness within social partnership for equality and sharing of responsibility. The principle of social redistribution is usually based on the idea that in this way the citizen is better protected and his social and legal demands are met. The principle of social guarantee implies training, education of citizens, formulating and shaping perspectives of spiritual and physical development, provision of guaranteed social services for employment. The solution of these problems is certainly one of the agenda issues of public policy and we believe that public policy is a form of activity for solving public problems and public management implies an analysis of multiple points of view, where social partnership reforms should also be included.

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Armen MELIKYAN, Nairi SARGSYAN

Modernization of social partnership capacities in the context of RA public policy development

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The modernization of social partnership in Armenia indicates that systems involving the mechanism of protection of the interests of all parties are introduced into business relations, legal and practical platforms for the expression of pluralism are formed. Considering the transformation of social partnership in RA as a key goal, it is difficult to imagine that we will succeed if the current policies do not lead to the fact that the individual realizes his individual social responsibility, and it is under this realization that the model of collective social partnership is formed, or is willing to engage in that model to enter the co-op platform. With the modernization of public policy, we find that new operational models of decentralization will emerge. Policy effectiveness will be enhanced through successful action planning and delegation of authority.