

METHODOLOGICAL AND METHODICAL ASPECTS OF REGIONALIZATION OF UKRAINE

Yavorska Viktoriya, Kolomiyets Kateryna

Abstract

The paper presents the main methodological aspects that must be considered in the regionalization of the country. As article noted that regionalization should be based on careful analysis of the geographical, historical, social, demographic, economic, and ethnographic characteristics, sectoral and integrated maps, taking into account settlement system and features of the territorial organization of society in the region. The authors stressed that for effective national regional policy that would ensure balanced, sustainable and environmentally sound development of the regions and the country as a whole, need a reasonable and prudent scheme of regionalization of Ukraine.

Keywords: regionalization, administrative and territorial structure, region, settlement system, regional policy.

МЕТОДОЛОГІЧНІ ТА МЕТОДИЧНІ ПРОБЛЕМИ РЕГІОНАЛІЗАЦІЇ УКРАЇНИ

Яворська Вікторія, Коломієць Катерина

Анотація

У статті представлені основні методологічні аспекти, які необхідно враховувати при регіоналізації країни. В робочі відмічено, що регіоналізацію потрібно здійснювати на основі ретельного аналізу географічних, історичних, соціально-демографічних, економічних, етнографічних ознак, галузевих та комплексних карт, враховуючі системи розселення та особливості територіальної організації суспільства регіону. Авторами підкреслено, що для проведення ефективної державної регіональної політики, яка забезпечила б збалансований, стійкий і екологічно безпечний розвиток регіонів і країни в цілому, потрібна обґрунтована й виважена схема регіоналізації України.

Ключові слова: регіоналізація, адміністративно-територіальний устрій, регіон, система розселення, регіональна політика.

Purpose of regionalization of the country

Ukrainian science has considerable experience in developing various zoning schemes of the country - economic, socio-economic, geographical [13]. But modern development of various zoning schemes (regionalization) of Ukraine not have the status of local administrative units. At the same time, the Association of European Regions set of Central and Eastern Europe that are or intend to enter the EU, a clear demand - formal, legally approved regionalization of the country. Note that if Ukraine remains the only Eastern European country that this requirement is not fulfilled. Thus, the main purpose of the regionalization of the country - the creation of a modern territorial basis for the development and implementation of national regional policy and the formation of the regional public administration.

Methodological shortcomings of modern Regional Policy of Ukraine

The state regional policy in Ukraine is starting in May 2001. When the Decree of the President of Ukraine approved the "Concept of State Regional Policy" [14], according to which regional policy in Ukraine is carried out by oblasts, Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) and the cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol. We believe this approach is methodologically incorrect. Here are some examples that illustrate the inadmissibility of such scale of regionalization. For example, Strategy of socio-economic development of Ukraine and its regions up to 2015 [10] was developed with priorities for the Carpathians, grounded in the four provincial regional programs (Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, Transcarpathian region), which are independent and not coordinated. Development of marine-economic complex of the Black Sea grounded in three regional and one republican (ARC) program, again without any meaningful and strategic connections; Azov marine complex predicted on its two independent regional development programs; issues of revival of irrigation farming in the steppe zone of the country considered by 5-6 regional strategies.

This is the obvious discrepancy of spatial scale of regional development planning to real diversity of nature, population settlement and localization of economy in Ukraine. This issue was considered in detail by experts from the regional policy of the European Union, which established four levels of regional development planning and recommended for conducting state regional policy level and scale of the NUTS-2. The current

regional division of Ukraine does not meet standards NUTS-2 in size and socio-economic potential.

Sectoral (component) and complex (integral) regionalizations

The main areas of sectoral-component regionalization is to analyze the historical and geographical, natural resource, social, demographic, economic, ethnic and cultural, environmental and ecological heterogeneity territory. Complex (integrated) regionalization presents a generalized socio-natural and natural-economic features of the area. Complex integration, as rule, are conducted by methods of overlap and comparative analysis of the main sectoral and complex regionalizations. It could be possible to search artificial (synthetic) indicators that quantitatively and qualitatively characterize differences in territorial combinations of natural, population and economy. A peculiar kind of complex regionalization is an administrative-territorial structure of the state. Ukrainian geographers have developed a series of thematic maps that characterize in details the territorial organization of almost all components of the environment, population and economy [8]. The main sectoral component maps which should be the basis of integrated regionalization of the country include: historical and geographic, natural geographic, most recently after the adoption of Laws on ecological networks (2000, 2004.) [5, 7] it have been developed maps of national and regional (oblast, Crimea) ecological networks; socio-demographic, recently in Ukraine to develop a regional map of the quality of life [1, 2, 9]; maps of transport and communication networks; economic maps, recently intensified attention to assessing the level of economic development in the context of depressed areas [6]; ethnocultural maps.

In the context of regionalization the complexity of the regions has multilevel nature. Each thematic series of component-sectoral maps must develop their synthetic maps that give economic assessment by a combination of components (for instance, agricultural and climate, agricultural and soil maps). This is the first level of complexity. At the second level - synthetic maps that give a generalization of evaluation (for example, map of the environment quality, quality of life, economic map). Higher levels of regional complexity - integrated, it must represent the most common combinations of regional differences in natural-

population-economy. Unfortunately, the maps of this level of complexity is still not exist.

Regionalization and administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine

All the countries of Central and East European developed regionalization schemes simultaneously and comparable with the administrative-territorial reform (ATR). Mandatory change of the administrative-territorial structure (ATS) of the country, which accompanying its radical political and socio-economic transformation, is now seen as a pattern of social and historical development. Unfortunately, Ukraine remains the exception here. How do the regionalization of the country in Ukraine with its ATS? Traditional approaches to economic regionalization of the country were conducted by joining the oblasts into the regions. This practice sometimes persists today to identify the regions that have not the status of administrative units. Under the new approach regions are considered as administrative units of the first (top) level in new ATS of the country. They offer to call "Land", "Area" or simply a "region." Such regions are identified without existing ATS that subject to reform, by other criteria, as below.

Current oblasts concerning to European standards are apparently small to the regions; hence the numerous attempts by various authors to highlight regions in Ukraine by grouping oblasts. On the other hand, a number of regional centers providing public services and their accessibility can reach 250-300 km. In the current project of ATS [13] on the first level of ATS offer to install regions (provinces, lands) and put on them one function - the development and implementation of state regional policy. Administrative units of the second level (their name may be different - area, districts et al.) have to provide public services for the population, provided that such units should be three times more than modern oblasts and the radius of transport accessibility of oblasts' centers not exceed 50-60 km.

Regionalization and settlement system

At present the domestic urban development formally approved multi-settlement system of Ukraine that is tied to ATS. There had been identified settlement system at different levels and scales - national, regional (oblast and ARC), interregional (groups of administrative districts around regional significance towns), district, local (group of villages). On the one hand, it is logical and correct, because settlement system should be agreed with the current system of public administration and local government. On the other - this approach is wrong, because modern ATS and tied to it control system devoid of objective historical and geographical, natural resource and socio-economic basis.

The process of settlement and economic development of the country proceeded in its different parts in not the same ways. Historical and geographical amplitude of such processes in Ukraine reaches 700-1000 years. Actual settlement system genetically rooted in historical and geographical division of the country, they have their own history of formation and development. They are characterized by general Ukrainian features and its regional peculiarities. Investigation of resettlement in this context is practically not carried out. Only in recent years, appear the major papers, which examined the historical and geographical features of forming of genetically rooted (not specified administrative network) settlement systems [3, 4]. There are recovered at the regional level ethnographic studies [11], which deepen the understanding of the specific features of the settlement.

Regions in the national economy - economic complex of the second rank

Territorial organization of society is multilevel and hierarchical. All economic activities have "multi-storey"

structural organization and appropriate types of sectoral regionalization have multilevel hierarchical taxonomy. This applies complex (integral) economic or socio-economic regionalization, system of ATS and management. The hierarchical taxonomy of regionalization of the country remains undeveloped. In general terms distinguish their own regions and their components - sub-regions, meso- and micro regions. In geo-economic and geopolitical studies it is establishing macro-regions and even mega-regions.

Most of the wellknown projects of the regionalization of Ukraine have one level: a country is divided into economic, socio-economic, socio-geographic areas, regions, territories [12]. There two-level and economic scheme of regionalization (Zastavnyy, F. D., 1992-1994), for which the country is divided into economic regions and sub-regions (Zastavnyy, F. D in his paper has discribed large economic regions and internally Republican economic areas) [12]. The vast majority of modern scholars develop one-level scheme of regionalization of Ukraine.

According to the European methodology in the general scheme of regionalization with multi taxonomy region is in the second level of territorial organization of the country economy following the national (NUTS-2). Regions integrate spatial peculiar combination of many features, as a purely economic as natural environmental, social, demographic, cultural and civilization. We believe that during the regionalization it should be considered the following features:

- Geographic particular geo-economic and geopolitical situation of the territory;
- Natural geographic and landscape features of the territory;
- Historical and geographical conditions, including the time of settlement and specific economic development of different territories;
- Political and geographical conditions, including entry of parts of Ukraine into the various areas of other countries, political, military, economic integration;
- Civilization and cultural, ethnic, religious, linguistic characteristics;
- Interregional and international division of labor;
- Natural-resource potential of the territory, the level of provision of the main types of natural resources;
- The feature of the population settlement and the existing settlement system;
- Demography, labor resource potential and its use;
- Territorial system of manufacturing and social infrastructure, the existing regional transport and communications networks;
- Spatial combination of major economic activities, especially the structure of the economy commercial complexes;
- The role and place of economic complex in the national economy;
- The environmental state of the territory and environmental protection features;
- General planning features of the area.

The problem of combination of "objective-subjective" in the regionalization

Debatable questions remain about the objectivity-subjectivity regions, on the one hand, regions distinguished by the variety of real natural geographical and socio-economic situation in the country, on the other - different researchers identify the country in different ways, which clearly demonstrates subjectivity of this procedure.

Objectivity of forming regions in our country says "regional capital". Such cities as Kharkov, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, Odesa is not just a regional city but real center of Regions. They attract powerful streams of people, goods, services, providing various services to the population not only their own, but also neighboring regions taking over

the functions of regional centers of cultural and political life, form regional mentalities of population and regional political elites. In most cases to identify the center of the region and their "core" - the main centers of economic activity simply. However, the peripheries of the regions and their boundaries are blurred and not always clear.

The regional economy is a junction subject area, which cooperate geographers and economists. A key challenge for the regionalization of the country should be accelerated development of the theory and methodology of regional economic complexes of various types and sizes, and in the first stage, the complexes of the second order (after national) standards NUTS-2.

Conclusion

Any scheme of regionalization of the country is unable to fully take into account the whole mosaic of spatial differentiation of historical and geographical, natural resources, socio-demographic, economic, civilization and cultural conditions, characteristics of the settlement, placing different types of economic activity and their territorial combinations, the whole set of social-economic relations. Nevertheless, for the purposes of planning and management of areas, for effective national regional policy that would ensure balanced, sustainable and environmentally safety development of the regions and the country as a whole, need a reasonable and prudent scheme of regionalization of Ukraine.

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Yavorska Viktoriya, Dr. of Science (Geography), Professor of Department of Economic and Social Geography, since 2009 yr Deputy Dean of Geography and Geology Faculty, Odessa National I.I. Mechnikov University, Odessa, Ukraine.

E-mail: gfg@onu.edu.ua. In 1997 graduated from the Odessa I. I. Mechnikov State University. **Specialty:** Geographer. **Scientific interests:** Regional Economics, Geodemographical processes in Ukraine, Regional Demographic Politics. **Publications:** 1. Regionalistics: geographical bases of regional development and regional policy. Textbook / Topchiev O., Malchikova D., Javorska V. - Kherson, 2015. 372 pp. 2. Regional demographic development of Ukraine. Textbook / Topchiev O., Javorska V., Dimova N.-Odessa, 2014, 244 pp. 3. Regional geodemographic processes in Ukraine. Monograph. / Javorska V. - Kamianets-Podilskyi: Aksioma, 2013. 384 pp.

Kolomiyets Kateryna, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography of Ukraine, Odessa I. I. Mechnikov National University, Odessa, Ukraine. E-mail: gfg@onu.edu.ua. In 1998 graduated from the Odessa I. I. Mechnikov State University. **Specialty:** Geographer. **Publications:** 1. Perspective of tourism development in Odessa Region // Yavorska, V. V., Shashero, A. M., Kolomiyets, K.V. // Simpozion Științific Internațional "Reformele economice în sectorul agroalimentar și impactul lor asupra dezvoltării economiei naționale". - Chișinău, 2015. - Vol.43. - C. 249-254. 2. Social and geographical postulates of the formation of a new administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine // Yavorska, V. V., Kolomiyets, K. // Journal of Social and Economic Geography - 2016, Vol. 20 (1), pp. 7-11.

