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VOLUNTEERING AS A FACTOR IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT SUMY STATE UNIVERSITY

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Introduction. At the current stage, in the conditions of a full-scale war in Ukraine, the situation is characterized by socio-economic instability, the emergence of new specific categories of the population, in particular, veterans, disabled people, and their families. Under such conditions, there is a growing need for people who can provide voluntary assistance to the elderly, young people, children, persons with special needs and who find themselves in difficult life circumstances. Taking into account a situation, that was mentioned, there is a need to justify of the volunteer movement as a tool for building a society of sustainable development, which is capable of protecting various segments of the population from the consequences of the war in which the country is located.

Relevance of the study. Volunteering and sustainable development in the educational process are not new topics, but the purpose of this study is to analyze the role of volunteering in crisis situations, namely, during a full-scale war in Ukraine, in the higher educational institution Sumy State University (Ukraine), as well as to characterize practitioner of the organization of the volunteer movement at Sumy State University.

Methodology. Philosophical, sociological, cultural and general scientific methods were used in the research process, in particular, analysis and synthesis for the study of modern theoretical concepts and scientific developments regarding the understanding of the concept of «volunteering». Analytical method also was used, empirical methods, comparative method. Such approaches as activity and system were also used.

Results. The results of the study provide a possibility to determine the importance of such a mechanism as volunteering, which exists within civil society and is able to take the initiative at any time. Active volunteering develops the necessary life skills and professional experience for young people.

Conclusions. The article outlines the importance of the Strategic Development Plan of Sumy State University, which provided an opportunity to implement practical volunteer activities in difficult conditions. The implementation of organizational principles was the main factor in supporting the functioning of the organization in military circumstances. The principle of mobilizing internal potential was of integrative importance, as it provided opportunities to act independently of external factors, plan volunteer work within the team, using established internal business communications and available financial resources.

Key words: volunteering, sustainable development, education, institution of higher education, Sumy State University.

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Introduction. The modern development of Ukraine, taking into account its economic, social, cultural and environmental problems, actualizes the provision of sustainable development as one of the key issues of the modern development of all countries of the world. Thus, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Strategy, which was announced at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (1992) and which took its form in 2015 at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in New York, adopted a global agenda containing 17 sustainable development goals that the world must achieve by 2030, humanity must understand that modern life defines the relationship and balance of economic, social, cultural, political, environmental, institutional and innovative and technological components in order to maximize human well-being without complicating the opportunities for future generations to meet their needs.

Based on this provision, volunteering as a phenomenon is an element of social responsibility and the highest manifestation of civil society. Today, the role of the volunteer movement is gaining increasing importance for the social development of society, which correlates with the concept of sustainable development, in particular with goal #3 «Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages» and with goal #4 «Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all» [31]. However, it should be understood that the goals of sustainable development declared by the UN are more abstract and each of the 17 goals should be interpreted and understood more broadly. Therefore, the phenomenon of volunteering is precisely a tool of sustainable development, because it takes part in the life of society in all its spheres. The purpose of this study is to follow the volunteer movement for sustainable development in Ukraine during a full-scale war, in particular at Sumy State University.

Also, it should be noted that all 17 goals are mutually reinforcing: actions in one area also affect results in others. And to achieve them in every context, creative approaches, technologies and financial resources of the whole society are needed. This concept considers the world as a whole system, and therefore each link in this system requires special attention. That is why volunteering, as the basic foundation of civil society, and therefore a tool for sustainable development, is actively supported at the institutional level, which is becoming a global trend. In particular, in order to highlight the value of volunteering and overcome existing and potential barriers, the European Commission has identified four main volunteering objectives: reducing barriers to volunteering in the EU; strengthening volunteer organizations and improving the quality of volunteering; social recognition of volunteer activity; increasing awareness of its values and importance [30].

Volunteering is the subject of research by many scientists and organizations around the world. Research on volunteerism is conducted in various academic disciplines such as sociology, psychology, management, education, etc. In general, in volunteering as a holistic phenomenon of modern reality, aspects of socio-philosophical, political, sociological, socio-economic, legal, psychological, socio-psychological discourses can be emphasized in approaches to its study.

Achievements in the development of the theory and practice of the foundations of the volunteer movement in Ukraine and abroad were highlighted by: D. Gorelov and O. Kornievskyi, Yurchenko and others. For example, according to I. Zvereyva, volunteer work is a charitable activity carried out by individuals on a non-profit basis, without salary, without promotion, for the sake of the well-being and prosperity of communities and society as a whole [3]. A person who voluntarily provides free social assistance and services to the disabled, the sick, individuals and social groups who find themselves in a difficult life situation is called a volunteer.

Volunteering and the main motives of volunteering were revealed in the works of foreign researchers, such as Fényes & Pusztai, Bocsi et al., Szluz, Clare Holdsworth, Hart, Donnelly, Youniss & Atkins, McKeever, Fényes, Anna Mária Bartal, Handy, Cnaan, Hustinx [14; 21; 22; 23; 26; 29]. Thus, scientists claim that volunteering allows you to understand others, forms

readiness for action and responsibility, teaches you to find a way out in various situations of everyday life.

Organizations such as: Independent Sector, a non-profit organization in the USA, which specializes in research and analysis of civil society, including volunteering, deal directly with the problems of volunteering. NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations), an organization in the UK that conducts research in the field of volunteering and public participation. Also, a large number of universities have centers or institutes that are engaged in research in the field of volunteerism and civic participation.

Note that in addition to volunteering as a subject of study in various scientific disciplines, a number of aspects can also be singled out in it, revealing the heterogeneity of approaches to its definition. Thus, it is possible to single out the following generalized series of definitions of volunteering: useless (non-profit) activity; social or civil movements [2]; social institute [11], etc.

Considering the extreme relevance of the concept of sustainable development for local development, a significant number of scientists, experts of international organizations in different countries of the world have devoted their work to research the problems of sustainable development and ways to ensure it. Among such works, the fundamental works of Albert Bartlett, Herman Daly should be noted separately, which not only raised this extremely important problem, but also developed practical recommendations and proposals for the formation of national, regional and local sustainable development strategies [15; 18].

These questions are also considered by the Western scientific community, namely Fényes, Markos and Mohacsi, who noted that the motivations of student volunteering are currently ambiguous and in most cases career building motives are combined with altruistic ones [16; 20]. Pauline Anderson and Green note that policy agendas have emphasized the need to increase the professional relevance of the curriculum, and as a result, universities have used volunteering as one way to increase student employability [13]. The question of the motivation of the academic community to volunteer is also raised by Asmidar Alias, Kamisah Ariffin and Nur Asmaliza Mohd Noor who said that motivation is a better predictor of future behavior than current volunteering, as the degree of current behavior often depends on the amount of time a person spends volunteering [12]. Resch, a Knapp and Schrittesser focused their research on student volunteering in higher education as one of the form of student engagement [27]. In their study, Činčalová and Černá compared student volunteering in different study programs [17].

The Decree of the President of Ukraine «On Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine for the period until 2030» clearly states that Ukraine supports the global goals of sustainable development until 2030, declared by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution #70/1 from September 25, 2015 and the results of their adaptation taking into account the specifics of Ukraine's development, set out in the National Report «Sustainable Development Goals: Ukraine», ensure compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine for the period up to 2030 [8]. Thus, relying on the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization regarding the goals of sustainable development, as well as in accordance with the goals of sustainable development of Ukraine, Sumy State University developed the «Strategic Development Plan of Sumy State University for 2020-2026», which clearly states the development flexible strategies for readiness for changes and the ability to adapt to new conditions. In addition, the importance of management strategy for the implementation of successful volunteer activities is considered.

So, volunteering and sustainable development in the educational process are not new topics, but the *purpose of this study* is to analyze the role of volunteering in crisis situations, namely, during a full-scale war in Ukraine, in the higher educational institution Sumy State University (Ukraine), as well as to characterize practitioner of the organization of the volunteer movement at Sumy State University.

To achieve the goal, the following *objectives* were set: to highlight the understanding of the phenomenon of "volunteering" in modern society; to reveal the forms, directions and

principles of volunteering; to provide a content-analytical consideration of volunteering; to analyze volunteering in Sumy State University.

The object of research is volunteer activity through the prism of the need to adhere to the ideas of the Sustainable Development Concept.

Subject of research – the process of organizing the volunteer movement at Sumy State University.

Research methods. To identify the specifics of volunteering at Sumy State University (Ukraine) during the full-scale war, theoretical research by scientists, legislative acts and public reports of Sumy State University were used, which became the basis for a descriptive study. Philosophical, sociological, cultural and general scientific methods were used in the research process, in particular, analysis and synthesis for the study of modern theoretical concepts and scientific developments regarding the understanding of the concept of «volunteering». Analytical method also was used, that made it possible to study legislative documents and university documents, which gave grounds to evaluate the activities of volunteers during the war and its significance. In addition to theoretical methods, empirical methods, such as comparison and cluster analysis, were applied. Thus, using the method of cluster analysis, made it possible to collect the date, that contain information about the selection of objects and their arrangement into certain groups, for example, information about volunteer activities in the sports field at the university, in cultural and mass, etc. Using the comparative method, on the basis of the collected and analyzed information, a comparison of certain indicators of volunteer activity was carried out in order to identify their similarities and differences, which made it possible to draw conclusions presented in tables and diagrams. Such approaches as activity and system were also used. Thus, from the point of view of the activity approach, the analogy of volunteering with self-organization can be interpreted as a resource for the development of society, which contributes to the formation and dissemination of innovative social activity practices for the optimal mobilization and redistribution of relevant resources (labor, economic, material, social) for solving security problems and welfare. From the standpoint of a systemic approach, in the extrapolation of volunteerism to self-organization, integrating a considerable number of scientific sources, it is understood as a social system functioning in a broad context of social, economic, political relations with various social groups of volunteer centers, which are characterized by solidarity, integration of external and internal factors in the use of social, economic, political, cultural resources, with the presence and action of common values, interests, attitudes, patriotism, which forms the corresponding social identity.

Discussion results. Modern society, more than ever, needs awareness of the necessity and significance of the volunteer movement. The development of volunteer activities is important both for society as a whole and for the volunteers themselves. Volunteering provides an individual with an understanding of his self-realization and self-improvement, provides an opportunity to gain new knowledge and experience, which is certainly important especially for young people, as well as to feel socially significant and socially useful. And volunteering helps the state effectively solve the tasks facing it and society. Therefore, the development of volunteering contributes to the formation of civil society, serves to increase the role of non-profit and public organizations and helps to solve socially significant problems.

The concept of «civil society» is inextricably linked with the social responsibility of society, since the basis of civil society is social institutions - these are various human rights, women's, volunteer associations and other non-commercial organizations. Therefore, such a phenomenon as volunteering should be considered through the prism of the Concept of Sustainable Development, which took its shape in 2015 at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in New York, where a global program containing 17 sustainable development goals that the world must achieve was approved by 2030 [31].

So, a volunteering should be consider as the future of global society. The very concept of «volunteer» comes from the French word «volontaire», which originates from the Latin

language, namely from the Latin word «voluntarius», which literally means «volunteer, willing». A volunteer is a person who undertakes to perform a certain task at his own will. The history of volunteering shows that broad sections of the population have always participated in volunteering, regardless of profession, wealth, or level of education. Membership in volunteer movements has no religious, age, race, or gender restrictions.

Volunteering is gaining more and more popularity in the world every year. Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the United Nations, said about volunteering: «At the heart of volunteering are the ideals of service, solidarity and the belief that together we can make this world a better place. In this sense, we can say that volunteering is the ultimate expression of the main purpose of the UN's existence» [25].

Returning to the thesis that volunteering is the future of global society, it is necessary to dwell on the fact that sustainable development consists of the balanced development of economic, social and environmental components. The main goal of sustainable development is the preservation of humanity. Based on this, volunteering is part of the development of the social component of all sustainable development.

Volunteering, like any activity, can be both organized and unorganized, carried out in a group or independently, in private or public organizations. Unorganized volunteering (spontaneous) can be defined as one-time, episodic assistance to those who are in need. Organized volunteering is mostly defined as a regular activity carried out with the assistance of non-profit public or private institutions. The forms of volunteer activity and directions are diverse. But their consideration is not the subject of this study, since our goal is to consider volunteering through the prism of sustainable development.

The definition of the concept of volunteering is also provided for in Ukrainian legislation. Thus, the Law of Ukraine «On Social Services» states that a volunteer is an individual who voluntarily carries out charitable, non-profit and motivated activities of a socially useful nature [7]. Ukrainian legislation also provides special acts dedicated to volunteering. According to the Law of Ukraine «On Volunteering», volunteering is a voluntary, socially oriented, non-profit activity carried out by volunteers through the provision of volunteer assistance [6]. It is based on the principles of legality, humanity, equality, voluntariness, non-payment, non-profitability.

The full-scale invasion of Russia into Ukraine led to rapid and profound changes in all spheres of social life, the transformation of the labor market and the restructuring of all types of economic activity. At the national level, the social aspect became a top priority: since the beginning of the invasion, 56% of Ukrainians have joined charity funds or organized 315 volunteer initiatives, while in general, a third more people are involved in charity and volunteering today than a year ago -86% versus 67% (Figure 1, p. 10).

At the same time, despite rather difficult socio-economic realities, domestic business promptly responds to the demands of society, changes the orientations of sustainable development programs, expanding the package of social projects and charitable initiatives. Such cohesion of the Ukrainian community amazes the world, because the rate of spread of charity and volunteerism is extremely high - the index reached 7.8 out of 10, while in 2021 this indicator was only 4.5 [1]. Russian aggression significantly affected the activities of all volunteer and charitable organizations in Ukraine to one degree or another: already existing ones adjusted or radically changed the directions of their work, started additional projects to meet urgent needs. The suddenness, scale and urgency of the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the population led to the establishment of a number of new social initiatives, some of which have acquired certain organizational forms, while others are still based on personal enthusiasm or association with the closest social circle. Over the past six months, an unprecedented number of Ukrainians got their first experience of volunteering or philanthropy. At the same time, one of the non-obvious but more urgent challenges was the necessity and expediency of informing the general public about volunteering, charity and the implementation of social projects.

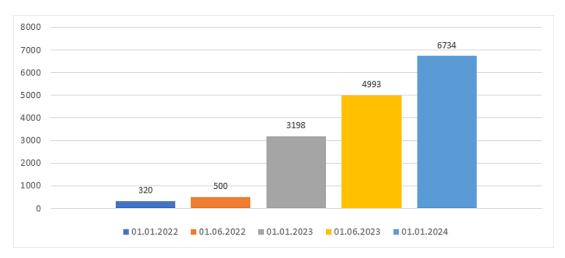


Figure 1 – The number of officially registered volunteers in Ukraine during the war years

So, volunteering is aimed to build a socially responsible society by providing social services needed by citizens. And the basis of volunteer activity is altruism, selflessness, nobility, openness, humanism, voluntariness, legality, mercy, self-assertion. And all these qualities of both, a specific volunteer and the volunteer movement in general, are clearly manifested against the background of the current situation in Ukraine during a full-scale war. And this can be clearly traced on the example of a specific Ukrainian university - Sumy State University, which builds its educational and scientific activities in accordance with the goals of sustainable development.

Today, the organization of the work of volunteers in state and public organizations is reaching a qualitatively new level. Compared to previous years, the issue of management of volunteer programs is being updated, mechanisms for involving volunteers in various areas of public activity are being worked out. According to the ideas of Sustainable Development, the development of a dynamic concept of education is a priority for the development and functioning of Sumy State University. According to the Agenda for the 21st century, education is recognized as a process by which individuals and societies can reach their full potential, as it is crucial to ensure the formation of values and attitudes, instilling skills and encouraging behavior compatible with sustainable development. Higher education has a special role in this process.

Thus, in accordance with the ideas of sustainable development, one of the components that is implemented precisely in higher educational institutions is the value and cognitive-behavioral promotion of the satisfaction of social, ecological and economic interests of society based on the maximum full disclosure of the creative potential of all participants of the university community: students, scientific and pedagogical staff, service and support staff and management.

Currently, the resilience of Ukrainian universities directly depends on their ability to respond to challenges caused by war and other circumstances. In this regard, the effectiveness of the implementation of strategic elements has a crucial importance, since in their essence they are oriented towards the implementation of a master plan for the implementation of a long-term goal in conditions of uncertainty and change.

Therefore, the management policy in the field of finance, infrastructural development and resource provision at Sumy State University was aimed at determining the areas on which volunteer activity critically depended. Richard Rumelt, one of the leading theorists of strategic management, notes that management policies should be thoroughly planned and well organized, as well as have clear goals and metrics of success [28]. For volunteering, this means that management policies should include elements such as:

- clear definition of the goal and tasks of the volunteer organization, as well as a detailed action plan for achieving these goals;
- resource management, including financial and human resources, to ensure the effective operation of the volunteer organization;
- establishing success metrics to measure the achievement of goals and evaluate the effectiveness of volunteering;
 - coordination of volunteers' actions and provision of reporting on their work;
- development of a culture of volunteerism, which contributes to the attraction of new volunteers and the preservation of existing ones.

Since the beginning of the active phase of the war (February 24, 2022), Sumy State University has taken measures to organize the volunteer movement, which had a positive effect on the stability of the organization in a critical period. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to provide a scientific description of this experience of academic management in order to improve it and spread it among other educational institutions.

The organization of the volunteer movement at Sumy State University during the escalation of the war was the implementation of the second element of the «core strategy» (Richard Rumelt) – «management policy», that is, a conceptual method aimed at solving the problem (The problem of the military threat was «diagnosed» in the section «2.4 T (threats) – threats of the «Strategic Development Plan of Sumy State University for 2020-2026». In terms of «management policy», this problem was solved, by the method of organizing the volunteer movement. This activity fully coincides with the goals of sustainable development, namely, according to the Goal #3 «Ensure healthy lifestyles and promote well-being for all at all ages» and Goal #4 «Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning for all».

In order to implement such a policy during the active phase of the war, the principles of the «Strategic Development Plan of Sumy State University for 2020-2026» were implemented in terms of socially oriented activities, student personality formation, and extracurricular services. The implementation of the organizational principles of the main strategic document was the main factor supporting the functioning of the organization in military circumstances. The principle of mobilizing internal potential had an integrative value in such circumstances, as it provided opportunities to act independently of external factors, to plan work within the team (in particular, volunteer work), using established internal business communications and available financial resources [9].

Analyzing the strategic development plan of Sumy State University for 2020-2026, it should be noted that the principle of strategic management regarding the formation of students' personalities at the level of the highest universal values as patriots of their country, who combine expertise with stable civic and democratic positions, was laid as the basis of the management policy of volunteering, are creative thinking individuals and bearers of high culture [9]. Thus, the implementation of this principle was achieved with the help of volunteer activity during the active phase of the war, namely social and cultural and artistic factors.

In order to analyze the «management policy» of volunteering, the results achieved by Sumy State University according to each of the specified factors should be considered. The social policy of the university is carried out through the infrastructural support of numerous events at the regional and local levels. Thus, the participants of the Department of Social Work and the Department of Extracurricular Work of Sumy State University implemented the following measures: participation in blood donation at the «Biopharma Plasma Sumy» donor center; implementation of the idea of national-patriotic education of youth (in particular, materials were prepared for the development of the university-wide Action Plan for the implementation of the Concept of National-patriotic Education of Children and Youth for 2023-2026); organization of meals for the defenders of the city, provision of food products and delivery of drinking water to places of residence and storage [4, p. 15–19].

It is also worth noting that with the aim of social support and adaptation of the population, providing specialized psychological and therapeutic assistance to combatants, members of their families and other representatives of vulnerable categories of the population regarding their rehabilitation, specialists of the Psychological Service of Sumy State University conducted thematic trainings in Ukrainian and English topics, namely: «How to support your mental health», «Psychological first aid during crisis events», «Ways to overcome panic states», «Time management: features of planning and distribution of time in difficult life conditions», etc. In addition, they were distributed through the website of the psychological service, the Telegram channel, and in Instagram account, Facebook, YouTube and electronic bulletin boards, reminders, announcements and recommendations with the aim of maximally informing the participants of the educational process about psychological support services and current events.

It should be noted that the martial law had a significant impact on the «management policy» of Sumy State University, and in particular on the theme of volunteer activities. Despite the difficulties, during 2022 the Volunteer Squad of Sumy State University (in particular, volunteers of the «Vira» Medical Institute, volunteers of the Konotop Institute, volunteers of the Shostka Institute) took part in 38 events, such as: weaving camouflage nets and « kikimors» for Ukrainian defenders; organized the campaign «Warm a hero in winter», during which participants collected materials for making trench candles; organized a campaign aimed at helping graduates of Sumy State University defending the Motherland in the ranks of the Armed Forces (collecting funds for batteries for multi-channel fast charging units and a set of uninterrupted GSM communication); held a series of charity cyber tournaments; held the «Diplomas of Memory» event, which was designed to honor the memory of students who could not receive diplomas of education, but died during hostilities; launched two video projects: «Youth Burned by War», the purpose of which was to highlight the problems of wartime through the author's poetry and «Unbreakable Poetry» – video recordings of poems by Ukrainian authors about the war, pain and suffering of the people; went to residential institutions of the city and region, boarding houses for the elderly, etc.

The cultural and artistic factor of the management policy of volunteering in Sumy State University was traced, in particular, in the increase in the number of higher education graduates who successfully participated in all-Ukrainian and international cultural and artistic competitions. So, about 2.5 thousand students are engaged in almost 70 groups, clubs, creative studios of the Cultural and Art Center; six creative collectives have the title «People's amateur collective of trade unions of Ukraine»; annually, about 200 students receive the title of laureates of competitions and festivals at the international, all-Ukrainian and regional levels. In 2022, the number of laureates of art competitions and festivals among students will be 154 (while 226 in 2021), both in collective and solo nominations. In addition, the collectives of the Cultural and Art Center of Sumy State University participated in the city's charity events, such as the concert «Born Free» for the Independence Day of Ukraine, «We Believe. We know. We inspire», the city action «Sumy is free, Sumy residents are unconquered», etc.

It should be noted that in 2022-2023, the employees of Cultural and Art Center, and students participating in the creative collectives of Sumy State University organized significantly fewer events of various levels than before the active Russian military aggression. In particular, during 2022, 14 local level events were held; city, regional and all-Ukrainian levels – 17; activities of other units of Sumy State University – 9 (Figure 2). However, it is important to understand that the very fact of implementing the principle of the formation of universal human values, defined by the Strategic Development Plan of Sumy State University, in military circumstances confirms the effectiveness of the «management policy» of volunteering of Sumy State University.

. Образ **—**

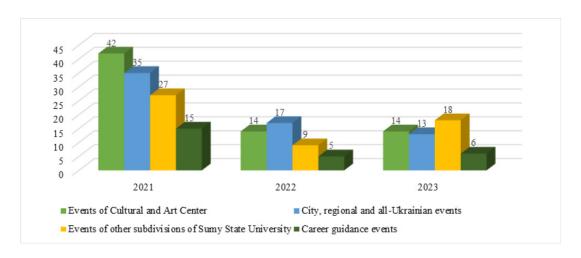


Figure 2 - The level of organization of Sumy State University events

So, the volunteer activity of Sumy State University in the conditions of Russian military aggression had a specific focus and not only teachers and students, but also teachers and employees joined it. This was facilitated by their stay on the annual leave with payment of funds at the expense of a special university fund. Having an active civic position, the heads of structural divisions of the university motivated the staff to join volunteer activities. The total number of volunteers among students who performed these duties on a permanent basis, and who are part of the volunteer unit of the university and the volunteer unit «Vira» is almost 270 people. (in 2022 – 200 people), including foreign students (Table 1). In addition, during the year, students who performed volunteer work at their place of residence joined the activities of volunteers.

It is also important to note that in October 2022, based on the results of an independent external audit conducted by analyzing performance indicators in accordance with the QS Stars methodology, Sumy State University was identified as a four-star higher education institution. Subordinate services in the field of volunteering also contributed to the highest ratings (5 stars). In the section «services on the campus», the catering complex received 4 out of 4 possible points, in the section «provision of dormitories» – 20 out of 20 points, in the section «student club forms of work» – 7 out of 10 possible points. The university is also highly rated (4 stars) in the part of the cultural and artistic vector, namely «support for the realization of the creative potential of the winners» and «awards and honors in art competitions» are rated 10 out of 10 points and 7 out of 10, respectively, which is a great merit of the employees of cultural – art center, which are constantly working in this direction.

Table 1 – The rate of student participation in extracurricular (volunteer) activities in 2023 is 48% (2022 – 42%)

2022 year

Institute/ faculty	EIT	FPSC	Medical Institute	BiEM	Institute of Law	TeSET	-	Shostka Institute	In total
Coverage rate	31,3	54,3	33,3	65,4	73,6	25,9	72,4	54,6	42

2023 year

Institute/ faculty	EIT	FPSC	Medical Institute		Institute of Law	TeSET	-	Shostka Institute	In total
Coverage rate	22,5	81,6	51	66,3	72,1	33,8	-	34,3	48

It is also worth noting the activity of the Media Center of Sumy State University. From the first days of the war, specialists actively maintained university pages in all social networks, this was necessary to inform students and teachers, support their emotional state and general coordination. Work was carried out to inform foreign partners about the real state of affairs in Ukraine, about the actions of the aggressor and the situation in Sumy.

The University Clinic of Sumy State University didn't stay away of volunteer activities. During the martial law, medical workers of the university clinic provided consultative and urgent assistance to employees and students, residents of the city, completed individual first-aid kits for territorial defense fighters, and carried out medical and physical rehabilitation of combatants [10, p. 31].

From February 6, 2023 to February 8, 2023, on the basis of the Regional Education and Training Center for the Training of Non-Medical Workers and with the assistance of the Center for the Development of Personnel Potential, the training program «Pre-medical assistance to victims in wartime conditions» was implemented. Scientific and pedagogical workers of Sumy State University took part in the program.

Therefore, analyzing the socially oriented activity of Sumy State University, it can be emphasized that management policy is implemented both in the intra-university environment and has a general social orientation. The social face of the university is provided by systematic, purposeful activities related to the implementation of socially oriented policies in many areas, and directly by volunteer activities. The created volunteer unit and the acquired volunteer movement actively manifested itself during the full-scale war.

The volunteer activity presented above was carried out during 2022, from the beginning of a full-scale war, in a situation of no expectation, misunderstanding, confusion. Despite this, the volunteers did their job, were socially responsible, and further developed civil society and implemented the goals of sustainable development, starting with life safety, supporting those in need, and preserving culture and ecology.

However, volunteer activity both in Ukraine as a whole and directly at Sumy State University, which in 2022 was oriented to the requirements of the war, continued in 2023. The above-mentioned university, relying on the Strategy, that is, on the management policy (according to Rumpelt), continued volunteering as an institutional body, and also promoted individual volunteering.

So, despite the difficulties caused by the war, about 80 student initiatives were implemented in 2023 (42 in 2022). Volunteers actively participated in various actions, as well as independently organized interesting events and expanded partnership relations with volunteer communities of the city [5].

The main activity was aimed at supporting the Armed Forces of Ukraine and helping to restore the damaged infrastructure of the city and region. Volunteers regularly visited the public organizations «We are here!», «SBB-Til» and the volunteer community «Our Outpost – Sumy». During the nine months of the current year, volunteers joined these public organizations 64 times, sometimes working in two shifts.

In addition, university has a friendly relations with Tetyana Yagodina's charity fund «We believe – everything will be fine», where «trench» candles are made for the Army. In March and April, volunteers joined the Sumy construction battalion «Dobrobat», which dismantled rubble in the cities of Trostyanets and Okhtyrka. In June, university participated in a charity event initiated by Charitable Foundation «Onuki» with the support of Nova Poshta to collect food, clothing and medicine for people from flooded areas of the Zaporizhzhia region. Also, in June, university joined the initiative of the Dobrobat Association to clear rubble and clear houses that were affected by the Russian attack on the city of Sumy, as part of the support of the «Cover to the enemy!» campaign. From Charitable Foundation «Oves», it was collected almost 10 kg of plastic lids, which will later be recycled, and the proceeds will be used to purchase drones.

During the year, they continued to cooperate with the Sumy Society for the Protection of Animals, where, starting in February, they regularly helped to clear the territory of the shelter from snow, walk with dogs and play with them. In April, they participated in the «Shelter Friend» city festival, the goal of which was to find families for homeless animals. Assisted in arranging the territory and places for keeping homeless animals from the flooded regions of Zaporizhzhya region. Continued cooperation with the public organization «True Friend», where students helped in conducting charity events to collect funds to help animals affected by the war.

The volunteers also carried out a number of environmental activities: they cleaned the area near hostels #2 and #3, joined the «Ecocross-2023» organized by the Sumy Promotion Agency, together with the Youth Policy Department of the Sumy City Council held the campaign «Clean is also a victory!» on cleaning the banks of the Sumka River, responded to the proposal of SUMYLIKE TG and set out to improve the banks of Lake Chekha, in April they joined the eco-run, master class and workshop «EKO habits» from the youth department of the Sumy City Council [5].

Help was also provided to the Sumy specialized children's home, with which student volunteers have been cooperating for many years, to clean up the area from fallen autumn leaves. Before the International Day of the Volunteer, the students held the campaign «We are all volunteers!», during which they congratulated colleagues from the public organization and Charitable Foundation with whom they cooperate, and then continued it on Kharkivska Street, where they greeted passers-by, because in these troubled times we are all volunteers in one way or another. In 2023, volunteers of Sumy State University fruitfully cooperated with the student directorate and the student directorate of the Medical Institute of Sumy State University. Several joint actions were held: funds were collected for the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, for the purchase of soft equipment for children raised in Sumy's specialized children's home, etc.

Activists of the volunteer detachment of Sumy State University find time not only for good deals, but also for self-development. From March 11 to 19, about 70 volunteers completed the online course of the Ukrainian Volunteer Service «Save, don't risk» on the EdEra platform, for which they have the appropriate certificates. From April 12 to May 2, they took part in the marathon of good deals «Dobrodvizh: Turn on Spring» from the Ukrainian Leadership Academy, where participants performed certain tasks aimed at both self-development and improvement of the surrounding environment. Five of our participants were among the winners and received shopper prizes with a secret filling. In October, all willing volunteers attended trainings on first aid and shooting, organized by Serhiy Prytula's Charitable Foundation with the support of the Civilian Preparedness Center. Also in October, 6 volunteers received certificates for completed offline training from the Ukrainian Volunteer Service on safe volunteering. In November-December of this year, 68 volunteers completed the online course «Fundamentals of Project Management» from the Charitable Foundation «Ukrainian Educational Platform», for which they also have certificates. The coordinator of the volunteer movement of the university, Surgan Andriy, as part of the «Yellow-hearted» project, completed three educational trainings on the basics of creating and implementing projects, communication and fundraising, and became co-organizers of the School of Volunteering. They have relevant certificates. Andriy also conducted a training on the basics of volunteering for all interested parties, which was attended by 76 first-year students. Surgan Andriy was awarded a diploma of the Sumy City Military Administration for his active public position and implementation of volunteer initiatives.

The project "Quest: Above the Glass Ceiling" dedicated to the topic of female leadership in the modern world was created and implemented by the efforts of volunteer students of the Academic and Research Institute of Business, Economics and Management of the Sumy State University. Two female volunteers have applied for participation in the Global UGRAD 2024-2025 student exchange program, where the girls are going to continue their volunteer activities.

In October, the Ukrainian weekly magazine «NovaGazeta» for the Ukrainian diaspora in New York, published an article by Raisa Stoyan about the activities of the university's volunteer unit during the war in Ukraine. This weekly magazine is distributed in 60 locations in New York, as well as in 10 states of America and in Canada (information about distribution locations from their official website) [5, p. 15–17].

So, this study showed that volunteering is the most powerful mechanism that exists within civil society and is capable of taking the initiative at any time, especially in a crisis situation. Active volunteering develops the necessary life skills and professional experience in young people, the ability to interest and organize other volunteers, learn to interact with other people and organizations, and find support from partners and sponsors. And young people expand their vision, develop their intellectual level, realize the possibility of realizing their creative plans and leadership potential.

Conclusions. Thus, it can be noted that the existing aspects in the definition and understanding of volunteering as a certain phenomenon reflect the levels of manifestation at which the function of assistance as a way of constructing a social environment is carried out in a certain, specific way, which allows to substantiate the view of volunteering as a complex heterogeneous social phenomenon, which manifests itself in the form of specific social activity.

- 1. Thanks to the Strategic Development Plan of Sumy State University, which clearly states the development of flexible strategies regarding readiness for changes and the ability to adapt to new conditions. This made it possible to implement practical volunteer activities in difficult military conditions. The implementation of the organizational principles of the main strategic document was the main factor supporting the functioning of the organization in military circumstances. The principle of mobilizing internal potential had an integrative value in such circumstances, as it provided opportunities to act independently of external factors, to plan volunteer work within the team, using established internal business communications and available financial resources.
- 2. Successful volunteer activity was based, in accordance with the management strategy, on the effective use of available resources, such as finances, human resources, technologies and brands, which made it possible to immediately start the volunteer project «Sumsky Canal» in the direction of organizing the volunteer movement in the media space, implementing the idea national-patriotic education of youth, organization of meals for the defenders of the city, provision of food products and delivery of drinking water to places of residence and storage, etc.
- 3. Thanks to the Strategic Plan of Sumy State University, which was developed in accordance with the basic principles of management policy and in accordance with the goals of sustainable development, mechanisms for coordinating the actions of various units and teams were quickly developed and connections were established that ensured interaction between different levels and structures as in the educational institution, as well as in the city.
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ВОЛОНТЕРСТВО ЯК ЧИННИК РЕАЛІЗАЦІЇ СТАЛОГО РОЗВИТКУ В СУМСЬКОМУ ДЕРЖАВНОМУ УНІВЕРСИТЕТІ

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Вступ. На сучасному етапі, в умовах повномасштабної війни в Україні, ситуація характеризується соціально-економічною нестабільністю, зниженням рівня життя, появою нових специфічних категорій населення, зокрема ветеранів, інвалідів, їх сімей. За таких умов зростає потреба у фахівцях, які можуть надати добровільну допомогу людям старшого віку, молоді, дітям, особам із інвалідністю та які опинилися в складних життєвих обставинах. Враховуючи вищезазначену ситуацію виникає потреба в обґрунтуванні волонтерського руху як інструменту розбудови суспільства сталого розвитку, що здатний захистити різні верстви населення від наслідків війни.

Мета дослідження. Метою дослідження є аналіз ролі волонтерства в кризових ситуаціях, а саме, під час повномасштабної війни в Україні, у вищому навчальному закладі Сумський державний університет (Україна), а також характеристика практик організації волонтерського руху в Сумському державному університеті.

Методологія. У процесі дослідження використовувалися філософські, соціологічні, культурологічні та загальнонаукові методи, зокрема аналіз і синтез для вивчення сучасних теоретичних концепцій та наукових розробок щодо розуміння поняття «волонтерство». Також використовувалися аналітичний, емпіричні, порівняльний методи. Окрім того, використовувалися такі підходи як діяльнісний та системний.

Результати. Результати проведеного дослідження дозволяють визначити важливість такого механізму як волонтерська діяльність, що існує в межах громадянського суспільства і здатен у будь-який час брати на себе ініціативу, а активна волонтерська діяльність розвиває у молоді необхідні життєві навички і професійний досвід.

Висновки. Окреслено значення Стратегічного плану розвитку Сумського державного університету, що надав можливість реалізувати практичні волонтерські заходи в складних умовах. Впровадження організаційних принципів було головним фактором підтримки функціонування організації у військових обставинах. Інтегративне значення мав принцип мобілізації внутрішнього потенціалу, оскільки він надавав можливості діяти незалежно від зовнішніх факторів, планувати волонтерську роботу всередині колективу, використовуючи усталені внутрішні ділові комунікації та наявний фінансовий ресурс.

Ключові слова: волонтерство, сталий розвиток, освіта, заклад вищої освіти, Сумський державний університет.

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