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ELENA PARSHINA

**THE POLICY OF SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE AND
CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE REGIONAL DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM
(CASE STUDY: CITY MOSCOW)**

Postgraduate specialization 5.5.2. Political institutions, processes and technologies

Abstract

of the dissertation for a Candidate Degree in Political Science

Dissertation advisor:

Ludmila Ilyicheva

doctor in Political Science, full professor,

director of the Center for Public-Private Partnership,

Institute of Public Administration,

**the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy
and Public Administration**

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The relevance of the research topic. The policy of social partnership between the state and civil society acquires special significance within the context of the modern realities of global and domestic social development. Broadly defined social partnership includes, along with public-private partnership, intersectoral and public-public partnership as a partnership between the state and civil society in all spheres of social life to achieve common goals and joint resolution of socially significant problems. No less important in current situation is the conventional (traditional) interpretation of social partnership, which implies collaboration in its classical sense in the system of social-labor relationships.

The need to pursue a policy of social partnership between the state and civil society is conditioned by objective factors: in the modern world, civil society plays an increasingly important role in policy making in various spheres, ranging from environmental stewardship to social and cultural initiatives. Such making of joint decisions improves their effectiveness, promotes an increase in the degree of transparency of the activities of state institutes and public organizations as well as contributes to more effective control by society over governmental agencies. At the present time public-public partnership in policy-making is an indispensable component of modern governance and social advancement, ensuring the interaction of various actors in addressing complex social and economic problems.

The formation and implementation of the policy of social partnership in Russia has its own specifics, since the need for its implementation is enshrined in the Constitution, which confirms the role of this partnership as a civilizational phenomenon, “a constitutional norm-principle that deepens the content of the constitutional self-identification of Russia as a social state”. At the same time, social partnership as a constitutional principle comprises the state obligation to interact with civil society and the business community in all spheres, including policy making.

The content of the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society in policy making is getting and finding a balance of interests of the state and civil society, the creation of mechanisms for resources aggregation, as well

as the development of forms and technologies of joint activity; intended function is to improve the level and quality of people's lives, to increase the degree of security and protection of their rights and freedoms, ensuring stable socio-economic development of the country in general.

The policy of social partnership in policy making assumes special significance in the context of special military operation, illegal and unilaterally adopted anti-Russian sanctions by unfriendly countries, increased external threats, since only a constructive dialogue between the state, civil society and business can result in solving existing problems and achieving set goals.

Many regions of our country have accumulated successful experience in developing and implementing a policy of social partnership between the state and civil society, one of which is the city of Moscow. The region is distinguished by the development of the economy, the social sphere, the concentration of highly qualified personnel, an increased standard of living compared to other regions, a significant number of civil society institutions operating on its territory, and significant support for their activities from the public authorities of Moscow. This makes it possible to expand the goals of social partnership, extending it to all aspects of public life, to develop and implement new forms and technologies of this partnership in joint policy-making. The experience of Moscow requires research from the perspective of the possibilities of its dissemination in other constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

The policy of social partnership has gained another impetus due to the emergence and widespread use of digital information and communication technologies, which has led to the establishment of new and novel forms and mechanisms of interaction between the state and civil society in policy-making. All this needs to be investigated.

Despite a number of upsides, the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society in policy-making also faces a number of challenges, both at the stage of its development and at the stage of implementation (formalized participation of a number of civil society institutions, the non-necessity

of implementing the initiatives proposed by the latter, etc.), which also updates the designated research topic.

It is also necessary to depict theoretical problems that require exploratory development in connection with the chosen topic (in particular, the fuzziness of definitions of public-public partnership, its relationship with social and intersectoral types of partnership).

In summary, a set of both theoretical and practical problems determines the situation of special significance of the dissertation's subject.

The aim of the research is to elucidate the factors and mechanisms that determine the effectiveness of the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society implementation in the system of regional policy-making process (case study the city of Moscow) and to develop proposals for its improvement.

The following **objectives** are to be solved to achieve the aim of the research:

- 1) to analyze the genesis of social partnership policy in reliance on basic research approaches and concepts, formulate its author's definition and typologize the institutional models of this policy;
- 2) to identify the key features, forms and mechanisms of state-civil interaction as subjects of social partnership policy in the regions of Russia (case study the city of Moscow);
- 3) to examine the processes of regional political decisions planning in the implementation of the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society (case study the city of Moscow), to reveal insights into the tools and technologies that increase the effectiveness of such planning;
- 4) to substantiate the development of digital technologies as a direction for improving the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society in regional policy-making;
- 5) to estimate the efficiency of the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society in regional policy-making in Moscow based on the results of sociological studies; to develop a system of measures to improve this policy, taking into account the prospects for its further development.

The object of the research is the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society.

The subject of the research is the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society in the system of political decision-making (case study the city of Moscow).

The hypothesis of the study is that the further development of socio-political reality can lead to an increase in the importance of citizens and civil society institutions during the processes of interaction with the state, in particular, in public administration, communication processes. At the same time, the state's public authority to ensure state and public security, guarantees of citizens' rights and freedoms will remain, but will be under greater control from civil society.

The theoretical framework are the researches of domestic and foreign authors devoted to the study of the methodology of the political analysis of social processes and phenomena, the challenges of the state and civil society institutions, their dialogue in the current situation, the analysis of social partnership as a special policy of such interaction. Studies revealing the specifics of political decision-making process also served as a theoretical framework.

The methodological foundation is based on:

- philosophical and general scientific methods: a dialectical approach used to analyze not only the development of the state and civil society institutions in modern conditions, but rather the institution of social partnership; a systematic approach necessary to reveal digital reality as a certain system in which the state and society interact, as well as applied to regional policy-making; a structural and functional approaches, which made it possible to detect changes in the structure and functions of the state and civil society institutions;
- specific scientific methods of political analysis: the institutional method used in the study of civil society institutions; the sociological approach – in the study of public opinion of various social groups; case study method – in the analysis of specific political context; content analysis – in the literature searches

on the chosen topic; the statistical method – in substantiating the effectiveness of the conducted social partnership policies.

The academic novelty consists in revealing the essential attributes, principles, subjects, mechanisms and technologies, the institutional basis of the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society in policy-making, as well as the factors determining the effectiveness of its implementation (case study the city of Moscow), the development of a set of measures to improve it.

The academic novelty is expressed in the following:

1) the author's definition of the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society has been developed on the basis of theoretical and methodological approaches traditional in political science, its basic aims and institutional models have been revealed, their typology has also been carried out;

2) the characteristic features of the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society in the constituent entity of the Russian Federation are highlighted, due to a combination of both national and regional conditions of its formation and implementation; corresponding characteristic features of such a policy are substantiated on the case study of Moscow;

3) the author's definition of the processes of designing regional policy-making in the context of the implementation of the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society is revealed; based on the analysis of these processes in the city of Moscow, the factors, tools and technologies that increase the effectiveness of such design are identified;

4) the importance of digitalization as a direction for improving the social partnership of the state and civil society in the system of regional political decision-making is argued, in connection with which the need for a transition to the formation of a digital social partnership is justified, its essential features and structure are also revealed;

5) the assessment of the effectiveness of the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society in policy-making in Moscow based on objective

indicators and the results of sociological surveys of residents of Moscow is justified; specific proposals to improve the effectiveness of this policy have been developed, affecting both its conceptual foundations related to the need to unify the categorical and conceptual apparatus in the regulatory legal framework, and practical recommendations aimed at improving the institutional, organizational and procedural foundations of such a partnership; the prospects for its development in connection with digitalization have been revealed.

Dissertation's provisions submitted to defense:

1. Referring to the narrow political science view of the term “social partnership” and its broad understanding, the policy of social partnership carried out in Russia can be defined as a political course fixed at the constitutional level and aimed at forming stable harmonious relations between the state, business and civil society together as equal social partners for the joint resolution of the objectives facing society and accompanied by organizational, legal, economic measures; its development and implementation is institutionalized in multi-level models (including international, national, regional and sectoral levels, the level of individual organizations, etc.), each of which, in turn, can be typologized on different grounds (orientation, subjects, nature of their participation, etc.).

2. The policy of social partnership between the state and civil society in the constituent regions of the Russian Federation, on the one hand, is contingent on by constitutionally fixed norms and the nationwide federal course of such a policy, on the other hand, is determined by regional aspects; the experience of the city of Moscow demonstrates that the accumulation of necessary resources, the focus of the social partnership policy pursued by the regional government on improving the level and quality of life of the population can significantly expand the specifics of this partnership, extending it to all spheres of public life, create a favorable external environment for the development of civil society and positive civic activity, allow to take on the role of a leader in the development of new forms and technologies of social partnership that promote the introduction of social principles into the activities of public authorities.

3. Designing regional policy decisions during the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society can be defined as their joint ventures to identify challenges and threats to regional development, to identify socially significant problems, to set goals, to plan facilities, methods and technologies by which they can be achieved taking into account available state and public resources, to support on public forms of implementation of state power, mechanisms of public influence and control; an analysis of the experience of the city of Moscow has shown that in order to increase the effectiveness of designing such decisions, it is necessary to have a well-organized power structure between government agencies and civil society; to provide simplification of procedures for involving civil society actors representing various social groups in this process; to create a system for widely informing civil society at all stages of development and implementing political decisions; to have an optimally structured and promptly the current feedback mechanism; to have a variety of forms and technologies used, including those developed on a digital basis.

4. The development of digital technologies constitutes one of the basic directions for improving the social partnership between the state and civil society in the regional decision-making since a digital social partnership is being formed on their basis, including both traditional (their digital counterparts) and new (subscribers, network communities, etc.) entities, digital objects, digital forms and mechanisms (information platforms, digital ecosystems, digital tools, open digital government, etc.). This gives additional opportunities for unlimited involvement of civil society in public-public partnership, increases the level of credibility of citizens in the state, contributes to the growth of quality of living and ensures sustainable social development.

5. The effectiveness of the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society should be assessed comprehensively, taking into account both objective (place in the ranking of regions, the level of GRP per capita, etc.) and subjective (results of population surveys, experts) indicators. In order to increase various types of its effectiveness (economic, social, etc.), a number of theoretical

and methodological measures are proposed (related to the unification of framework of categories and concepts, the development of a definition of public-public partnership policy and the consolidation of its legal status, etc.), as well as practical applications (to develop forms and mechanisms of social partnership; to strengthen the role of Moscow Trilateral Commission on the Regulation of Social and Labor Relations by decision-making; to digitize trade unions' activities; to develop a standard for the activities of social councils under public authorities, etc.).

The theoretical validity of the research lies in: 1) in the further development of the framework of categories and concepts for studying the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society (the definitions of the “social partnership”, “public-public partnership”, “social partnership policy”, etc. are formulated in the research); 2) in typologization of the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society, highlighting its institutional models; 3) in substantiating the specifics of the regional policy of social partnership between the state and civil society in policy-making; 4) in highlighting the essential features of designing regional political decisions during implementation of the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society; 5) in defining the digital social partnership between the state and civil society and revealing its subjects, objects, forms, and mechanisms in regional policy-making.

The practical implications of the research resides in: 1) in developing specific recommendations for improving the policy of social partnership between the state and civil society in regional policy-making process (case study the city of Moscow); 2) in revealing the most advanced practices of this partnership in the city of Moscow and the possibility of their implementation in other constituent entities of the Russian Federation; 3) in proposals to improve the framework of categories and concepts of the study of social partnership, which can be used to improve the regulatory framework related to the regulation of relations arising in social partnership between the state and civil society; 4) in conclusions that can be applied in expert, advisory, pedagogical activities (in particular, in training

of civil servants working with representatives of civil society institutions, as well as employees of NGOs and other public organizations).

Approbation of the dissertation. The main provisions and conclusions of the research were published by the author in 6 scientific articles in reviews recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission under the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, as well as other publications.

The main research provisions and findings were tried out during the implementation of scientific project No. 123091200076-9 EISI on the topic “Political and socio-cultural factors of long-term sustainable development of small towns in Russia: a value-based approach to the formation and the implementation of the image of the future” based on the results of the screening of research projects supported by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation in 2023 at the Institute of Scientific Information on Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the research project “Regional Political Management: modeling socio-political and economic processes based on an agent-oriented approach” by Expert Institute for Social Research together with the support of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education Russian Federation at the Institute of Scientific Information on Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 2024, as well as research and practice conferences, international, national-wide and supraregional conferences, forums and roundtable discussions.

The structure of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of references, and appendices.