

# HOW SOCIAL STABILITY INFLUENCES THE LEVEL OF SOCIAL TRUST IN YOUNG UKRAINIANS

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In the light of the current events in Ukraine it appears logical to consider the concept of trust. It has always been and still functions as a cement of human cooperation. Influencing various aspects of interpersonal relations, including interpersonal, intergroup, and individual ones, it illustrates the state of the political, economic and professional ability to maintain social connections. Trust makes the basis for problem solving and is characterized with constructive correlation. Thus, it is seen as the factor of transformation of the state's social status on its way to become democratic and transparent. Without exaggeration, it is trust that forms the ground for the majority of social processes.

On the other hand, the issue of trust becomes scrutinized with special precision in the difficult or crisis periods of the country's development. Apparently, the change in values, stereotypes, and heuristics is followed by the modification of the human ability to trust, which in this context symbolizes one's certainty of a particular object or thing being positive in its nature. The light is shed on the issue of trust in Ukraine as nowadays it is characterized by the difficult political, economic, and social situation.

The study of the concept of trust is rooted in the 20th century. It was interpreted as a psychological state (Erikson, 1950, Rodgers, 1977), and as a social attitude (Luhmann, 1984, Giddens E, Seligman, 2000, Sztompka, 1999). It is viewed as an individual way of social behaviour that is caused by one's relation to the group. According to E. Erikson, trust is the initial stage of psychosocial development, which is typical of the first year of life. Nonetheless, the accomplishment of this task in infancy impacts the possibility of the development of trust in oneself, in others, and in the whole world. Ontogenetic evolution of trust illustrates that in the period of youth development it remains not less important. With one's becoming older, trust takes the features of psychological phenomenon that is related to team integration, identification oneself as a member of individual related unity or group, and simply demonstrates the ability to rely on the surrounding. However, in most cases it is radical and unstable in teens and is extremely agile, that can be seen from the ever changing nature of its occurrence in the pace of their life and at the various stages of interpersonal relations. Young people are more willing to rely on other people than to expect the same from them. Trust implies one's confidence about other subjects and objects, which is done by promise realization, one's patterns of behaviour etc. Within every year the feeling of trust widens itself and expands to the measures of society. In case there is a high level of trust in the social group, the level of trust in every individual has a tendency to increase. It becomes possible, unless the expectations are not realized. If that happens, disbelief, bitter disappointment, feelings of frustration and anxiety take the form of social isolation.

Interpersonal trust is understood as one's confidence in the way a person behaves under certain conditions (Rotter, 1971). Internal and external factors are defined as those that determine trust as a social phenomenon. The initial group includes self-actualization of an individual (Rogers, 1977), the level of psycho-social adaptation (Erikson, 1950), personal experience etc. The external factors are made of gender and physiological peculiarities of individual, cultural and social fac-

tors that were influential for the individual's upbringing. It is exactly this group that is of the great interest, as it comprises the expectations of Ukrainian society, the experience of the individuals and external cultural and social factors.

In the light of the current situation in Ukraine, social trust can be seen as the ability to be socially oriented, reliable and trustworthy. The crisis that occurs is said to hinder the process of social integration as it results in difficulties in social cooperation and ability to rely on someone else except oneself. Interpersonal Trust Scale (J. B. Rotter) was used as a means to define the level of trust at diagnostic stage of our research. The use of it enabled us to reveal the level of social and political trust in young people. 25 statements make it possible to shed some light on the level of interpersonal trust and one's social interaction ability. The experimental stage comprised the use of Mann-Whitney U test that enabled to trace the statistic deviation in two groups of people, one of which was under the experiment in 2012, while the other was considered in 2014. The first group of respondents accounted to 30 young people with the average age of 20, SD -5.75. The other one was equal in the number of respondents; age period is 19.7, SD – 4.95. These two time periods were taken as those that are characterized by the opposite level of stability. The variables that were got at the stages of this longitude experiment were systematized into three levels accordingly (low (25-74), average (75-99), and high (100-125)). First group demonstrated average (75 %) and high (25%) levels, while the results of the second were low (60%) and average (40%). Mean score 15% applies to the group of 2012 respondents. U test enabled us to check if there is any significant difference in the level of trust in the young people who were questioned in 2012 and 2014. The result  $U=69$  ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) proves the assumption that the results are statistically valid and proved. It means that the level of trust in the respondents of 2012 was higher than the one of those in 2014. Such results make the impression that social and financial stability, which characterized the year 2012, made a huge impact on the level of relation to the social group, one's ability to negotiate and compromise, neutral acceptance of one's mistake, the level of adaptation and self-regulation. The low level of social trust that was demonstrated in 2014 proved that young people felt unsafe and insecure in the society, lacking trust and being less able to rely on other people, which we believe is caused by hardship that was caused by the political shifts and economic instability.

Thus, social trust is seen as a psychological state and social attitude that explains the inclusion of subject and object. The level of trust in the society is reflected, in most cases, in the fruitfulness and efficacy of its functioning.

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