

## Education, Science and Civil Resistance in Ukraine: influence and consequences

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### Abstract

Ukraine spends on education by more than 7% of GDP. But we have many problems which we must decide: undiscovered potential, low quality, uncompetitiveness, inefficient use. The gradual transition from the Soviet education system to the European sufficiently is very painful for Ukrainian student and teacher. The basis of the purpose and objectives of this scientific paper is to outline the practical contents civil resistance in the educational process and science in Ukraine and to make prognostic assessments of directions of further development of education and science in Ukraine. The methodology of this article consists of historical, comparative, prognostic methods and method of observation, analysis and analogy. Resistance means the weighted challenge public authorities through disobedience, which excludes any submission. The awareness of the possibility of losing a minimal hope for democracy, sovereignty and even statehood made each of us to think about his life and to act. Knowledge—is the key to success, this is a treasure of the nation. This again confirms the known truth that education is the basis not only for man and citizen, but also for the state. Revolution of Dignity, which began in Ukraine mainly due to active civil resistance student organizations and faculty that were widely supported by scientific elite for the European choice of Ukraine has resulted in several important moments in the development of the educational system. The revolutionary events in Ukraine and the development of civil society encourages Ukrainian students to study, develop greater opportunities of information search and realize their potential. In general, civil resistance positively affected to the trends of science and education in Ukraine, the only drawback is the lack of state funding educational sphere, political and economic barriers. Therefore, the main conclusion from all the above mentioned is that the educational sphere in Ukraine has been experiencing a period of reforms. Civil resistance that changed not only the political and economic vector of development, but also educational and cultural, made a big practical importance for the development of European Ukraine. Educational reforms and Europeanization of the educational process, modernization of science against the background of warfare with Russia has been making slowly but surely. With the successful and full implementation of education reform it is likely to expect the reduction of the number of universities to improve the quality of knowledge, overcoming corruption and ensuring the formation of a new generation of scientific elite in Ukraine, who in future be able to ensure the stable development of our country.

Keywords: education, reforms, civil resistance, dictatorial regime, Revolution of Dignity, civil disobedience

### Introduction

Educational potential—is one of the few competitive advantages of Ukraine at the current critical situation in our history. The state must support the learning process and the development of science. However, Ukraine spends on education by more than 7% of GDP (Sergiy Kvit 2015). The closed circle arise: undiscovered potential, low quality, uncompetitiveness and inefficient use.

Recently, in 2015, appeared several important questions about the changes implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. Civil resistance

that began over a year ago, between 2014 and 2015, with the overthrow of the [allegedly] dictatorial regime of Yanukovich priced by deaths of thousands of civilians, today(2015-2016) entered a new development, warfare in eastern Ukraine against Russian invaders undoubtedly makes influence on all aspects of life in Ukraine, including the educational process (Resolution of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine 2014,2015) The gradual transition from the Soviet education system in the European sufficiently is very painful for Ukrainian students and teachers. Replacement materials, growth in demand for education and the lack of governmental funding, puts the educational sphere in a difficult position.

The main aim and objectives of this scientific paper is to outline the practical contents civil resistance in the educational process and science in Ukraine and prognostic assessments of directions of further development of education and science in Ukraine.

### **Education and Civil Resistance**

Firstly, the term civil resistance was used by Helvi Robert, who defined it as a non-violent struggle being waged openly and actively for political purposes (Gene Sharp 1993) . Resistance means the weighted challenge public authorities through disobedience, which excludes any submission.

Among the Ukrainian researchers who were studying this topic we can name the scientists: A. Kolodiy, P. Martynenko, Y.Shemshuchenko, A. Tkachuk, M.Palamarchuk, V. Rechytsky, P. Kovtun, M. Tour. As for foreign studies, the subjects of civil resistance actively studied since the days of Henry Thoreau following scientists: Hannah Arendt, Erich Frome, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, John Rawls, Gene Sharp, D. Cohen, P. Denhoff, K. Schmidt, who dedicated their works to the study of the phenomenon of public opposition and civil resistance.

Actuality, the research this theme about the impact of civil disobedience in the educational process and science in Ukraine is quite important, as social activity and self-organization of citizens, including students and scientific elite, in recent years (2015-2016) has gained widely throughout Ukraine. The impetus of popularity of civil resistance was made because of the internal factors, which were triggered by external factors. The awareness of the possibility of losing a minimal hope for democracy, sovereignty and even statehood made each of us to think about his life and to act. Knowledge—is the key to success, this is a treasure of the nation. This again confirms the known truth that education is the basis not only for man and citizen, but also for the state.

Revolution of Dignity(2014-2015), which began in Ukraine mainly due to active civil resistance student organizations and faculty that were widely supported by scientific elite for the European choice of Ukraine has resulted in several important moments in the development of the educational system, including: expression of active civic position of Ukrainian students to create a platform Maidan which helped to fight for democracy and social justice; widespread public organizations involved in the spread of alternative methods of learning, on-line courses, open universities; implementation of computerization and automation of the educational process; consolidation of the Bologna Process among all universities; making the educationalsystem to the needs of a modern economy and Ukraine's integration into European eco-

conomic and cultural space; ensuring equal access to quality education for all citizens of Ukraine and education like a social transformation elevator;

The revolutionary events in Ukraine and the development of civil society encourages Ukrainian students to study, develop greater opportunities of information search and realize their potential. In general, civil resistance positively affected to the trends of science and education in Ukraine, the only drawback is the lack of state funding educational sphere and political and economic barriers.

## Conclusion

Thus, the major changes that have occurred in sphere of education and science of Ukraine due to active civil disobedience and were included in the Law of Ukraine *On Higher Education*, which initiated educational reform in Ukraine and is now being implemented include:

1. Quality control of education will be done by independent body—a significant part of the authorities of Education and Science of Ukraine will go to the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. Now each institution have to prove that they really provide qualitative knowledge.
2. Academic Autonomy—each institution has the right to implement their own educational and scientific programs. There are institutions that award academic degrees. Rectors and deans will be elected for a term of 5 years elections teaching staff and students, the percentage of votes which increases to 15%.
3. The financial and economic autonomy—universities can open their own accounts, to receive credits dispose of property and land. They will be able to set up science parks and enterprises engaged in science and innovation.
4. Strong student government—significantly increased the role of the student government that will be formed freely by the students. These bodies protect the rights and interests of students, make proposals to the curriculum will receive a significant influence (15% of the vote) in the election of rectors and deans, right to the announcement protests and hold 0.5% of the financial income of the university.
5. Transparency—every higher education institution obliged to publish on its website documents about their finances, property, including cost estimates, reports about their implementation, distribution of salaries and so on.
6. Bachelor-Master-PhD, both in Europe—Ukraine will have 5 qualification levels. Bachelor's, Master's and PhD (PhD) conform to the classification of most European countries.
7. A new classification of universities—in Ukraine will be 4 types of higher education institutions: universities, institutes and academies and colleges.
8. The war with plagiarism—research papers and opponents will be protected on public. Himself protection will be open, everyone would be free to make an audio or video recording.
9. Decrease the burden on teachers and students—from 2015 to load a teacher at a rate reduced from 900 to 600 hours. And decreasing the burden on students, one credit equals 30 hours instead of 36.

10. Accession—only through external assessment—now bound EIT for entry into higher education is fixed by law.
11. Competitive procurement system—2016 earns electronic mechanism admission to universities and automatic placement of state orders. Beneficiaries in each specialty will receive 5% of budget places.
12. Grants at subsistence level—grants will be paid at a rate not less than the subsistence level in Ukraine.
13. State financing of science—till 2018 the government must introduce a guaranteed target financing scientific research to universities that receive national status or research.
14. Teaching in Ukrainian—the law guarantees that language of teaching is the official language. To improve international academic mobility University has the right to choose subjects taught in English or other foreign languages, but ensuring the applicants knowledge relevant discipline and Ukrainian.

Therefore, the main conclusion from all the above mentioned is that the educational sphere in Ukraine has been experiencing a period of reform. Civil resistance that changed not only the political and economic vector of development, but also educational and cultural, made a big practical importance for the development of European Ukraine. Educational reforms and Europeanization of the educational process, modernization of science against the background of warfare with Russia has been making slowly but surely. With the successful and full implementation of education reform it is likely to expect the reduction of the number of universities to improve the quality of knowledge, overcoming corruption and ensuring the formation of a new generation of scientific elite in Ukraine, who in future be able to ensure the stable development of our country.

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