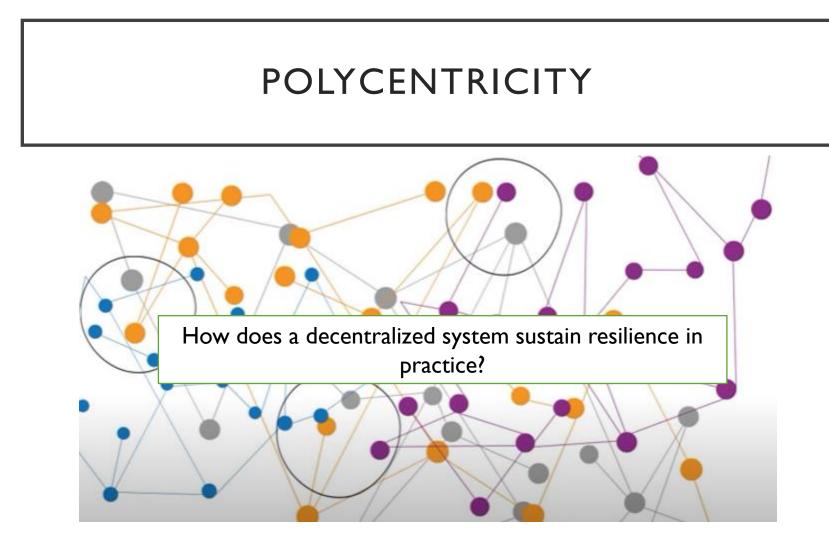
DECENTRALIZATION REFORM AND SECURITY IN UKRAINE IN LIGHT OF POLYCENTRICITY THEORY

Oleksandra KEUDEL, Kyiv School of Economics

Oksana HUSS, Bologna University

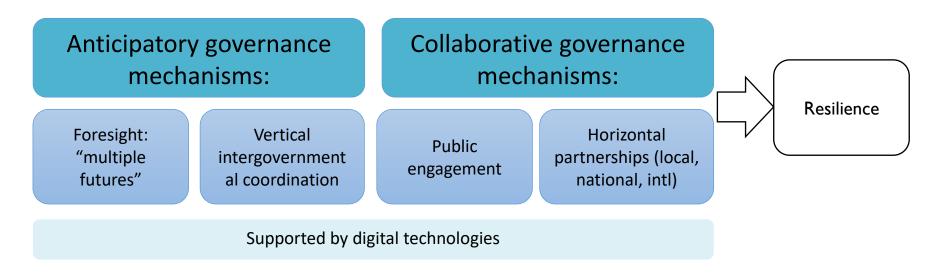
LPSA Expert Working Group on Europe & Central Asia – Open Meeting – October 2023



Based on Elinor Ostrom's work

COMPONENTS OF RESILIENCE: ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

• Survey questions addressed resilience and supportive governance mechanisms according to this framework:





METHODOLOGY

- Survey initiated by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and Association of Ukrainian Cities
- 7 Interviews and 2 Focus Groups (LA, Associations, Parliament committee, and Min Regio reps)
- Online survey via AUC, Association of Hromadas, Congress Delegation
- Data collection: July September (survey 30.08.2022 20.09.2022)
- 241 responses (17% LAs in UA), among them:
 - Rural 53% (128)
 - Urban 47% (113) Liberated hromadas & hromadas outside combat area 204, under occupation or at the frontline – 37. Unless mentioned, all data refers to 204 hromadas

 \rightarrow Results are driven by urban and rural communities of 50,000 and fewer residents

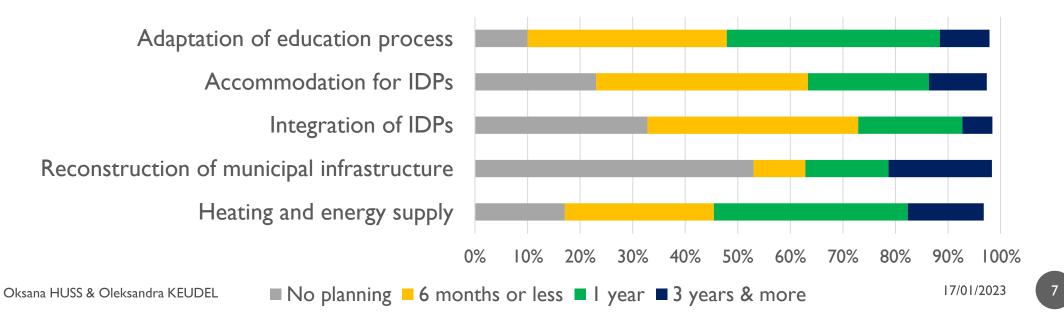
PLANNING SUPPORTS EMERGENCY RESPONSE BUT SHORT-SIGHTED

- Majority of LAs (92%) had **emergency plans** and 69% found them helpful
- Scenario planning was helpful for 50%

BUT

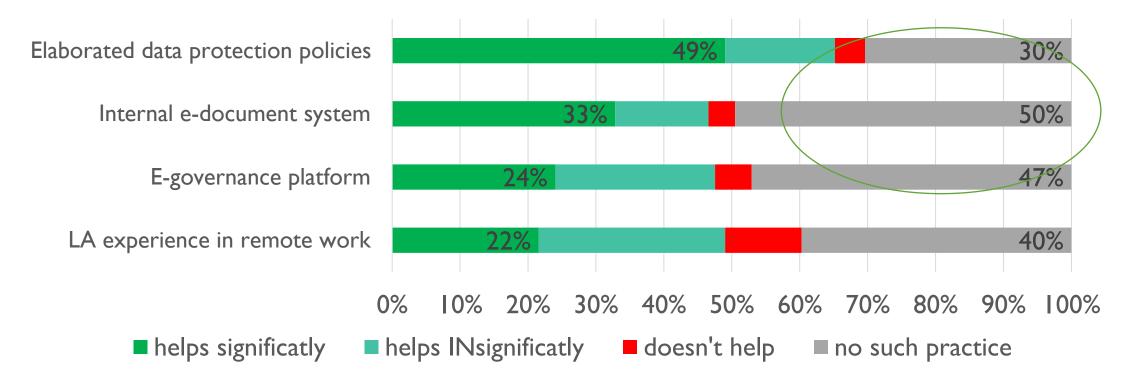
• Short planning horizon into the future: 6 months (ca. 40%)

Question: For what time period does the local authority do planning regarding the following issues?



E-GOVERNANCE SUPPORTS EMERGENCY RESPONSE BUT MANY DON'T HAVE IT

Question: Which of the following helps your community respond to the challenges of the war times and how significantly?



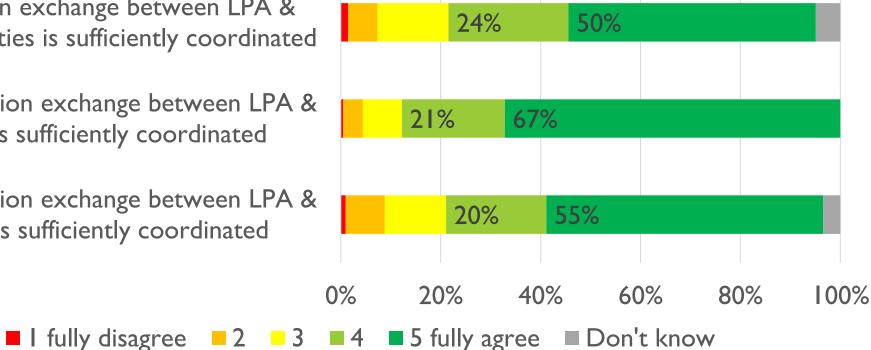
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INFORMATION EXCHANGE WITH MILITARY **ADMINISTRATIONS & CENTRAL AUTHORITIES**

I. Information exchange between LPA & central authorities is sufficiently coordinated

VERTICAL COORDINATION

- 2. Information exchange between LPA & RMA is sufficiently coordinated
- 3. Information exchange between LPA & DMA is sufficiently coordinated



Note: n = 204 (liberated and rear communities at the time of the survey) Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (note: see statements 1-3 on the Figure). Choose one: 1 – fully disagree, 5 – fully agree, Don't know

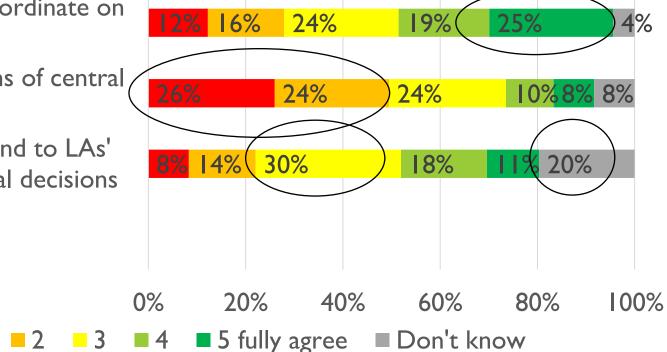
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COORDINATION ON STRATEGIC DECISIONS BUT LACK OF FEEDBACK & INFLUENCE

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (note: see statements 1-4 in the Figure). Choose one: 1 – fully disagree, 5 – fully agree, Don't know

- I. LAs & central authorities coordinate on strategic decisions
 - 2. LAs can influence decisions of central authorities
 - 3. Central authorities respond to LAs' feedback about governmental decisions

I fully disagree

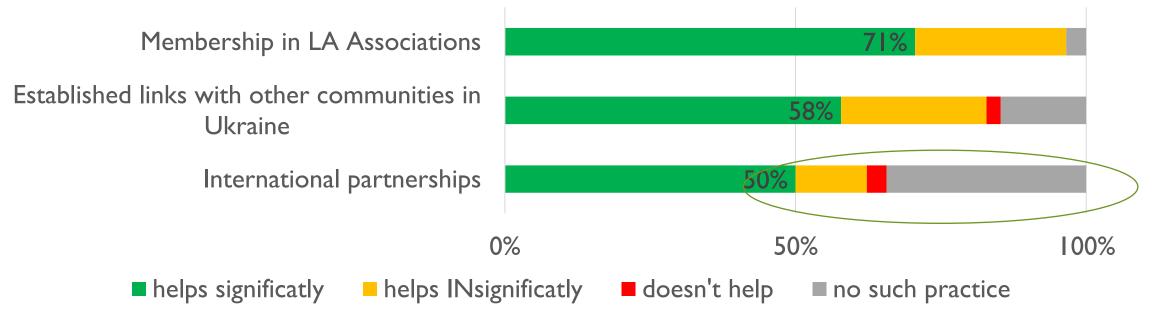


N = 204 (liberated and communities outside combat areas)



LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL MUNICIPAL NETWORKS SUPPORT EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Question: Which of the following helps your community respond to the challenges of the war times and how significantly? Options: helps significantly, helps Insignificantly, does not help, there is no such practice.



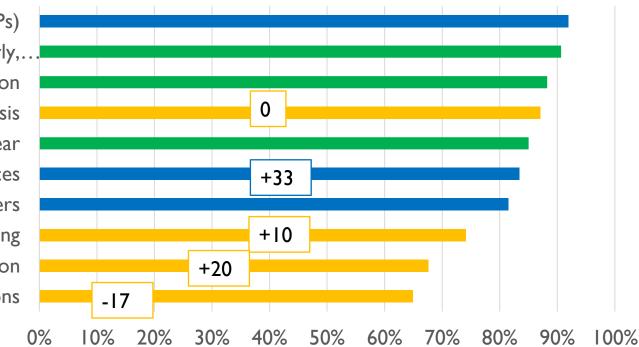
- New international partnerships since the invasion: 35%
- Mechanisms mainly based on personal contacts, but also twinning agreements and proactive stance of partners



LAS CONNECT TO SELF-ORGANISATION CAPACITY OF THEIR COMMUNITIES

What was the purpose, with which LA in your community introduce initiatives on informing and/or engaging citizens or business after 24.02.2022? [Figures in boxes indicate change vs 2021, similar questions]

Coordinate supply & demand for help (e.g. for UAF, IDPs) Meet the needs of vulnerable social groups (elderly,... Strengthen community cohesion Increase community trust to LA in the crisis Lower emotional pressure and fear Attract external resources Coordinate volunteers Engage direct stakeholders to problem-solving Anti-corruption Inclusion of diverse opinions



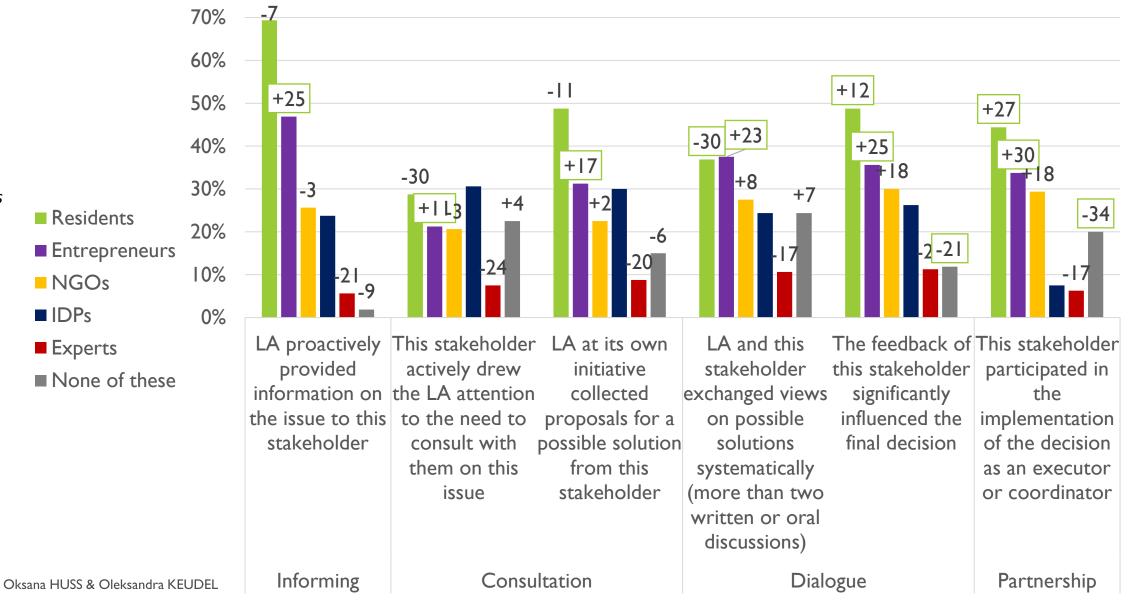
n opinions = 134, n needs of vulnerable groups = 150, n community cohesion = 153, n reduce fear = 147, n engage direct stakeholders = 143, n trust = 147, n anti-corruption = 139, n coordinate volunteers = 146, n attract resources = 145, n coordinate demand & supply = 149, n reduce chaos = 147

pragmatic community well-being good governance

17/01/2023

LAS ENGAGE PUBLIC DEEPER & WIDER IN COMPARISON TO 2021

Ouestion: *Indicate* which stakeholders and how were involved in solving the problem, you identified in the previous question. Multiple stakeholders could be selected. n = 160 (those rear and liberated communities, which confirmed having public informing and participation initiatives).



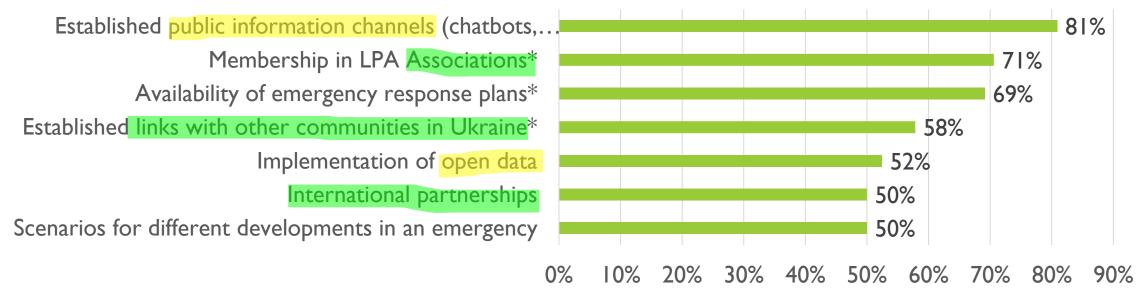
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FINDINGS' SUMMARY

- Decentralization reform contributed to favourable conditions for resilience and local authorities proved to be the backbone of societal resilience in Ukraine => complete decentralization reform for polycentric security
- 2. Collaborative governance supports legitimate emergency response => security in a democracy
- Citizens as partners vs citizens as clients => towards new social contract in Ukraine

PRE-EXISTING PRACTICES SUPPORTING CRISIS RESPONSE

Question: Which of the following helps your community respond to the challenges of the war times and how significantly? Respondents could choose all that apply from 17 practices.



N = 204 (liberated and rear communities at the time of the survey)

Options: helps significantly, helps Insignificantly, does not help, there is no such practice. This Figure presents all options that received 50%+ of "helps significantly" answers. Options marked* were also marked as helpful by communities who were at the frontline or occupied at the time of the survey (they had a list of 11 practices).