

Partner and Partnership in Society: Basic Elements and Structural Functional Models

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Abstract: - The relevance of the study is related to the importance of partnerships in meeting needs and their role in ensuring socio-economic, political, and security stability. In modern conditions, the level of partnership formation in several socially significant areas is still insufficient to effectively respond to growing global risks and threats. The quality of partnerships is of fundamental importance in ensuring the competitiveness, security, and sustainability of individuals and social systems. The study aims to theoretically analyze the content of the concepts “partner” and “partnership”, identifying their most important elements and explaining their importance in the formation and functioning of partnerships in conditions of changing threats and opportunities. The tasks of the study are: 1. to analyze the interpretations of the concepts “partner” and “partnership” in the scientific literature, identifying their structural and functional features; 2. to study and systematize the structural-functional models of partnership at various levels of society (individual, organization, institution, society); 3. evaluate the practical aspects of the formation and functioning of partnerships, identifying the main challenges, risks and development opportunities.

Key-Words: - partner, partnership, general and specific partnership; partnership compliance; classification; partnership systemic model, Structural-functional analysis, Socio-economic stability, System dynamics

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1 Introduction

1.1 The importance of partnerships and their theoretical and methodological justification in modern society

The importance of partnerships and their theoretical and methodological justification in modern society is associated with satisfying the needs of individuals and social systems, achieving goals, and maintaining competitiveness in conditions of constantly changing threats and opportunities. Sustainable development is not possible in isolated functioning; the choice of partners, mutual compliance, and the quality of cooperation are strategically important factors in ensuring the stability of the system. The relationship between sustainability partnerships, business sustainability, and firm competitiveness is examined in [26].

Globalization processes, mobility, intensification of economic relations, and security challenges create new requirements for the formation and maintenance of partnerships. Information asymmetry, insufficient assessment of the suitability of partners, and strategic errors in the choice can create instability at both the micro and macro levels. These circumstances highlight the need to analyze partnerships as a structured and systemic phenomenon.

In scientific literature, the concepts of “partner” and “partnership” are often used without a unified structural-functional interpretation, insufficiently assessing their internal and external compliance mechanisms. This limits conceptual clarity and makes it difficult to compare theoretical models.

1.2 Research methodology

The study aims to critically and analytically evaluate the theoretical and practical content of the concepts “partner” and “partnership” and to identify their

structural elements in the context of the formation and functioning of partnership relations. The object of the study is the socio-economic content of these concepts and the processes of the formation of partnership relations.

The subject of the study is the functioning of partnership relations between individuals and social systems in a changing external environment.

1.3 Methodology

The study used the methods of analysis and synthesis to identify the structural components of concepts; induction and deduction to generalize theoretical findings and develop models; a logical and systemic approach to interpret partnership relations as an integrated structure; and comparative analysis to compare academic sources and definitions.

The combination of these methods allows for an epistemological evaluation of concepts and the development of structurally functional partnership models. Main results and theoretical insights. The results of the study show that mistakes in partner selection are often related to information and knowledge asymmetry, as well as insufficient understanding of the psychological, socio-economic, and institutional aspects of partnership relationships. In the process of forming partnerships, it is often assumed that the socio-economic status, values, and performance of the partner will remain unchanged, ignoring the dynamics of the external environment.

2 Theoretical discussions

In modern social and economic science research, epistemological pluralism is observed, which is manifested in diverse and often inconsistent interpretations of concepts. In some cases, tautological elements, normative assumptions, or conceptually unfounded statements can be found in the definitions, which reduce scientific objectivity and limit the practical applicability of the results in management decision-making.

To reduce these shortcomings, the study uses an epistemological and deductively inductive approach, specifying the content of the concept's "partner", "partnership", as well as the related concepts – "business partnership", "competition", "competitiveness," and "competitive advantage".

The analysis of the concepts takes into account their functional manifestation in practice, where partnership is revealed as a goal-oriented cooperation of subjects to satisfy needs and realize mutual interests. In a democratic society, partner selection is a free and rational process related to the achievement

of specific needs and strategic goals. The most common forms of partnership are marriage and employment, in which resources and benefits are exchanged. Related perspectives on the relationship between business and society are discussed in [25].

In partner selection, the legal form is of secondary importance; however, in practice, each type of partnership has the most appropriate legal configuration that promotes stability and reduces socio-economic risks.

In the empirical analysis, the substantive evaluation of the concept of "partner" is based on the explanations most frequently used in the academic literature, [1], [2].

Academic dictionaries define the term partner in a multidimensional way. The Cambridge Dictionary defines partner as a person or organization with whom one has a close relationship or collaboration, as one of the owners of a business, or as a person with whom one is married or in a romantic relationship. The term is also used to refer to a person with whom one participates in activities, such as dancing, sports, or games, as a teammate. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary describes partner as a person associated with another in a joint activity, as a partner in a relationship, as a member of a business partnership, or as a person who participates with another in a game against an opposing team. In addition, the dictionary also mentions a technical meaning in shipping, where this term refers to the structural elements that strengthen the deck of a ship. The Oxford Dictionary defines partner as a person who participates with another or others in an activity or profession, especially as one of two people engaged in a common activity. The dictionary also mentions the verb form to partner, which means to join or cooperate with someone, as well as a technical meaning in ship construction, [3], [4], [5].

Analyzing the definitions of the term "partner" included in the Cambridge, Merriam-Webster, and Oxford English Dictionary, terminological diversity and a different conceptual structure can be detected. The definitions are dominated by general formulations, in which a partner is described as a person or organization that is involved in a joint activity, relationship, or certain interaction with another entity.

However, such a definition model is often based on broad semantic categories that do not sufficiently specify the criteria determining the status of a partner, such as voluntariness, common goal, or mutual responsibility. In some explanations, a partner is defined as "one of" the entities involved, which raises the question of the logical symmetry of the status of two or more participants in the joint activity.

Comparative analysis shows that in some definitions, the concept of a partner is expanded to include various social situations and forms of activity, as well as organizational structures. Such an approach provides a wide range of applications, but at the same time reduces conceptual precision and makes it difficult to establish clear boundaries between partnership and other forms of social interaction.

When analyzing the concept of “partnership”, a tendency is observed to interpret it as a status of partners, a legal relationship, or the result of joint activities. In some cases, definitions consider a contract or formal agreement as a prerequisite for partnership, although in practice, partnerships can also exist without a documented contract. Thus, the legal aspect is highlighted in the definitions, but it does not always reflect all empirically observable types of partnerships.

In general, the analysis of dictionaries indicates conceptual diversity and different depths of interpretation, which affects the use of concepts in scientific research. These differences indicate the need to clarify the definitions of partner and partnership, ensuring their structural clarity and empirical applicability.

The Cambridge, Merriam-Webster, and Oxford dictionaries define the term partnership in a similar way. The Cambridge Dictionary defines it as the status of a partner, a business owned by two or more persons, and an agreement between organizations or individuals to cooperate. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary describes partnership as the status of a partner, a legal relationship between two or more persons who have contractually joined together for a common business, and a group of persons who have joined together in a partnership, emphasizing common rights and obligations. The Oxford Dictionary, on the other hand, defines partnership as the status of a partner in a business, a relationship between two or more persons or organizations, and a business owned by several persons and in which profits are shared. In general, these definitions describe partnership as a form of cooperation between two or more parties based on common goals, obligations, and benefits, [3], [4], [5].

Tautological elements can be found in the Oxford Dictionary definition of the concept of “partnership”. In addition, in the first version of the definition, the content of the concept is unreasonably narrowed, referring mainly to the business context. In the following explanations, partnership is interpreted as a relationship between two persons or organizations, which does not correspond to the diversity of partnership forms observed in practice, since the

number of partnership subjects is usually not limited, except for certain specific cases.

The results of the study show that tautological elements in the definitions of the concept of “partnership” are also found in other analyzed dictionaries. Their authors mainly focus on identifying and describing the partnership forms found in practice, insufficiently differentiating their context (for example, business, marriage, enterprise, household, or state partnerships). Taking into account the diversity and dynamic development of partnership forms, such an approach to the development of definitions is methodologically problematic.

Therefore, it is necessary to use a deductively inductive and logically consistent approach in defining concepts, including in the explanations only those features that are characteristic of partnership in a general sense and apply to all its types. Partnership is based on the needs and interests identified by the subjects, the full realization of which is not possible individually. Otherwise, dictionary definitions risk turning into a classification of partnership types, rather than a conceptually precise explanation of the concept.

Taking into account the shortcomings identified in the study in the explanations of the concepts “partner” and “partnership” in academic dictionaries, their content should first reveal the general meaning of the concepts and only then analyze specific cases of use in practice. Such an approach would increase the epistemological and gnoseological performance of subjects, expanding the application of concepts in scientific research and improving the quality of interpretation and practical implementation of results.

It should be taken into account that the content of scientific conclusions and proposals is based on linguistic precision; the conceptual clarity of concepts is essential for the interpretation of results and their further extrapolation.

The development of the theory of partner compliance and partnership is limited not only by the shortcomings identified in dictionaries, but also by the insufficient critical attitude of researchers towards existing definitions. As a result, different interpretations and conceptual uncertainty arise, [6], [7], [8].

In the scientific literature, the concept of “partner” is often replaced by alternative terms, such as parties, [9], co-worker, [10], [11], or teamworker, [12], while “partnership” is interpreted with a wide range of synonyms, including marriage, [13], [14]. Terminological diversity in itself is not problematic, but it becomes methodologically questionable if the concepts used are not clearly defined and their correspondence to empirical reality is not established.

Such an approach creates conceptual uncertainty in partnership theory, especially with regard to the status of a partner, selection criteria, and the role of partnerships in achieving the goals of individuals and social systems. The diversity of researchers' opinions on the content of the concept of "partnership" is summarized in Table 1. Table 1 presents a chronological evolution of partnership definitions (1984-2024), revealing a shift from simple co-operation models to complex multi-stakeholder frameworks with shared accountability. The definitions reviewed in Table 1 are drawn from the sources listed in [15], [16], [17], [18], [19], [20], [21], [22], and [23].

Table 1. Explanations of the concept of "partnership" in academic articles

References	Revelation of the content of the concept
[15]	A partnership is a business form in which two or more people share ownership, management, and the company's income or losses; partners may contribute capital, labour, skills, and experience to the business, and they may have unlimited legal liability for the partnership's and its partners' actions.
[16]	The mobilisation of a coalition of interests drawn from more than one sector to prepare and oversee an agreed strategy for the regeneration of a defined area
[17]	co-operation between actors where they agree to work together towards a specified economic development objective
[18]	A common way of working to implement policies and projects at different levels of society
[19]	Any action that relies on the agreement of actors in the public and private sectors, and which also contributes in some way to improving the urban economy and the quality of life
[20]	Partnership involves co-operation, i.e., "to work or act together," and in a public policy can be defined as co-operation between people or organisations in the public or private sector for mutual benefit.

References	Revelation of the content of the concept
[21]	Partnerships bring together a coalition of interests drawn from more than one sector to generate agreement; partnerships have common aims and a strategy to achieve them; partnerships share risks, resources, and skills; partnerships achieve mutual benefit and synergy.
[22]	Partnerships are relationships created and curated through a contract.
[23]	A scheme with involvement or funding from more than one agency;

Source: created by the authors.

Table 1. reveals a sufficiently large diversity of the concept of "partnership" to be explained, and some of them resemble pseudoscientific insights into the content of partnership, creating an epistemological gap between the content of its explanation and its manifestation in practice. Thus, Aggarwai C. believes that all partnerships are attributable to entrepreneurship, and outside of it, partnership relations end. In addition, she indirectly denies the existence of partnership relations between employees of the company, company managers, owners, and founders, [15]. In turn, Raina S. drastically reduces the existing and possible forms of partnership in practice, mistakenly recognizing the partnership agreement as the only evidence of the existence of partnership relations, [22]. An unnecessarily broad content of partnership is revealed in the definition developed by Hutchinson J. and Campbell M., following the principle "better more than less". Moreover, the content of the concept of partnership developed by her largely corresponds to partnerships formed in companies, [21]. As a result of such an approach, the need to disclose the content of a general partnership is ignored, as well as the diversification of business partnerships in practice, creating partnerships with employees of the company, resource suppliers, creditors, and investors, and other types of partners necessary in business practice

2.1 A clarified explanation of the concepts of "partner" and "partnership."

Based on the results of the study on the interpretations of the concepts "partner" and "partnership" in academic dictionaries, scientific literature, and practice, the general content of these concepts is clarified, identifying their most important structural elements. A partner is a subject or social system that voluntarily engages in cooperation with at least one

other subject to achieve a common goal and meet needs. In turn, a partnership is a system of cooperation between interconnected subjects, which is based on common interests, resource investment, distribution of duties and responsibilities, as well as an agreement on the result to be achieved.

The functioning of a partnership is determined by several interrelated elements: a social basis, cooperation between subjects, resource investment, common goal and tasks, as well as the material or immaterial benefit created as a result of the partnership. Feedback is also of great importance in the stability of partnership relations, providing information on the relevance of partnership results and contributing to maintaining its effectiveness in changing socio-economic conditions.

This clarified definition integrates the sectoral diversity (public-private), temporal dimension (sustainability through feedback), and outcome orientation evident across the reviewed literature, providing a comprehensive framework applicable to contemporary partnership analysis.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Basic principles of partnership formation and functioning.

The status of a partner and the stability of a partnership in practice are determined by the correspondence of their constituent elements and the principles of implementation. Partnerships are based on unwritten, but functionally binding principles that regulate the interaction of entities and the use of resources.

Main principles:

1. **The principle of mutual compliance.** Partnerships are formed if there is quantitative and qualitative compliance of the subjects to achieve the common good. The compliance criteria are determined by the partners based on the goals and expected results.

2. **The principle of voluntariness.** The status of a partner is obtained and maintained as a result of free will, including a free decision to engage, invest resources, and continue participation.

3. **The principle of mutual benefit.** Partnerships are maintained only if the involved subjects assess the benefit obtained as corresponding to or exceeding the investment.

4. **The principle of resource compliance.** The resources involved in the

partnership must be quantitatively and qualitatively consistent with the set goals and objectives.

5. **The principle of openness and closure.** A level of openness is determined for each partnership model, which regulates the joining and withdrawal of participants. Compliance with closure is controlled by feedback mechanisms; in case of its violation, the principle of voluntariness allows for the termination of cooperation.

6. **The principle of mutual dependence of elements.** The stability of partnership relations depends on the systemic coherence of the elements that form them and their adaptation to changing internal and external environmental conditions.

7. **The principle of “receiving by giving”.** The expected benefit in partnership is created if each partner first fulfills his obligations. The amount and quality of the created benefit may differ from the initial forecasts; therefore, partnership relations involve a certain uncertainty of results.

These principles form the regulatory and structural framework for the functioning of partnerships. Their practical significance is to ensure the stability of the partnership, mitigate risks, and support management decision-making in changing circumstances.

3.2 A general-purpose systemic model of partnership formation

The developed systemic model is based on the concept of partnership defined in the study, its structural elements, and basic principles. The model aims to identify the prerequisites for the formation of partnership relations, their mutual interaction, and impact on partnership results, using a deductively inductive approach.

The model, shown in Figure 1, is constructed in accordance with the principles of the systemic approach - structural connection of elements, mutual correspondence, and functional interaction. It analyzes the impact of partnership elements on management decisions, subject performance, and quantitative and qualitative indicators of the created benefit, paying special attention to the stability of the system.

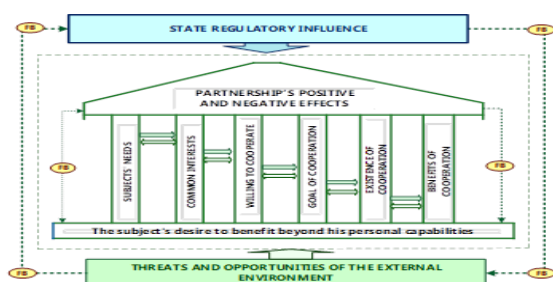


Fig. 1: General systemic model of partnership formation. Abbreviations used in the figure: FB – feedback

Source: created by the authors.

All forms of partnership function under the influence of the external environment, which affects the suitability of partners, the availability of resources, and potential benefits. Threats and opportunities directly or indirectly affect the outcome of the partnership and the relationships between the subjects. The model is structured as a building analogy: **Foundation** – the needs of subjects and social systems that cannot be fully satisfied individually. **Structure** – interconnected pillars. **Result** – the “roof” element or the benefit created in the partnership.

Pillars of the model:

- 1. Common interests** – the rationale for partnership, arising from the need to pool resources in conditions of competition and limited availability.
- 2. Voluntary involvement and willingness to cooperate** – a free decision to make commitments, define goals, and engage in joint action.
- 3. Resource investment and compliance with the goal** – the transfer of material and intangible resources and the coordination of their structure in accordance with the intended result. In the process of cooperation between partners, the integration and transformation of resources occur, which creates a common benefit. The quality and quantity of the result are determined by the mutual compliance and systemic coherence of the pillars.

The model operates within the framework of regulatory framework and the external environment. Individual forms of partnership are subject to institutional supervision, while they are influenced by changing risks and opportunities that determine the dynamics of the system and the development trajectory.

In practice, partnership failures are often associated with insufficient assessment of partner selection and insufficient understanding of the basic principles. Therefore, a systemic approach, constant feedback, and learning from mistakes are essential to ensure the stability of partnerships. Partner selection strategies for sustainable development are examined in [24].

Feedback in the model plays a crucial role - it provides an assessment of partnership results, compliance control, and necessary adjustments, which allows increasing the sustainability and effectiveness of partnerships.

3.3 A general systemic model of partnership functioning.

To increase the stability of partnership relations, it is important to gain new knowledge about partnership as a social system, but usually it is included in a larger system that has attracted partners to achieve its goals. The creators of any partnership - individual subjects and potential partners of the social system - attract from the external environment, subjects existing in other social systems, and compete with each other. Therefore, maintaining the status of a partner is in the “hands” of the creator of the partnership, and no one can impose their partnership, ignoring the principle of voluntariness.

To gain new knowledge about partnership and its relationship with systems, a general systemic model of partnership functioning is developed, which is included in Figure 2, and it complements the content of the model included in the previous figure.

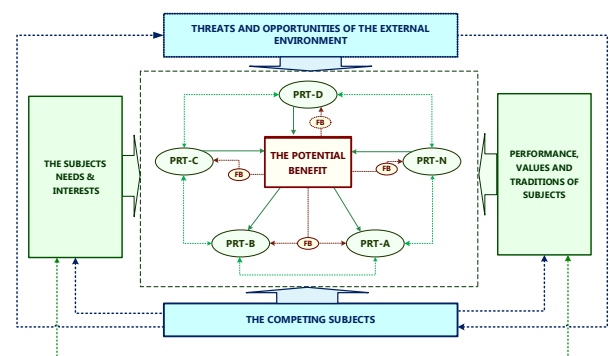


Fig. 2: Systemic model of the functioning of the established partnership. Abbreviations used in the figure: PRT – partner; FB – feedback

Source: created by the authors.

The model included in the second figure depicts a partnership as a system involving n partners who have common interests in obtaining a certain potential benefit by cooperating with other entities. The central element of the model is the potential benefit that meets the needs of the partners and motivates cooperation.

Practice shows that partnerships are often terminated in cases where the actual benefit obtained does not meet the expectations. Therefore, sufficient information about the potential benefit and the entities involved is required before establishing a partnership. The lack of information and uncertainty about the

qualitative aspects of the benefit significantly increase the risk of partnership stability.

Both individuals and social systems (e.g., households, organizations, etc.) can obtain partner status, and the selection is based on compliance with the needs, interests, values, and performance of the initiator of the partnership. These criteria are dynamic and change depending on the specific partnership context.

Feedback plays an important role in the model, which includes data on the achieved results, quantitative and qualitative compliance of benefits, partner contributions, and other functional indicators. Each partner creates their own feedback, but it can be subjective and incomplete, which creates a risk of making inadequate or hasty management decisions. Therefore, data validation and objective assessment are required before restructuring the partnership.

Partnerships function in external environmental conditions, where the influence of competitors and institutional regulation is significant. The external environment creates both threats and opportunities that affect the needs of partners, resource availability, and performance. Competition is not always destructive - it can promote the effectiveness of partnership relations, the fulfillment of obligations, and the achievement of goals. In the model, competitors are considered a factor that affects both internal dynamics and external environmental development trends.

The developed model can be used in the process of partner selection, in the formation of partnerships, as well as in the restructuring and improvement of the performance of existing partnerships, supporting the adoption of justified management decisions.

3.4 Systemic model of general partnership in society

In scientific research on society and partnership, insufficient attention is paid to the dominant types of partnership that are formed in accordance with the interests and needs satisfaction processes of individuals, as well as their mutual connection and interaction, [27]. Incomplete knowledge of the formation and maintenance of partnership relations can cause negative social and economic effects, for example, instability of family structures, insolvency of enterprises, and escalation of conflicts in society.

In the framework of the study, attention is paid to the most significant types of partnership in society, their structural connection, and functional interaction. Based on these principles, a general systemic model of partnership in society is developed, which is depicted in Figure 3.

The model allows for an epistemological analysis of types of partnership in society as an integrated system, and to obtain a general idea of their interdependence. In it, household partnership is placed in a central position, which reflects its historical and anthropological significance in the development of society. Historically, the household has been the socio-economic foundation of society, which emerged during the transition from traditional economic structures to more organized forms of cooperation, [28], [29].

In the process of household evolution, in response to threats and expanding opportunities, other forms of partnership developed, which are structured in the model into groups: state management partnership, employment partnership, state defense partnership, and partnership formed by public organizations. These partnership groups function in mutual interaction and influence each other's stability and development, [30], [31], [32].

Of particular importance in the sustainability of household partnerships is the employment partnership, which provides income and resources to meet the needs of others. The remuneration obtained within the framework of employment relations is used to ensure the needs of the household, promoting the efficient use of resources and socio-economic stability.

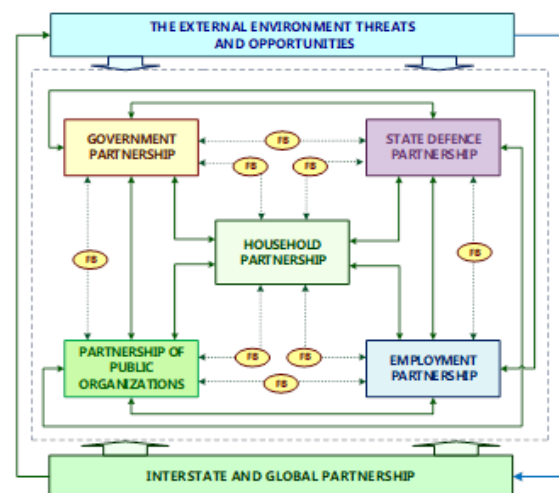


Fig. 3: General systemic model of public partnership. Decoding of a abbreviations used in the figure: PRT – partner; FB – feedback

Source: created by the authors.

The computational complexity of the general systemic model of public partnership (Figure 3) is characterized by multiple actors (government partnership, state defence partnership, household partnership, public organisations partnership, and employment partnership) operating within

interconnected feedback loops. The model requires simultaneous processing of bidirectional interactions and external/global partnership constraints, resulting in non-linear system dynamics where changes in one sector generate cascading effects across others.

In the developed model, household and employment partnerships are viewed as a system that functions within the framework of state governance partnerships. The effectiveness of these partnerships is closely related to the quality of regulatory frameworks, the level of public legal awareness, and the capacity of institutional implementation.

In practice, there is a discrepancy between the procedure set out in regulatory enactments and their implementation in everyday practice, which is influenced by both institutional constraints and societal behavioral patterns, [33]. This discrepancy is manifested in various economic and governance problems, including the spread of the shadow economy, corruption risks, and violations of competition law, which have also been analyzed in previous studies, [34], [35], [36], [37]. These phenomena indicate shortcomings in the formation of partnerships between state institutions and public entities.

The development of regulatory enactments is often based on the current situation, rather than on a systematic analysis of future risks and development scenarios. The formation of sustainable partnerships requires an approach based on scientific data, focused on predicting future threats and opportunities, [38].

Taking into account security risks and interstate conflicts, the model also includes a national defense partnership as an essential element of the functioning of society, [39]. Its quantitative and qualitative composition should correspond to the identified threats and the availability of resources. At the same time, the development of the defense function should not replace the improvement of diplomatic and interstate cooperation mechanisms, which are an effective tool for ensuring stability.

Increasing the effectiveness of global and interstate partnerships requires their restructuring and systemic review, taking into account changing security, economic, and social conditions. Feedback mechanisms in this process ensure the evaluation of the results of partnerships and the introduction of necessary adjustments.

Public organizations play an important role in democratic governance as a flexible form of partnership that is able to respond more promptly to the needs of society. They promote civic participation, the creation of cooperation networks, and the increase of problem-solving capacity, while also influencing the governance feedback system.

The model included in the third figure shows that partnerships formed in society function in the context of interstate and global partnerships, creating both positive and negative effects. In the context of globalization, such a level of partnership has become an objective necessity, especially in the development of economic and social relations.

However, in practice, the potential of interstate partnerships is not always fully realized, especially in relation to security and conflict prevention mechanisms. There are limitations in the creation of an effective and preventive global partnership that would be able to timely and consistently reduce interstate conflicts.

In accordance with the general partnership model, the set of society partnerships is also constantly under the influence of changing threats and opportunities of the external and internal environment. This requires regular adjustment of the partnership structure, composition of participants, and functioning processes.

In this context, feedback plays an important role, providing information on the performance of partnerships, changes in risks, and potential development trends. However, in practice, feedback mechanisms are often not sufficiently used or systematically analyzed, as a result of which management decisions are made late or based on incomplete data.

For ensuring partnership stability effectively, systematic interpretation of data obtained in feedback is essential, which allows for predicting possible threats and opportunities with relatively high reliability and to implement preventive or corrective measures promptly.

The insufficiency of scientific research on public partnership, the formation and development of its structure, is largely related to the absence of a holistic theory of social systems and the widespread fragmentation of research in the academic environment, which is scattered across various research directions in the social sciences.

4 Conclusions

The formation of partnerships and the maintenance of their mutual compliance is an essential prerequisite for the development of civilization. In the conditions of globalization, increasing socio-economic risks and security threats, the quality of partnerships significantly affects the satisfaction of individual needs, the achievement of social system goals, and competitiveness at various levels of society.

The results of the study show that strategically serious mistakes are often made in the choice of

partners, which are facilitated by the asymmetry of information, knowledge, and understanding between the subjects of partnerships. This manifests itself in the form of company bankruptcies, marital instability, conflicts in employment relations, and an increase in social tension.

Ineffectively formed partnerships at the macro level reduce the effectiveness of interstate and global cooperation mechanisms and increase the risk of conflicts. This highlights the need to improve the theoretical basis of partnerships and mechanisms for assessing the mutual compliance of partners in social and political systems.

The analysis reveals epistemological shortcomings in the interpretations of the concepts of “partner” and “partnership”. The conceptual clarifications and structural-functional models developed in the study provide a more systematic analysis of partnership relations, with particular emphasis on the importance of the interrelationships and feedback between their elements.

Insufficiently studied partnership structure and dynamics limit the practical significance of science. The use of the developed theoretical approaches and models can contribute to the formation of more stable and effective partnerships in various areas, from family and business to international cooperation.

Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted Technologies in the Writing Process

During the preparation of this work, the author(s) utilized artificial intelligence (AI) technologies solely for the purpose of linguistic refinement and grammatical correction. Following the application of these tools, the author(s) comprehensively reviewed, verified, and edited the resulting text. The author(s) maintain full accountability and responsibility for the accuracy, integrity, and final content of the publication.

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