

NEW DIMENSIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' TASKS IN CORONACRISIS AND POST-PANDEMIC PERIODS

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The rebuilding of local economies in post-pandemic period is quite complicated and systemic task.

First of all, we should understand that the future world will be not post-pandemic. But the world of permanent high-intensive new risks for the sustainable development of the communities. Thus, **the main challenge for local governments is – to build resilient and sustainable local communities.**

What challenges have got the local governments?

The new understanding of vulnerability of economy and community. Growing the role of biological (not only pandemic, but in the sense of public health) factors, destruction of former cornerstones of local economies (local supply chains, mobility, interpersonal communications).

The new understanding of risks – not subordinated directly to economic factors and not dependent of any economic instruments. As a result, the primary role should be given not to the resistance to some risks, but to the resilience – as the capacity to maintain the functionality in the conditions of indefinite exogenous distortive impacts.

The new risks for cohesion: in the context of the challenges of quarantine limitations, that lock the ordinary mechanisms of communications. And taken into account the new gaps.

The new gaps. Such as digital gap, institutional gap - in responsibility and confidence to different institutions, the gaps in the capacity and accessibility of health care systems etc.

The new challenges for resilience, among them the key place is taken by the counter-epidemic resilience. That is the key factor of competitiveness in economic dimension and a cornerstone of cohesion and confidence in local community.

The counter-epidemic resilience as the commitment of a local community we consider in the following dimensions:

- **Organization of local spaces** – epidemic-safe transportation, public zones, recreational territories etc.
- **Organization of local processes:** the safe provision of public, social and commercial services.
- **Public health and living environment:** the management of health determinants, risks for health prevention, securing the quality of water, air and environment.
- **Building confidence** to the counter-epidemic measures and deliberate involvement of all community members.

All these responsibilities of the communities evolve at the background of a problem of the resilience of communities to systemic exogenous risks, such as hybrid war or climate changes.

In this context we consider the modern tasks for local self-governance.

Should be mentioned that **the way**, how the community respond the challenges, **really matter**. Same as the priorities of these responses.

The “**policy of convalescence**” should provide the complementary response of all main groups of stakeholders – businesses, politicians, civic organizations, local communities etc. – on the challenges of systemic resilience to pandemic risks.

The resilience should be built by the policy of “**tiny actions**” (small steps) – as **the points of consolidation** of stakeholders of local communities.

And the consolidation should be reached through the modern instruments of **local cohesion** and **intermunicipal and interregional cooperation**.

The resilience building should be supported by the complementary framework, strengthening the capacity and motivating local communities:

- **Deepening the sectorial decentralization**, that expands the functionality of communities in specific fields – from energy to security.
- **Implementation of digital instruments of “smart” cities and communities** – for the transparency, efficiency, accessibility of public services.
- **Implementation of participatory democracy procedures**, e.g. – participatory budgeting.
- **Training the community members** in order to cover the gaps, increase the competences of public administration.