

**KYIV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS:
THE FORMATION AND THE FIRST STEPS OF ACTIVITY
(BASED ON THE NEWSPAPER “THE PROCEEDINGS OF KYIVRADA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED PUBLIC
ORGANIZATIONS”)**

The formation process of Kyivrada Executive Committee of the united public city organizations after the February Revolution of 1917 was clarified; it discovered new opportunities for the development of local government, contributed to the formation of new authorities, which were ready to meet the challenges of time; based on the newspaper "The Proceedings of Kyivrada Executive Committee of the united public organizations". Conditions, in which the formation of the given authority took place, were displayed. The structure of the Committee was revealed that appeared as a result of the urgent need of the revolutionary public authority formation with the wide social basis and substantial representation. The main rights and responsibilities of the Committee, the role and place given by the Provisional Government to it were outlined. The attention is paid to the concordance of its activity with the Provisional Government and Kyivrada of the united public organizations. The military support of the authority was shown separately; it gave the further help in opportunity to improve the impact on the main areas of city life and to strengthen its position. The active work is highlighted, which Executive Committee held at the beginning of their activity that is quite clearly observed from the published reports and journals of newspaper's staff meetings of Kyivrada Executive Committee of the united public organization, which was led down to solving organizational issues, establishing relationship with other authorities, identifying its rights and competence limits, maintaining of the order.

Keywords: *revolution, structure, agency, activity, Kyivrada, Executive Committee, Kyiv.*

The February Revolution of 1917 discovered new perspectives of the local government development and became an impact to the reformation of old authorities and the formation of the new ones, which corresponded to the challenges of time and could solve the set problems. Such authorities at the field of local self-government are Executive Committees of the public organizations. The investigation of formation process and public organizations Committee's activity has an important significance for the highlighting of formation problems of local self-governmental authorities in Kyiv, displaying of place and role of the given authority, which it assigned to itself in the new order development. The relevance of the given issue is in its insufficient investigation, because it is impossible to discover issue of democratic structures' formation in general without revealing formation problems of local self-governmental authorities in the gubernia centers.

The given issue is not enough investigated in the historiography and mostly is presented by means of short references and statement of the events connected with the Executive Committee of the public organizations in Kyiv. The given issue is partially highlighted in works of G. A. Gemasymenko [2; 3]. Some aspects of this problem are examined in the investigations of O. Lemizhunska [4] and V. F. Soldatenko [5].

An important source of the theme investigation is the publication of the Executive Committee, because there are the vision of formation process and activity of the mentioned authority from the first person. There are reports, slogans and minutes of Kyivrada Executive Committee of the united public organizations meetings.

The aim of the paper is to highlight formation process and activity of Kyivrada Executive Committee of the united public organizations at the initial period of their work based on the materials of its publications.

The question of the local authorities' organization sharply rose after the revolutionary events of February 1917. At the same time as the problem of the local

authorities formation was solved by the Provisional Government; the Executive Committees were created by communities' initiative in gubernia and district centers.

Work on the public authority organization, which could create conditions to support a new government, started at the beginning of March 1917, after receiving a telegram from the Provisional Committee of the State Duma by the Kyiv Mayor F. Burchak. As a result was the formation of united public organizations took place. Principle, which is the basis for the design of the given authority, was reduced to the point that all organizations, all strata of the population, all political parties that recognize the new system, should have its representatives in it.

The Executive Committee of the Rada, which immediately began active work, was organized on March 3 [6, p.1]. Rada expressed its full confidence to it, and the city power passed into the hands of the Executive Committee, in fact.

The Committee includes representatives of the City Council (2), the gubernia zemstvo (1), Municipal Union Organizations (1), Zemstvo Union Organizations (1), Military-Industrial Committee (1), the national Ukrainian (1) Hebrew (1) and Polish (1) organizations, cooperative organizations (1), the Council of working deputies (4), coalition Council of students (1), Council of the united governmental organizations (1). The resolution of March 5 allowed letting to the stuff of the Committee temporarily to the entrance the representatives of elected at the delegates meeting of all garrison 2 persons from militaries elected at the national meeting of the Trinity House. The representation of cooperatives was strengthened by one more member on March 6. The resolutions of the Committee on 6th and 9th of March allowed from the political parties of "progressive direction", as it was written in the newspaper, one representative from the united Socialist Revolutionaries (1) and the Social Democrats (1). Two representatives of the officer delegates meeting have been participating in the Committee's work since March 8. Another representative was added due to the increasing of the committee members' number and a violation of the proportion of the initial workers representation [6, p.2].

Thus, the number of Committee members amounted 24 persons in the first decade of March. The expansion of the Committee wasn't stopped on it. The

Committee applied to Rada for getting to the number of 25 members, herewith the representatives of political parties, members of the “progressive direction” from Kiev gubernia, Mayor F. S. Burchak and military commissioner K. M. Oberuchev had to be members of the committee beyond a given number. This gave an opportunity to attract a large number of people who represented different political parties, population and military; to expand establishment and strengthen the position of the Executive Committee.

As for the rights and competences of the Committee, they were wide enough. The Committee cooperated with Rada as its representative of Mayor F. S. Burchak, who was included to the former. The Rada of the united public organizations of the city chose 15 committee members to be in publicity. City police came into subordination to the Executive Committee [6, p.2].

The instruction to the Executive Committee, which was published in the newspaper of the given authority, displays the role that is given to it in the field of activity limits: “Kyiv Executive Committee temporary continues to carry out important regional functions before the formation of legal elected regional committee, in election of which all normally structured public organizations in region should take part” [13, p.2]. The Committee should have elected a presidium consisting of chairman, his companions, 2 secretaries and paymaster [13, p.1]. This means that the Committee has almost the same role in gubernia governance as in the city administration.

The Committee did not get any direct references that made some difficulties and somehow inhibited the process of identification its rights and competences. The member of State Duma, who visited Saint Petersburg, explained the Committee that the Provisional Government would give only common directives, but all the work belongs to the Committee [6, p.2].

The situation of the Committee was somehow uncertain in relationship with the military. However, the order to the local military authorities to act in full coordination with the Executive Committee greatly strengthened the role of the latter.

After the military parade on March 6-7, the Executive Committee requested the population with an appeal that is published in the newspaper "The Proceedings of Kyivrada Executive Committee of the united public organizations". The attention was paid in the appeal to the importance of recognizing and supporting Kiev garrison headed by the chief of the Kiev Military District of the new system and the Executive Committee by military that testified that "...the Executive Committee is recognized authority in Kiev at that moment..." [7, p.2]. These appeals were directed to the strengthening the position of the executive committee, and gaining the trust of the population.

Thus the further activity of the Executive Committee legitimized in fact a wide representation of different public organizations and parties and also representation of military to the end of March. This gave an opportunity to improve the impact on the main areas of city life in further.

The activity of the Committee has begun in fact since March 4. It was mentioned at the pages of the newspaper that meetings were hold daily, and there were 13 sessions from 4th of March to 11th March [6, p.2]. These data indicate an active job that was done by committee members of effective authority organization.

The Committee did diverse work. The issues in education, protection order, control under the others authorities' activity were solved in parallel with representation's expanding. The Committee decided to transfer the police and the beginning of its reorganization and transferring of police arms at the meeting on the 5th of March 1917 [1, p.49]. According to this decision, the Committee further began to watch through its authorized representative.

The Committee announced in the telegram to the Provisional Government that it successfully controls the old authorities and develops its work not only in Kyiv but in other cities of the region [8, p.1].

The Executive Committee cooperated with the gubernia executive committee and other public authorities in order of action concordance, and its activity it built on Kyivrada of the united public organizations. Joint meeting with the latter was organized by the Executive Committee when it was needed or at the request of not

less than 1/5 of Rada members. The dialogue between City and new organized gubernia Executive Committees was led in order of their action limits concordance at the end of March [10, p.2].

The issue towards the structure of the financial commission of the Committee was decided at the meeting on the 26th of March 1917. S. Zelinsky was elected as commissioner of the Finance Committee that was included to financial commission together with 3 members of the Executive Committee and 3 representatives of local banks [9, p.2]. Also, S. Zelinsky became the member of special commission on city police organization.

Work on the organization of commissariat on issues of homeless children, agitation commission formation began at the end of March 1917 by the Committee, the members of which should have organized expeditions to the front [11, p.2].

The commissariat on issues of buildings distribution for public organizations and trade unions, which were formed at that period, was organized at the end of April [14, p.2]. One representative from both Rada of working deputies and Rada of officers' and soldiers' deputies were included to the commissariat beside the committee members. But it was mentioned at the meeting on April 3 that the given commissariat should carry out the confiscation of rooms only with the approval of the Executive Committee.

The issues of active participation of students in the development of the new order were agreed at the common meeting of the Executive Committees of Rada of the united public organizations, Rada of working deputies, committee of garrison troop's deputies, delegates from students.

It was decided to postpone the examinations (except the state examinations) at the universities to autumn [12, p.2], students should have left classes to take an active participation at social and political building of the country. But part of the students did not support such a decision and were supported by tutors; therefore, the Committee conducted explanatory work and took measures in implementation of its resolutions.

The Committee also took part in solving issues on defending of cultural heritage. The statement of Commissioner about the defending of monuments and art of Bilyashevsky about a terrible condition of monuments saving of the Society of antique memorials and art protection in private apartments was heard at the meeting on April 25. It was decided to draw attention to this issue and set monuments in the building of the city museum [15, p.2].

Despite the big agency and wide support, the Provisional Committee did not predicted permanent functioning of the Executive Committee. At the newspaper of Kyivrada Executive Committee of the united public organizations was written that the existence and activity of the Committee is temporal. The Committee should have withdrawn its commissioners and have limited its functions to that moment when it would have been possible to say that “the new order is provided at all life spheres and in the human’s consciousness” [6, p.2]. The Government tried to arrange favorable for it relationship of commissioners and Executive Committees. G. A. Herasymenko states that the committees, as Ministry of Internal Affairs thought, would not substitute local government authorities, but would play role of social and organizational centers, with which local commissioners would coordinate its activity [2, c.71].

Thus, Kyivrada Executive Committee of the united public organizations was established in a result of sharp necessity of revolutionary public authority formation with wide social basis and considerable representation that is ready to cope with the challenges of time. Interests of workers, soldiers, students, Ukrainian, Polish and Jewish organizations, other public city organizations, militaries were represented in Kyiv Executive Committee. The Committee did not get any direct evidences from the Provisional Government that negatively influenced process of its rights and competence limits determination. It immediately started to active organization work that is clearly seen from the published reports and journals of meetings in printed authority of the Executive Committee. The Committee mostly solved organization issues, established relationship with other authorities in March 1917. With defining its rights and competence limits, the Committee quickly devolved to solving different

issues, trying to support order, arranged the control and impact on main life spheres of the city.

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