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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INFORMATIONAL POLICY AND THE CHANGES IN SOCIAL CAPITAL: CENTRAL AND PERIPHERAL DIFFERENCES IN LITHUANIA

This article analyses the problems of interaction between Lithuanian municipalities and non-governmental organisations from the angle of relationship between informational policy and the changes in social capital. The article is based on the research by the authors conducted in Vilnius city and Ukmergė district in 2006–2007 and 2010. The article not only provides the insufficient level of social capital at the interaction of municipalities and non-governmental organizations but also presents the measures to improve it by promoting higher level of interaction, enhancing the potential of non-governmental organisations, and reducing the asymmetrical information. Asymmetrical information was bigger problem in Ukmergė district than in Vilnius city. NGOs in Vilnius city were characterised as having more independence and variety of activities as well as having more critical approach to municipal administration and politicians. The relations in Vilnius between municipalities and NGO's were more of horizontal relationship and thus resembled New Public Management, while in Ukmergė district relations had vertical direction and resembled more of traditional hierarchical administration model. The situation of 2010, if compare with 2006–2007, showed almost the similar positions with slight improvement in Ukmergė district and decline in Vilnius city.

Key words: *municipalities, non-governmental organisations, social capital, informational policy, asymmetrical information.*

Introduction

Now in many different countries processes related to the transfer of central government function to regional and local level, that is government decentralisation, are being observed and encouraged. Consolidation of democracy still remains a major problem in post-communist countries. One of the research goals was to analyse the possibilities of developing social capital and other local social resources in local municipalities by improving the cooperation between non-governmental organisations and public administrative institutions. It would help to solve the issues of government decentralisation and democracy consolidation in Lithuania. The research was aimed at characterising the effectiveness of external social networks of local communities in Vilnius and Ukmergė municipalities through the analysis of certain parameters of social capital. We believe the research that reveals new possibilities of cooperation between local

communities and municipalities could help to develop social services they render and serve as a basis for constant training, grounded on the real needs of local communities. It could also help to establish and consolidate the models of new public management based not on hierarchical, order-giving relationships and governance habits, but on more democratic, horizontal relations and cooperation based new governance model. That would involve more the inhabitants of local communities and the social groups they have established into the country's social-political life, and, thus, contribute to solving the problems of democracy consolidation in Lithuania. L. Donskis was right to observe: «It could be stated without exaggeration that fifty years of soviet regime costed Lithuania not only the loss of individualistic ethics and individual itself as well as the loss of communities and the distorted social relations. In other words, the society's real disintegration that had really disintegrated the power of associating and at

the same time totally atomised and segmented the society took place (society's segmentation in modern world, indeed, almost equals to annihilation of the society that activates itself and creates a common vocabulary and norm system. Therefore, social sciences able to reflect and restore social economy and other socialites will face a titanic work – not only to investigate the reconstruction of social relations and slow regeneration of communities but to participate in the process as well» [1]. The related problematic items for development of social sciences in Lithuania were addressed in «The Strategy for Developing Social Sciences and Humanities in Lithuania», which were presented by the working group in the Ministry of Education and Science of Lithuania in 2004 [2].

1. Concept and Functions of Social Capital

The development of social institutions – traditional or modern, on the local, regional and national level – is impossible without effective functioning of social capital, R. Putnam and other researchers of social capital suggest. Developmental needs require strengthening social institutions as well as creating and multiplying social capital, the networks of horizontal and effective cooperation that condition the success of development. We will brief about social capital and its functions in the processes of democracy consolidation.

The following forms of capital are distinguished: 1) Physical capital, 2) Human capital, 3) Financial capital, 4) Social capital.

Social capital refers to the norms of social behaviour and social networks that provide conditions for productive cooperation (action) in solving the dilemmas of collective action [3]. It includes social institutions, relations and customs that define quality and quantity of social interaction. The increasing volume of the research data indicates that social capital plays a significant role in creating sustainable prospering economy and consolidating democracy [4]. It is an important component of social projects. Social capital, when properly used, may soundly improve the effectiveness of projects that are being implemented and achieve sustainable development, which is important to Lithuania under present developmental stage. The most important factor is that social capital creates abilities of local communities to work together in solving the most important local problems and, thus, encourages greater citizen involvement to local activities as well as democratic life of the country prompting cohesion, transparency and accountability which is now, as researchers of Lithuanian democracy and political science indicate, a big problem in Lithuania. If social capital is missing, the situation will be the opposite – the effectiveness of project (financed from local and the European Union funds) decreases and may be even unsuccessful. K. Kuzmickaitė, based on the social capital research methodology applied by the World Bank (we will discuss them later) distinguishes two major forms of social capital (Figure No 1): structural and cognitive social capital. Structural social capital covers more

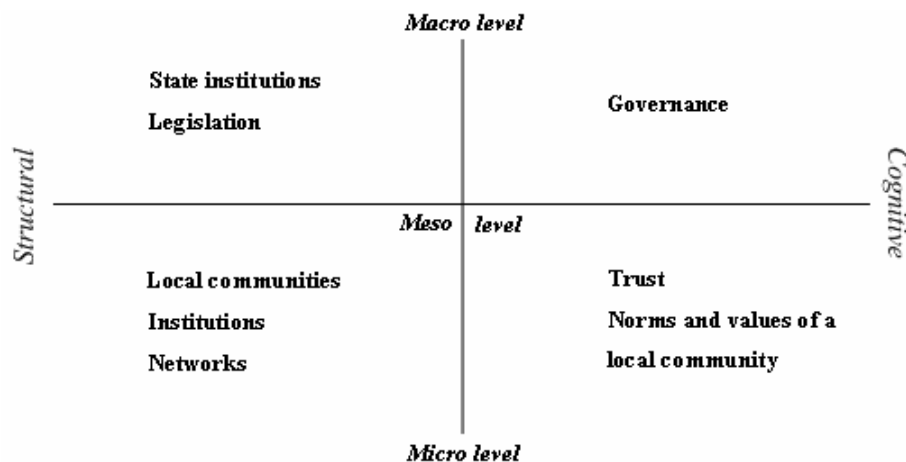


Fig. 1. Social capital forms (Kuzmickaitė, 2004)

objective and externally researched social structures, as for example, network relations, associations and institutions as well as rules and procedures in local communities. The second form, cognitive social capital includes subjective and not as intangible characteristics of sociality (social life), that is commonly accepted attitudes and behavioural norms, values, mutual understanding and trust.

K. Kuzmickaitė discerns micro, meso and macro levels of the society. Social capital at the lowest, closest to individual micro level is researched as horizontal networks and associated norms and values, overlapping with the networks, as created by individuals and households (R. Putnam researched such groups as clubs and choirs). Meso level covers horizontal and vertical group levels and relations, i.e. relations between individuals and the society – local associations and groups. Finally, the macro level that exists at the greatest distance from an individual and territorial community but makes the greatest influence from institutions and political environment serves as a background for all economic and social activities and the quality of management organisation [5].

Different authors differently divide social capital into components. This research focused on the **World Bank Social Capital Implementation Framework (SCIF)**, which used the division of social capital into five key dimensions:

- (Social) **groups and networks** refer to a totality of individuals that use mutual collection of relations to solve the dilemmas of collective actions seeking personal and social welfare.

- (Social) **trust and solidarity** describe the elements of social behaviour that encourage and accelerate social cohesion and joint collective actions. Misuse of trust, on the contrary, disrupts the effectiveness of joint actions.

It seems to be the major category of social capital. Trust is created through mutual interactions of community members as a result of which formal and informal networks are established.

- **Collective action and cooperation** refer to the capacities of citizens in overcoming challenges communities face.

- **Social cohesion and inclusion** qualify the risk of social conflicts and by encouraging the participation of marginal group members

ensures more equal opportunities to use the results of a community's work.

- **Information and communication** refers to the cognitive social capital component, which by improving access to information, prompts positive social capital and decreases the influence of negative social capital. The latter one was given the most attention in this research [6].

Scientists distinguish the following sources of social capital:

- **Families** – it is believed that a family is a primary and major block generating social capital in a bigger community. Its impact was not researched in this work.

- **Communities** – they are the most important in developing capacities to work together for common benefit. They are extremely important to poorer and marginalised inhabitant groups, for which social capital can be an important substitute for human and physical capital. It was one of the major objects of this research that analysed the activities of non-governmental organisations in relation to local municipalities.

- **Companies** – their activities also require social trust and sensation of common goals. Social capital is useful for companies in decreasing the costs of social transactions but sometimes their activities disrupt (create negative effects) in formation of social capital in the state. The impact of companies was not researched in this work except the cases when respondents were asked about receiving financial support for non-governmental organisations.

- **Civil society** – social capital is essential for the successful operation of non-governmental organisations as it provides the voice to those that would not be heard the other way.

- **Public sector** refers to state and its institutions the activities of which are the major to successful functioning and welfare of any society. It was one of the main research objects in this work where public sector was represented by Ukmergė and Vilnius municipalities.

- Such sources of social capital as ethnicity and cultural gender were not analysed in this research [7].

Measuring social capital. It is a difficult problem of social and political sciences that is discussed in numerous literatures. It was

analysed in two aspects in this research: a) *survey*: by providing the activists of non-governmental organisations with half structured research test-interview aiming to identify different aspects of their cooperation with the municipalities. b) investigation of *informing-coordinating policy from the side of municipalities*: effectiveness of local institutions informational and communicational aspects of municipalities was analysed. The researchers analysed: a) whether it is easy for non-governmental organisations to find crucial information about projects and funds allocated for projects on municipal websites, b) the ways municipalities encourage cooperation with non-governmental organisations.

When constructing a half-structured research questioner-interview the experience of similar questionnaire for measuring social capital was used. questionnaires by the World Bank **Social Capital Thematic Group** researchers **Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT)** and **Social Capital Integrated Questionnaire (SOCAP IQ)** [8]. The major questions in all parts included – 1) What impact does that this entire have on the interaction between municipalities and non-governmental organisations? 2) What are the differences between the centre and the peripheries? 3) How does it affect the processes of democracy consolidation?

In the context of R.D. Putnam works, nowadays very few doubt in social capital, associations, individual trust in others, socium and institutions, the fundamental role in forming the public space of modern civil society. The consolidated civil society itself is impossible without the power and will to seek for social relations and a community. It is an efficient means to revive alienated or malformed communities. In this way cooperation of a more democratic state-market-community with a new allocation of old roles is possible.

2. Analysis of Information–communication between Vilnius City and Ukmergė District Municipalities and Non-governmental Organisations. Factors: Coordination and Asymmetrical Information

As it was mentioned, the effectiveness of local institutions-municipalities in this research was analysed in its informational

and communicational aspects. The empirical research by the authors was conducted in Vilnius city and Ukmergė district in 2006–2007 and in 2010. The researchers have analysed: a) Is it easy for non-governmental organisations to find crucial information about projects and funds allocated for certain projects on municipal websites? b) How do municipalities encourage mutual cooperation between non-governmental organisations, i.e. how does the public sector – the state and its institutions – help non-governmental organisations to create networks of informal cooperation forming social trust between municipalities and non-governmental organisations.

Informational asymmetry between a municipality and non-governmental organisations exists as municipal officials possess crucial information about the planned projects, funds allocated for them, legislative changes, new EU projects, etc. Municipal officials apply three strategies: a) **Strategy of indifference** (in extreme cases – open hostility) means a case when a municipality essentially does not do anything (in extreme cases drive NGO representatives out as «tiresome flies that disturb their work», take away «an expensive work time» or «pry to the issues when nobody asks them to», does not disseminate information on municipal websites due to laziness of thinking that the search for information is a business of a non-governmental organisation in itself. The book «For Democracy to Work» R.Putnam shows the differences of informational policy that were observed in Italy between its civil regions (North Italian region traditionally is considered of high social capital level) and non-civil regions (South Italian region traditionally is considered of low social capital) and to get the required information in the «South» required much more efforts, sometimes unsuccessful, than in the «North» [9], b) **Strategy of domination over information by hierarchical administration** refers to cases when project winners receive funds and at the end of a year they are required to fill in bureaucratic reports about their usage. It is all contacts and informational interaction. Horizontal social networks are weak, there are no collective actions to solve the emerging dilemmas and horizontal cooperation takes place only due to good personal relations. Social concentration and involvement remains formal.

The relations between citizens and the state are based on obedience. There is no accountability of higher-grade municipal officials to non-governmental organisations. This strategy would correspond to the *Traditional Model of Public Administration*.

It could be considered that all this is related to the general problem of social activity in Lithuania. Why are people slow to join non-governmental organisations in Lithuania? There are many reasons and the last but not the least is the following: people know that it will be difficult, extremely difficult to receive necessary information, they will constantly and importunately need to enquire municipal officials for information, people do not have self-confidence and trust that it is possible to change the present situation in the area of information.

c) **Municipality coordinates and encourages the communicational process of horizontal information.** Non-governmental organisations are provided with concrete actual and easily accessible information on a municipal website (which is the easiest form for the interested parties to access information), horizontal relations between non-governmental organisations are encouraged, the processes of experience exchange are organised, etc. This strategy would correspond to the *Model of New Public Management*.

The research was carried out this way: after entering Vilnius and Ukmergė municipal websites www.vilnius.lt and www.ukmerge.lt the search was carried out by searching such key words as «non-governmental» and «non-governmental organisations» aiming to find out what practically useful information is possible to find there. The total record number did not differ much – 74 records were found on the website of Vilnius municipality and 67 records on the website of Ukmergė municipality. Clear qualitative differences were observed in the informational policy in Vilnius and Ukmergė municipality that will be now discussed.

It was observed that Vilnius municipality provides the following information on its website www.vilnius.lt: [Vilnius municipality informs non-governmental organisations about the possibilities to receive financial support outside the municipality](#)

The descriptions of international foundations and their contact information

in Lithuania and abroad are indicated in a table format (for example, **International foundations and programmes** <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=83884>); **EU financial support for the creation of civil society in new Member-States** <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=67005>, the website of a call for proposals and short description is provided on http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/support_ngo/funding_support_en.htm; **We would like to inform you about possibilities to receive support from the European Union financial instruments according to the TACIS cross-boarder cooperation in the programme of small and very small projects** <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=6701> (which is extremely relevant to NGOs). The following contact addresses were included: an e-mail, website, the address of the European Commission Support Department in Brussels, etc. The general conclusion is that Vilnius municipality provides ordered, accessible, brief, and user-friendly information.

- Vilnius municipality suggests municipal projects and informs about possibilities to receive financial support to the projects from the municipal budget.

The addresses of support programmes are provided (for example, **Programme to encourage integration of the disabled persons into society** <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=67019>), municipal projects are suggested (for example, **A contest for projects aimed to solve social problems of Vilnius city inhabitants or city in itself** <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=83660>;

Contest of projects to support social initiatives for 2004 <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=80325>; **A contest of project to support social initiatives from Vilnius municipality budget** <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=80379>

A contest of financing ecological education projects was announced in Vilnius <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=85069>)

Contact addresses and phone numbers, contest provisions and application forms are indicated.

• Vilnius municipality provides reports about the past allocation of municipal funds for projects, for example, **The list of fund allocation for supporting cultural programmes in 2007.**

<http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=84452>, etc.

The reports include the total amount of money allocated, the lists of organisations that have received the financial support and the amount each organisation has received.

• Vilnius municipality invites NGOs to exchange their experiences – it is a very important initiative aspect of Vilnius municipality in promoting horizontal relations of social capital, for example, **Vilnius municipality invites to discuss on the topic: Impediments of volunteer activities and major achievements in 2001.**

<http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=79205> 2001-07-19;

Vilnius municipality Social Support Centre organises a roundtable discussion «A year of Volunteer Activities in Lithuania – Expectations and Opportunities» covering the issues of how do volunteers manage to implement goals and tasks for the year, what problems do non-governmental organisations, municipal and state institutions face in attracting volunteers for a joint action. The programme of the event, contact e-mails and telephone numbers are provided.

• Vilnius municipality provides contacts for the development of NGO cooperation, helps NGOs to organise their activities. For example, **Lithuanian Youth Organisations** <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=83940>

The Union of Vilnius Youth Organisations «A Round Table» was established in September, 1998. According its by-laws the Union is an association of Vilnius social youth organisations, registered in Vilnius municipality. The major goal of the Union is representation of all youth organisations operating in Vilnius in municipal territory;

Lithuanian non-governmental organisations propose schoolmasters to cooperate. NGO «THE CENTRE FOR A SAFE CHILD» <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=66879>;

<http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=66879>;

Lithuanian non-governmental organisations propose schoolmasters to cooperate. NGO «CHILDREN SUPPORT CENTRE» <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=66878>

Lithuanian non-governmental organisations propose schoolmasters to cooperate. NGO Youth Centre «Babylon» <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=66876>

Cooperation between educational and research organisations is supported

<http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=67044>

• Vilnius municipality allocates funds for training the staff of non-governmental organisations, for example, **For training the staff of non-governmental youth organisations 40 thousand LT (over 13 thousand Euros) were allocated.** <http://www.vilnius.lt/newvilniusweb/index.php/101/?itemID=83287> 2006-08-28

It was observed that Ukmergė municipality provides the following information on its website www.ukmerge.lt:

• Ukmergė municipality informs about the projects provided by non-governmental organisations (**Information about the projects provided by non-governmental organisations in 2007**) <http://www.ukmerge.lt/index.php/lt/36292/>; **Information about the projects provided by non-governmental organisations in 2006** <http://www.ukmerge.lt/index.php/lt/32880/>).

The website indicates the number of projects proposals Ukmergė municipality has received in certain years (in 2006 113 project proposals by non-governmental organisations were submitted for the contest and the total amount of money requested was 478 484,17 Lt (138 578 EUR), and in 2007 96 project proposals by non-governmental organisations were submitted for the contest and the total amount of money asked 596851,33 Lt (172 860 EUR). The funds requested were allocated according to four priorities: 1) cultural education, 2) providing social support and social services, 3) healthcare, organisation of tourism and sport activities, and 4) project co-financing. All this information is useful for interested parties though it is not a proposal from a municipality

but bureaucratic generalisation of projects proposals from a «book-keeper's» point of view.

- Ukmergė municipality requires reports about how the funds were used

Attention to NGO project submitters!

<http://www.ukmerge.lt/index.php/lt/38441/>. Ukmergė Municipality Department for Investment and International Relations requires NGO to submit reports about the projects financed by the municipality. The report forms were provided on the following website: <http://www.ukmerge.lt/EasyAdmin/sys/files/3%20priedas%20%20Dalykine%20projekto%20igyvendinimo%20ataskaita.doc>. In the fourth chapter «Cooperation» it was suggested to evaluate positive and negative aspects of cooperation with different partners when implementing the project, it is being asked to provide Ukmergė Municipality Department for Investment and International Relations and other possible interested parties about other improvements.

- Ukmergė municipality informs about possible financial support to the projects in and outside the municipality. Some contact addresses are provided.

Therefore, when comparing informational policies of Vilnius (central) and Ukmergė (peripheral) municipalities clear qualitative differences could be observed. Vilnius **municipality coordinates and encourages the process of horizontal information communicational process**. Vilnius municipality has a much better horizontal coordination. Non-governmental organisations are provided with concrete ordered information, horizontal relations between non-governmental organisations are encouraged, experience exchange processes are organised on the municipality's website (which is the most accessible form for the interested parties). All this corresponds to the *Model of New Public Management*. Vilnius municipality applies cooperative management model while Ukmergė municipality applies the traditional bureaucratic model and the strategy of hierarchical administration and domination over information when project winners are provided with the funds and at the end of the year they are asked to provide a bureaucratic type report on fund application. It is all contacts and informational interaction.

Horizontal social networks are weak and there are almost no collective actions for dilemma solving. Vilnius municipality is more oriented towards horizontal relations which, as R. Putnam (and other researchers) have pointed out, are extremely important for social capital growth, and such efforts are poor in Ukmergė municipality. Thus, Ukmergė municipality should change its management style. A possible justification could be that Ukmergė municipality is small, does not have many employees while Vilnius municipality has many employees and, therefore, the results are different. It is partly truth and it indicates not only different informational policy and reveals one more important factor of social capital and democracy consolidation—different approaches and habits of management culture by the local elite (municipal administration). Management culture clearly differs in the periphery and in the centre. However, it is possible to find information that non-governmental organisations in Ukmergė municipality lack the information and informational activities that are provided to non-governmental organisations by Vilnius municipality (centre). It is truth that such information could be found on the national databases of non-governmental organisations found at <http://www.labdara-parama.lt/inner.php?mid=4> and *Non-governmental organisation information and support centre* (Vilnius, Lithuania) found at <http://www.nisc.lt>, but it is not enough.

L. Balsytė points out that on March 17th, 2006 a discussion aimed to find out why Lithuanians are slow to join non-governmental organisations took place in Ukmergė Cultural Centre [10]. It seems that people do not have self-confidence and trust that the present situation could change. The discussion «Civil Society without Civils?» was organised by «Bernardinai.lt» and Non-governmental Organisations' Information and Support Centre. The major supporter of the event was the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Lithuania. The event was part of the projects, aimed at strengthening civil society, which was carried out by «Bernardinai.lt». The discussions were organised in all Lithuanian regions. Thus, the event was organised not by Ukmergė municipality but by the national NGOs and it is not clear how did the local municipality took part in the event. The event

attracted sixty Ukmergė inhabitants and it is not a small number. The participants discussed that «the contraposition between state and non-governmental organisations is a paradoxical but not wonder arousing issue. It is strange that seemingly two powers should join their efforts as they seek the same goals, at least theoretically, for some reasons they do not cooperate», «the principle of cooperation with the state institutions does not exist». It seems that a non-governmental organisation is established to be the enemy for a state institution. Although both, state institutions and non-governmental organisations serve the society, certain interests are faced», «civil society is an extremely important public space because having the same goals, people need to discuss a lot about them publicly and seek that problems discussed become political». A. Navickas, Chief Editor of «Bernardinai. Lt» said that «it would be naive to hope that after the discussion non-governmental organisations in Ukmergė will attract many new members. One discussion can not change the complex situation. On the other hand, the reaction and questions by the participant indicate that discussions of such kind are extremely important. They help to understand better civility and, finally, they encourage» [11]. It is clear that there is a need for different informational policy in the periphery from the bottom up but it is poorly reacted from the bottom-down.

The basis of social capital is the role of interaction between social structures operating in the communities and the approach of community members, which influences collective activities of inhabitants. Informational and communicational aspects are very important here. Civil society is now in the process of establishment in Lithuania and good traditions are missing. The general conclusion is the following: insufficient level of social capital (anomy) (has a negative impact) on the interaction between state institutions and non-governmental organisations and the improper type of social administration causes the problems of democracy consolidation [12]; therefore, it is necessary to apply «more active social policy» measures that would increase the level of social capital and (decrease the level of anomy) in Lithuania.

In 2010 researchers have made a participatory observatory research in Vilnius city and Ukmergė district concerning the relationship between municipalities and non-governmental organisations. The situation of asymmetrical information in 2010, if compare with 2006-2007, showed almost the similar positions with slight improvement in Ukmergė district and decline in Vilnius city.

Conclusions

The inadequate type of social administration that causes the problems of democratic consolidation in Lithuania is being developed. To increase the level of social capital and to decrease civic anomy it is necessary to apply the means of «more active social policy» in Lithuania. They would open more favourable possibilities for cooperation between municipalities and NGOs, make municipal administration and politicians treat non-governmental organizations as partners that take certain «social niches» and often are able to provide social services more efficiently. Asymmetrical information that hinders non-governmental organisations to find out the information for project proposals and to develop international relations is a big problem of interaction between municipalities and non-governmental organizations in both Vilnius city and Ukmergė district, as surveys in 2006–2007 showed. Asymmetrical information was bigger problem in Ukmergė district than in Vilnius city. In many ways asymmetrical information disproportion power relations and increase unnecessary transactional costs. NGOs in Vilnius city were characterised as having more independence and variety of activities as well as having more critical approach to municipal administration and politicians. Municipal-NGO's relations in Vilnius were more of horizontal type (and thus related to New Public Management), while municipal-NGO's relations in Ukmergė were more vertical and resembled the traditional hierarchical public administration model. 2010 research by the authors showed slight improvement for polycentric relations in Ukmergė district and slight decline in Vilnius city. However, clientelistic relations in Lithuania, especially – in the periphery – made big damage for societal relations, efficiency and effectiveness.

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В статье анализируются проблемы взаимодействия между литовскими муниципалитетами и неправительственными организациями с точки зрения отношений между информационной политикой и изменениями в общественном капитале. Статья основана на исследовании авторов, проведенном в г. Вильнюсе и Укмергском районе в 2006–2007 гг. и 2010 г. Выявляется недостаточный уровень общественного капитала во взаимодействии муниципалитетов и неправительственных организаций, предлагаются меры по его улучшению, продвигая более высокий уровень взаимодействия, повышающего потенциал неправительственных организаций и уменьшающего несимметричную информацию. Несимметричная информация была большей проблемой в Укмергском районе, чем в г. Вильнюсе. Негосударственные организации в городе характеризуются большей независимостью, а также имеют более критический подход к оценке муниципальной администрации и политиков. Отношения в Вильнюсе между муниципалитетом и негосударственными организациями были более горизонтальными, таким образом, имея сходство с новым общественным управлением, в то время как в Укмергском районе отношения имели вертикальное направление и сходство с более традиционной иерархической административной моделью. Ситуация в 2010 г. по сравнению с 2006–2007 гг. показывала почти аналогичные позиции с некоторым улучшением в Укмергском районе и спадом в г. Вильнюсе.

Ключевые слова: муниципалитеты, негосударственные организации, социальный капитал, информационная политика, асимметричная информация.

У статті аналізуються проблеми взаємодії литовських муніципалітетів та неурядових організацій з точки зору відносин між інформаційною політикою та змінами у суспільному капіталі. Стаття базується на дослідженнях авторів, проведених у м. Вільнюсі та Укмергському районі у 2006–2007 рр. та 2010 р. Виявлено недостатній рівень суспільного капіталу у взаємодії муніципалітетів та неурядових організацій, запропоновано заходи з його поліпшення, просуваючи більш високий рівень взаємодії, який підвищує потенціал неурядових організацій та зменшує асиметричну інформацію. Несиметричність інформації була більшою проблемою в Укмергському районі, ніж у Вільнюсі. Неурядові організації у місті характеризуються більшою незалежністю, а також мають більш критичний підхід до оцінки муніципальної адміністрації та політиків. Відносини у Вільнюсі між муніципалітетом та неурядовими організаціями були більш горизонтальними, маючи, таким чином, більшу схожість з новим суспільним управлінням, у той час як в Укмергському районі відносини мали вертикальне спрямування та були подібні до традиційної ієрархічної адміністративної моделі. Ситуація у 2010 р. порівняно з 2006–2007 рр. показала майже аналогічні позиції з певним поліпшенням в Укмергському районі та погіршенням у Вільнюсі.

Ключові слова: муніципалітети, неурядові організації, соціальний капітал, інформаційна політика, асиметрична інформація.

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