

Ecological and Economic Aspects
Development of Rural Territories
in Ukraine

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Ecological and Economic Aspects Development of Rural Territories in Ukraine

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Abstract

The article highlights the environmental and economic aspects of rural territories' development.

Measures aimed at introducing balanced ecological and economic development in rural territories in Ukraine have been identified. The main directions of state financial support for rural territories are outlined. Characterize the main threats that could hinder the development of rural territories based on balanced ecological and economic development.

Key words: rural territories, administrative-territorial reform, decentralization, balanced development.

Formulation of the problem

Today, in all areas of rural development are quite significant changes. Administrative and territorial reform is underway, there is a decentralization of power and financial powers, the regulatory framework is improved and updated, new united

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territorial communities are formed, in some rural united territorial communities there is a combination with urban areas, and the stimulating influence of the city on rural development is present and expressed primarily by such factors as investment, developed transport and logistics network and infrastructure.

The newly formed rural territorial communities receive significant powers that were not previously inherent in village councils, as well as significant state aid, which should be aimed at creating a favorable environmental and economic environment for further effective development of this community [1].

ANALYSIS OF THE LASTS RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Theoretical and applied aspects of solving numerous problems of ensuring balanced development of rural areas are constantly in the center of attention of the world and domestic scientific community. Thus, the issue of building a model of sustainable development taking into account natural resource constraints against the background of exacerbation of environmental and social contradictions is covered in the works Alymova O.M., Dorosha Y.M., Kutsenko V.I., Lytsura I.M., Oliinyka Ya.B., Sabluka P.T., Stepanenka A.V., Sunduka A.M., Udovychenka V.P., Khvesyka M.A.

Some aspects of the problems ecological and economic development of rural areas, involving natural resources in economic activity was investigated following leading national experts as Baranovskyi M.O., Borshchevskyi V.V., Zinovchuk N.V., Orlatyi M.K., Pavlov O.I., and others.

Paying tribute to the existing achievements of the formed theoretical-methodological and methodological basis for the study of aspects of rural development, it should be noted that some issues related to the substantiation of conceptual directions of ecological and economic development of rural united territorial communities remain insufficiently studied. It is worth emphasizing the need to con-

sider rural areas as a holistic ecological and economic system that will ensure the development of efficient use of natural resources and their involvement in economic activities within the united territorial communities.

The solution of these problems is connected with the principles of sustainable development and rational use of nature and will allow developing measures for environmental protection, to achieve long-term economic growth, and to ensure the balance of their development [2].

MATERIALS AND RESEARCH METHODS

For this study, general scientific and special methods were used: analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, generalization - to review information sources, study the domestic and foreign experience of rural development prospects.

Presentation of the main research material.

The change of civilization is at a stage of development when the environmental costs of economic activity in the coming years may exceed economic results. Herman Daly states: «It is very likely that we have entered an era when growth increases environmental and social costs faster than it increases the benefits of production. The growth that increases costs more than it increases benefits is non-economic and should be called that» [3].

Market transformation of the economy has sharply posed to Ukraine the problem of choosing effective directions and tools to ensure the balanced development of the rural territory. Overcoming the problems of low efficiency of agricultural policy, the deficit of funds in the country's budget for social spending, the slow formation of rural self-government, limited access to logistical, financial, and information resources requires reasonable steps to support rural development. Today in Ukraine there is a reorientation and adaptation of innovations in the legal framework to current trends in the world economy which consists of a ra-

tional combination of industrial development (creation of new jobs and increase of real incomes of the population), preservation, and protection of the natural environment, improvement of rural living conditions and enrichment of cultural heritage [4].

At the national and regional levels of the EU, there are several approaches in parallel, from which three concepts of sustainable rural development can be distinguished:

- a concept that identifies rural development with the general modernization of agriculture and agro-food complex. This concept is based on the development of the sector and links rural development exclusively with the reduction of differences between the most backward rural areas and the rest sector of the economy; the concept of rapprochement;

- concept that identifies rural development with the development of rural areas in general by using all the resources that are in their territory (human, physical, natural, landscape, etc.).

- integration concept - a combination between all components and sectors at the local level. This concept uses the possibilities of territory in its broadest sense [3].

To ensure the balanced development of rural areas as an ecosystem, it is necessary to take into account the relationship of economic, social, ecological components of its development in symbiosis with all the accumulated energy of the natural environment (renewable and non-renewable). At the same time, it is important to allocate a qualitative (useful) part of it, ie, the energy that multiplies the total energy of the environment, and, accordingly, increases the productive energy of the resource potential of the territory. The amount of additional energy received is reflected in the energy balance, which characterizes the production, progress, the use of all types of resources and allows you to identify productive

and unproductive energy costs of resource potential [5].

In the conditions of administrative-territorial reform, decentralization of power, obtaining greater financial and economic powers, each newly created (united) territorial community must decide on its further development.

As of January 10, 2020, 1,029 united territorial communities with a population of 11.7 million people have been created in Ukraine. 90.3% of the country's territory is covered by long-term plans for the formation of community territories.

Leaders and outsiders in creating capable communities in the list of regions over the past year have hardly changed. At the beginning of 2020, the ranking of oblasts for the formation of affluent communities was headed by Zhytomyr, Dnipropetrovsk, Chernihiv, Khmelnytsky, and Zaporizhia regions. Five outsider regions in early 2020 - Kyiv, Lviv, Zakarpattia, Vinnytsia, and Kirovohrad regions [6].

Each community must find its ways to ensure its own development, create a comfortable and safe environment for the inhabitants of the territory to live and work, ensure the attraction of both external and internal investments, and guarantee income from these investments [1].

Appropriate for the development of rural areas are:

- development of ecologically oriented agriculture;
- creation of objects of perspective types of economic activity: solar power plant; industrial park of medium and high-tech industries;
- development of logistics and transport-service enterprises;
- formation of the resort and recreational economy, etc..

For a more complete assessment of rural development, consider Figure 1, which shows the state's financial support for local and regional development throughout Ukraine (Fig. 1).

Analyzing the data on state financial support for local and regional development,

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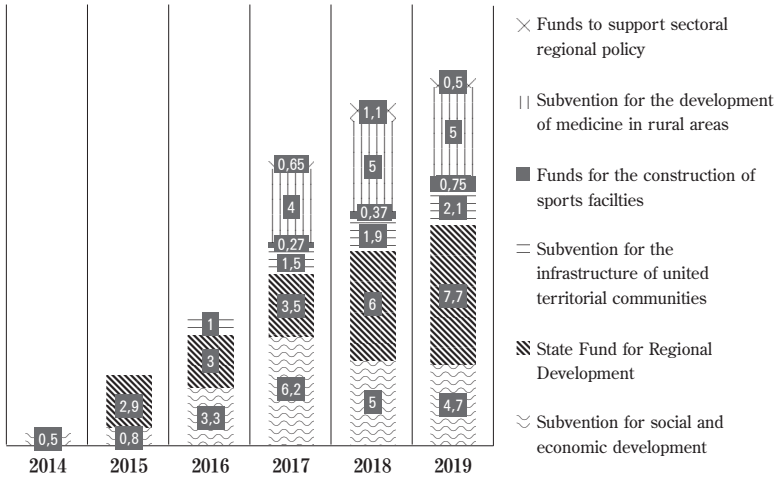


Fig. 1. State financial support of local and regional development, UAH billion

Source: [6]

we can see that for the period from 2014 to 2019 there is a positive trend in attracting state budget funds for rural development, but these funds are aimed only at the development of medicine. It can be noted that no funds are allocated for improving the environmental situation, greening agricultural production, and environmental measures both in rural areas and throughout Ukraine.

As the pressure on resources (such as water and soil) increases as a result of an intensive management model, the priority for rural development is to create an ecological and economic system of agriculture. A necessary condition for the development of rural areas is the redirection of budget funds to environmental development and the transition to renewable energy sources and change the economy to one that supports local environmental and climate solutions. This transition will have a different path in each country and community - a comprehensive «balanced course», «climate compensation», the development of energy efficiency. The priority tasks of rural development should focus on improving

health, economic stability, and environmental protection.

The goal of the policy of ecological and economically oriented rural development is to achieve optimal economic, ecological and social ties. That is, it consists in the coordinated development of the environment, culture, society, work and material production environment.

We can identify the main directions of development of rural communities, which are presented in table 1.

Table 1. The main directions of development of rural united territorial communities

Mechanisms	Aim	Task
Ecological	<i>Environmental protection</i>	Environmental issues play one of the most important roles in the sustainable development of rural areas. The actions of the territorial community in all aspects of life should be carried out provided that forests, clean air, natural springs and rivers, clean soils, and other environmental manifestations are preserved. Unauthorized landfills, lack of sewerage or near-use, pollution of ponds, and deforestation remain a problem. Without eliminating these shortcomings, it is impossible to imagine the creation of normal living conditions in the countryside.
Social	<i>Improving social conditions</i>	Health care, primary and secondary education should be available to the rural population, and there should be certain social programs and benefits for the vulnerable. Families living in villages should have normal living and working conditions. Provider of transport, household services, trade network, cultural and educational institutions allow peasants to feel the fullness of civilized life. Without a proper solution to these problems, it becomes almost impossible to live in the countryside and develop it.
Economic	<i>Supporting the development of entrepreneurship in rural areas</i>	For this purpose, concessional lending (perhaps even with the participation of the state), free informatization and counseling of peasants wishing to engage in entrepreneurial activities, and general support from local and district authorities are relevant. These issues should be the strategic basis of rural development policy. It is this policy of supporting entrepreneurship that will help create new jobs. Employing in rural areas under conditions of healthy and fair competition will replenish the budget of self-government, which, in turn, will improve the infrastructure of rural areas (roads, communications, electricity, water, and sanitation, etc.), contribute to the welfare of the community as a whole.

* Source: developed by the author.

It should be noted that along with these areas of rural development, there are several limiting and negative factors that must be fully taken into account because they can reduce the effectiveness of planned actions for sustainable development.

Such limitations and negative factors include [1]:

- extremely unfavorable conditions of production and livelihood of the rural population;
- difficult ecological situation, high environmental pollution;
- low level of quality of goods and services produced in rural areas, insufficient volumes of agricultural production;
- remoteness from economically developed regions of the country, lack of developed transport system;
- insufficient development of production and social infrastructure, which limits investment and job creation;
- other possible restrictions present in a single rural area.

Therefore, to ensure the ecological and economic development of rural areas, first of all, it is necessary to minimize the limiting and negative factors hindering the development, which should be carried out based on the integration of different subjects of the decentralization process.

Conclusions

Based on this study, we can conclude that the issue of rural development in the united territorial communities is becoming increasingly important for the development of Ukraine, after all, with the constant loss of the position of the Ukrainian countryside, our state is losing its authentic face in cultural, environmental and economic terms and puts itself in a difficult position in front of the problems that have accumulated for a long time in rural areas.

Ukraine has significant potential for rural development. Currently, one of the main tasks is the effective implementation of the reform of the administrative-ter-

ritorial system, in which significant powers and resources are given to rural communities. A necessary condition for the development of rural territory is the coordination of actions of regional state administrations and local governments.

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