

Solidarity as invisible resource and potential of the welfare state

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Solidarity and Solidarization

- Solidarization is the process of establishing, maintaining and supporting solidarity-based social relations.
- Solidarity is a social characteristic that determines the quality of social relationships and implies the presence of:
 - shared views, interests, and goals;
 - a sense of shared identity;
 - active compassion and coordinated actions based on a sense of unity of values.

Social solidarity

Is executed mainly through charity, volunteer and other non-profitable activities:

- ▶ Providing social and psychological support to those in need — children, people with disabilities, the elderly, homeless people;
- ▶ Solving urgent or non-standard problems in society while the state formulates and approves an appropriate solutions and procedures (e.g. clearing debris after rocket attack or disasters, providing shelter, food and essentials to victims)
- ▶ Protecting rights, lives or security of themselves and other people, even strangers, from external destructive circumstances (e.g., territorial defense units in the early days of the war in Ukraine)
- ▶ Public activities aimed at protecting the environment, preserving historical and cultural heritage, promoting a healthy lifestyle and other socially important goals.

Functions of Social Solidarity

- ▶ Complementing most the **social function of the welfare state**, but also the educational, cultural, environmental, patriotic functions of the state, and in times of war, the defence function;
- ▶ alleviating existing issues in economic, financial, and other systems of state regulation;
- ▶ improving the welfare of the solidarised community, individuals participating in the solidarisation process, and other population groups that benefit from the activities of solidarised groups.

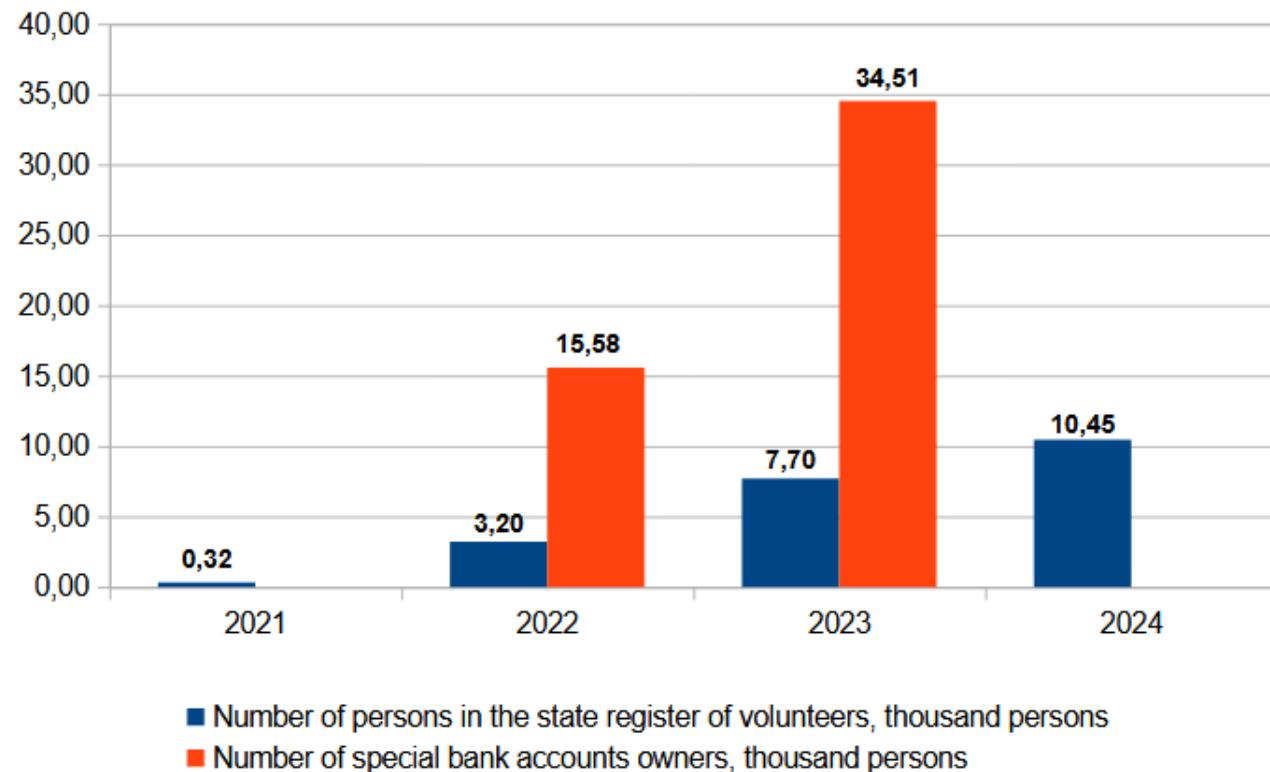
Approaches to assessing the level of solidarity in society

- ▶ research on the development of volunteering;
- ▶ analysis of the prevalence of charity;
- ▶ assessment of inequality indicators (e.g. Gini index);
- ▶ analysis of the degree of inclusiveness in society;
- ▶ research on the dynamics of the tendency towards non-commercial activity among the population.

Assessment of the development of volunteering

- ▶ data from official volunteer registries;
- ▶ results of sociological surveys based on respondents' self-identification;
- ▶ indirect indicators of actual volunteer activity (e.g. special financial instruments for fundraising).

Dynamics of official and indirect indicators of the number of volunteers in Ukraine, 2021-2024.

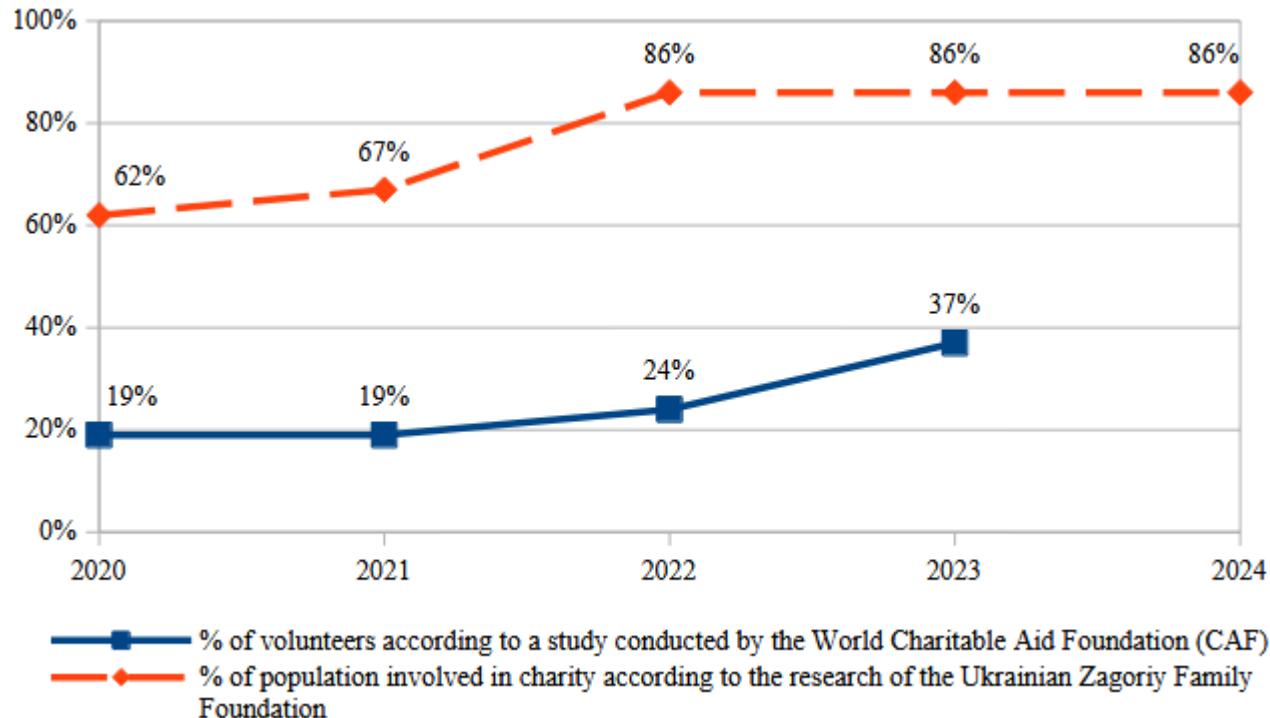


Charity research

Charity refers to any kind of selfless assistance, including financial support and volunteer work.

Volunteering is the voluntary provision of intangible assistance without charge, using the volunteer's personal time for the benefit of another person, group of persons or non-profit organisation, as well as other non-profit activities aimed at socially useful events (environmental protection, preservation of historical and cultural heritage, strengthening of national identity, promotion of a healthy lifestyle, etc.).

Charity research



Research of non-commercial forms of economic activity

Civil society organisations (CSOs) that work for the benefit of society or a specific community and are not motivated by personal gain:

- ▶ charitable foundations and organisations;
- ▶ public associations (public organisations and unions);
- ▶ local self-government bodies;
- ▶ creative unions and other professional organisations;
- ▶ consumer associations;
- ▶ gardening societies and religious organisations.

Dynamics of the share of main types of CSOs in 2021-2024

Main organisational and legal types of non-profit CSOs	2021	2022	2023	2024
Public organisations, %	47,4	47,1	47,2	47,5
Charity organisations, %	10,0	12,5	13,8	14,4
Religious organisations, %	13,7	13,3	13,1	13,0
Trade unions, %	14,0	13,3	12,8	12,5
Local self-government bodies, %	7,6	6,9	6,6	6,2
Other forms of non-profit CSOs, %	7,4	6,9	6,6	6,5
Total non-commercial CSOs, units	188 213	195 497	200 450	205 662
<i>Growth of non-profit CSOs, %</i>		3,87%	2,53%	2,60%

Social solidarity index

Is based on research of dynamics of people's tendency to unite for the purpose of executing socially useful activities on altruistic base without personal gain.

It is proposed to measure this by comparing the number of non-profit civil society organisations (CSOs) to the total number of active legal entities of all organisational and legal forms of economic activity:

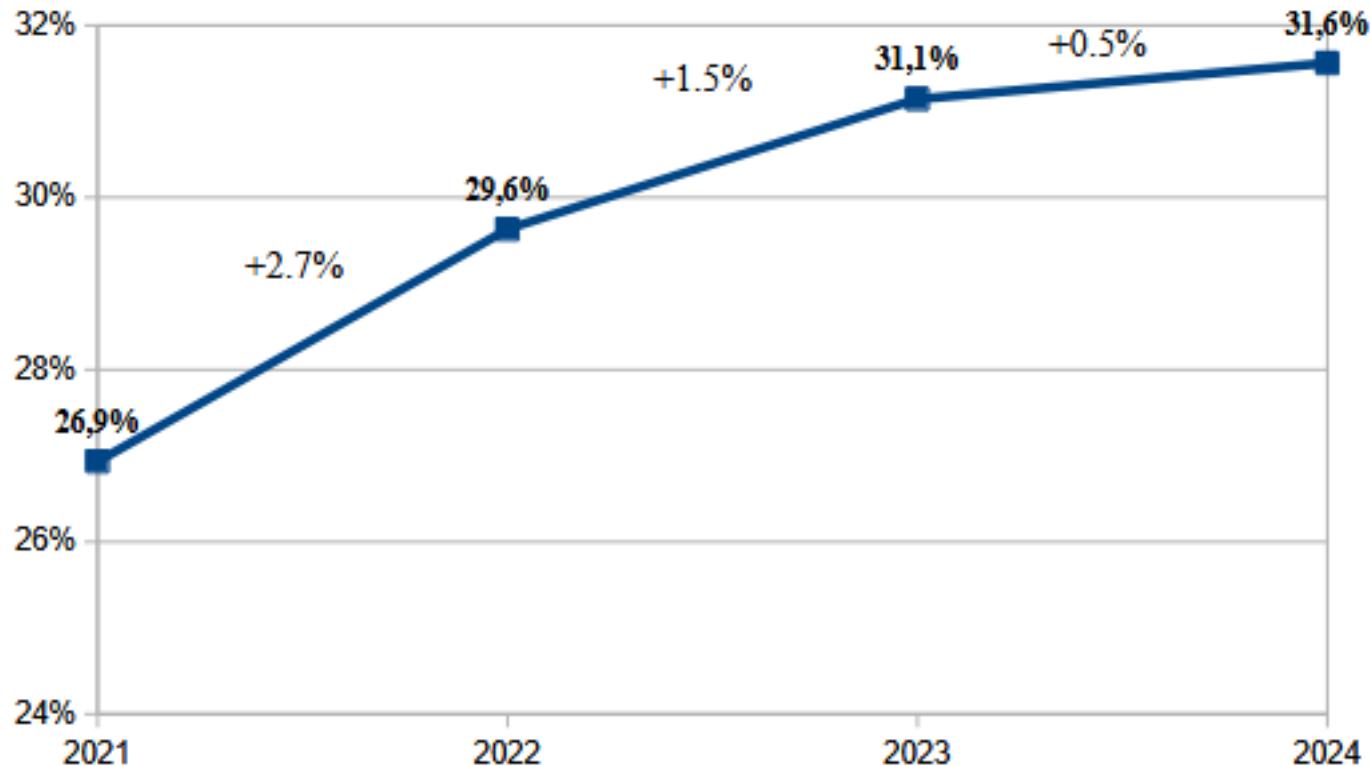
$$I_S = \text{CSO} / \text{LE}_{act}, \text{ where}$$

I_S — index of the solidarity level in society;

CSO — number of non-profit civil society organizations (CSO);

LE_{act} — total number of all active legal entities.

Dynamics of the social solidarity index in Ukraine



Thank you

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