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DEVELOPMENT OF UNITED TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES: TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES

Hamova O.V., Yushchenko Yu.V., Yermak V.M.

Zaporizhzhia National University
Ukraine, 69000, Zaporizhzhia, str: Zhukovsky, 66
gamova5oxana@gmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0002-9752-6900

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The article examines the trends and prospects of the development of united territorial communities in the conditions of today's challenges. It is substantiated that the formation of united territorial communities is a means of decentralization policy, which acts as a tool for reforming regional policy and regional development in order to increase the efficiency of the functioning of the economy at all levels of its functioning and increase the standard of living of the population through the provision of powers, financial resources and the involvement of citizens in management of the region. It is proved that the locomotive of transformations is the process of decentralization and the global challenges of today, which require territories to concentrate their efforts on achieving the maximum level of self-sufficiency based on the use of levers and mechanisms of self-organization and self-regulation. It is substantiated that the community as a complex socio-economic entity from the point of view of structural analysis represents a certain arrangement of constituent parts, that is, it has a defined structure. The structure of united territorial communities, which determines their capacity and self-sufficiency and is a prerequisite for the symmetry of spatial development and high level and quality of life of the population, has been singled out and analyzed. Two types of structure are distinguished: in the form of concentric rings, each of which identifies a separate element - a certain level of the hierarchy of community elements (human resources, community activists, regional and state authorities, external influence) and a pyramidal structure that makes it possible to determine development priorities. It was determined that there is a direct relationship between the degree of interaction of the elements of the community structure and its level of development: the more coordinated the functioning of the community's components, the greater the probability of its successful development. As a result of this interaction, relationships, values and norms in the community are formed. The directions of planning the development of territorial communities in the developed countries of the world are singled out: change in the level of responsibility; transformation of the methodology of implementation of the development management process at the local level; change of management entity.

РОЗВИТОК ОБ'ЄДНАНИХ ТЕРИТОРІАЛЬНИХ ГРОМАД: ТЕНДЕНЦІЇ ТА ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ

Гамова О.В., Ющенко Ю.В., Єрмак В.М.

Запорізький національний університет
Україна, 69600, м. Запоріжжя, вул. Жуковського, 66

Ключові слова:

об'єднані територіальні
громади, тенденції,
перспективи, людські
ресурси, природресурсний
потенціал, структура громади,
симетричність просторового
розвитку, якість життя

У статті досліджуються тенденції та перспективи розвитку об'єднаних територіальних громад в умовах викликів сьогодення. Обґрунтовано, що формування об'єднаних територіальних громад - це засіб політики децентралізації, який виступає як інструмент реформування регіональної політики та регіонального розвитку задля підвищення ефективності функціонування економіки на всіх рівнях її функціонування та зростання рівня життя населення шляхом надання повноважень, фінансових коштів та залучення громадян до управління регіоном. Доведено, що локомотивом трансформацій виступає процес децентралізації та глобальні виклики сьогодення,

які вимагають від територій концентрацію зусиль щодо досягнення максимального рівня самодостатності на основі використання важелів та механізмів самоорганізації та саморегулювання. Обґрунтовано, що громада як складне соціально-економічне утворення з точки зору структурного аналізу являє собою певне впорядкування складових частин, тобто має визначену структуру. Виокремлено та проаналізовано структуру об'єднаних територіальних громад, яка визначає їх спроможність та самодостатність і є передумовою симетричності просторового розвитку та високого рівня та якості життя населення. Виділено два види структури: у вигляді концентричних кілець, кожне з яких ідентифікує окремий елемент - певний рівень ієрархії елементів громади (людські ресурси, активісти громади, регіональна та державні органи влади, зовнішній вплив) та пірамідальну структуру, котра дає можливість визначити пріоритети розвитку. Визначено, що існує прямий зв'язок між ступенем взаємодії елементів структури громади та її рівнем розвитком: чим більше узгодженим є функціонування складових громади, тим більша ймовірність успішності її розвитку. В результаті цієї взаємодії формуються взаємовідносини, цінності та норми в громаді. Виокремлено напрями планування розвитку територіальних громад у розвинутих країнах світу: зміна рівня відповідальності; трансформація методології реалізації процесу управління розвитком на локальному рівні; зміна суб'єкта управління.

Problem statement

New regularities, which are generated by globalization processes at the global level, lead to a change in the level of responsibility for development at the local level. Therefore, the role and significance of communities for the socio-economic development of territories in particular and the country as a whole increases.

At the current stage, views regarding the goals, purpose, criteria, mechanisms and vector of development at the regional level have changed significantly. The locomotive of transformations is the process of decentralization and the global challenges of today, which require territories to concentrate their efforts on achieving the maximum level of self-sufficiency based on the use of levers and mechanisms of self-organization and self-regulation. This allows not only to achieve the set goal, but also to quickly adapt to dynamic development and adapt to changes.

We emphasize that the mechanisms of self-organization and self-regulation are analogs of built-in stabilizers for united territorial communities and the national economy as a whole, because they allow to raise the level and quality of life of the population of a separate territorial entity, and in a chain reaction are the basis for the growth of national well-being.

That is, the determination of prospects and development trends of united territorial communities is relevant, despite their inability to solve national issues, but they allow to reduce the impact of negative consequences and continue to move in the direction of ensuring the symmetry of spatial development, ensuring the efficiency of the management system at the regional level.

Analysis of recent studies and publications

From the point of view of theoretical justification and practical orientation, the issue of development of united territorial communities is studied in detail by Ukrainian scientists, namely: O. Batanov [1], I. Bodrov [2], H. Monastyrskiy [3], L. Murkovich [4], V. Nakonechniy

and others. Scientists outline the issues of managing the development of united territorial communities, which are subsystems with a high level of internal self-sufficiency.

The mentioned works of scientists represent a significant contribution to the theoretical justification and practical implementation of the principles of development of united territorial communities. In our opinion, a more in-depth analysis is needed to outline the trends and prospects for the development of united territorial communities, taking into account the impact of modern challenges at the local and global levels, which allows predicting certain negative impacts, reducing their level and approaching a more symmetrical spatial development.

Highlighting previously unsolved parts of the overall problem

Given the continuation of decentralization processes and the significant impact of today's challenges, and the desire to achieve symmetrical spatial development and self-sufficiency of individual territories, the issue of trends and prospects for the development of united territorial communities requires a deeper study.

Objectives of the article

The purpose of the article is to determine the trends and prospects for the development of united territorial communities with the aim of determining ways to achieve symmetrical spatial development and self-sufficiency of individual territories.

The main material of the research

An important direction of regional development in the conditions of decentralization and the deepening of today's challenges is the formation of united territorial communities with a high level of self-sufficiency, which is a prerequisite for the effective use of human resources and natural resource potential, which in turn are able to ensure an increase in the quality of life of the population within a

separate territory and promote growth welfare of the nation as a whole.

Let us emphasize that the formation of united territorial communities is a means of decentralization policy, which acts as a tool for reforming regional policy and regional development in order to increase the efficiency of the economy at all levels of its functioning and increase the standard of living of the population through the provision of powers, financial resources and the involvement of citizens in management of the region.

In the conditions of intensification of the decentralization processes, issues regarding the improvement of the territorial organization of the economy through the formation of effective united territorial communities, the functioning of which largely depends on resource provision, namely: human resources, financial capabilities, are becoming actualized. They not only determine the real possibilities of the functioning of the territorial community to meet its own needs, but are also able to reduce the disproportionality of socio-economic development and ensure the symmetry of spatial development, as well as determine the prospects and potential opportunities for the region in the future. In particular, the real capabilities of a territorial community are determined by various features, for example, the number of community members, age structure, population density, level of education, qualifications.

Note that the community as a complex socio-economic entity from the point of view of structural analysis represents a certain arrangement of constituent parts, that is, it has a defined structure. An important issue for the functioning and development of united territorial communities is not only the determination of the set of elements, but also the determination of the degree of coherence between them, that is, the level of interaction.

At the same time, there is a direct relationship between the degree of interaction of the elements of the community structure and its level of development: the more coordinated the functioning of the community's components, the greater the probability of its successful development. As a result of this interaction, relationships, values and norms in the community are formed.

We note that the capacity and self-sufficiency of united territorial communities is largely determined by its structure, which is a prerequisite for symmetrical spatial development and a high level and quality of life of the population.

In scientific literature, the structure of united territorial communities is presented in the form of certain concentric circles, each of which identifies a separate element (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1 shows the structure of united territorial communities as a system of concentric circles, each of which defines a corresponding level. A community is a collection of several levels, i.e. concentric circles located one inside the other:

- the first level – “heart” – human resources of the community;
- the second level – community activists – a part of the population that takes an active part in the life of the community – leaders and organizers of the community;

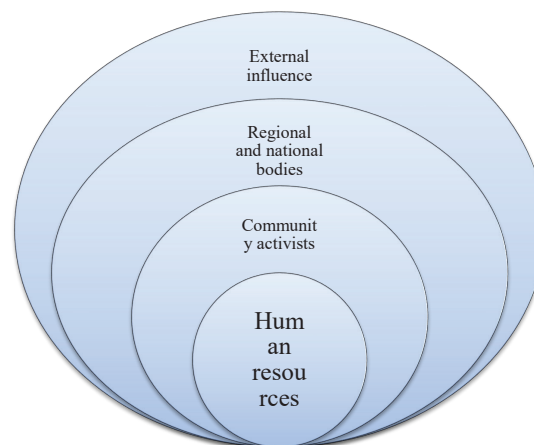


Figure 1 – The structure of united territorial communities as a system of concentric circles

Source: compiled by the author based on [5]

- the third level – regional and state authorities, which form environmental conditions for the functioning and development of the community on the basis of regulatory and legislative regulation;

- the fourth level – external influence – the external environment, which characterizes the interaction between communities of other countries of the world, the creation of conditions for international investment.

Considering the importance and priority of the elements of the community, in our opinion, its structure can be represented in the form of a pyramid (Fig. 2).

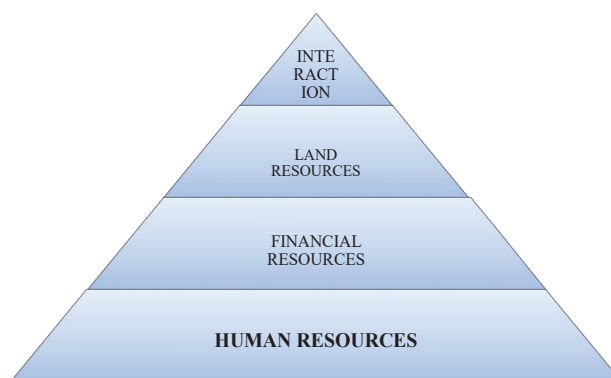


Figure 2 – The structure of the community in the form of a pyramid

Source: Built by the authors themselves

The pyramidal structure of the community (Fig. 2) shows that the “support”, “base” for the development of the united territorial community is human resources, which act as the main productive force. Financial resources are on the second level, because the degree of self-sufficiency of the community depends on their availability, which in turn affects the development of human resources. The third level of the pyramid is occupied by land resources. At the same time, not only the amount of land is important, but also its structure, qualitative characteristics and rational use. The community is a complex socio-economic entity, the

characteristic features of which are not only a significant number of subsystems, but also the quality of interaction between them.

The highest level is the interaction between the elements of the united territorial community. Achieving a high level of interaction is a necessary condition for the effective development of the community within a certain region and the state in general.

Let us emphasize that in the developed countries of the world significant changes have taken place in the planning of the development of territorial communities in three directions in the last period [6]:

- change in the level of responsibility: territorial authorities are responsible for local development, quality of work, education, recreation and living conditions in the community;

- transformation of the methodology of implementation of the development management process at the local level – subordinating the activities of the community to a certain strategy, which is created and implemented by the community, and its implementation takes place within the scope of project activities;

- change of the management subject – partnership and cooperation between communities, which significantly expands the scope of influence at the regional level, determining competitive advantages at the local level, forming joint projects for increasing competitiveness, etc.

Note that the development of the national economy directly depends on the motivation and ability of communities to deal with issues of local development. United territorial communities must be the subject of management and independently ensure their capacity. In addition, territorial communities are independently responsible for planning their own development, determine the future and ensure the appropriate level of well-being.

Taking into account the experience of European countries, which implemented the process of reorganization of the administrative and territorial system, stabilized internal migration. The number of rural population is more than 25%. Thus, stopping the process of population depopulation in rural areas can be carried out by creating centers of economic concentration, concentration, and creating jobs near the place of residence, solving the issue of population employment [7, p. 10–12]

In our opinion, the implementation of three priorities defined in the EU countries are important for the

development of united territorial communities in the national economy, namely [8–9]:

- smart development, the basis of which is the comprehensive use of advanced knowledge and innovations;

- sustainable development, the result of which is an increase in the efficiency of the use of the resource base and an increase in the level of competitiveness

- comprehensive development leading to an increase in the level of employment of the economically active population, social and territorial integrity.

Determining the current trends in the local development of cities and territories, within which united territorial communities have been formed, makes it possible to outline key priorities and guidelines for further development.

The strategy for the development of united territorial communities should be based on a comprehensive and systematic approach that directs national practices of decentralization to long-term programs and projects.

The modern practice of sustainable development of cities and settlements within the framework of the reform of the territorial organization of power in Ukraine shows that there is a certain effectiveness and success. This is reflected in the motivation to gradually move forward, determine directions and formats of development, sources of financing, using the existing and developing a new regulatory framework for the implementation of the state policy of regional development.

Conclusions and proposals

Therefore, it is important at the current stage to be aware and understand at the level of local authorities the features of modern development, the necessary knowledge, information, skills and experience to ensure a high level of competitiveness of their communities.

The conducted research made it possible to come to the conclusion that successful communities first of all have a powerful human potential, a natural resource base, which are the basis of internal capacity and self-sufficiency. On the basis of the effective use of potential opportunities, the improvement of internal conditions of operation and development is ensured, competitiveness factors are formed, which allow attracting investment resources, developing business initiatives, while preserving already existing business entities and creating new jobs.

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