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The role of national and local authorities of Ukraine in sustainable development of boundary regions (using the example of Zakarpattia)

The problem of sustainable development is one of the most pressing problems of the XXI century, when a social development to a great extent depends on the processes of globalization. Although some features of globalization have been existing virtually throughout all human history, understanding of their complex impact on the social and economic processes in different countries has become a reality in the last two decades, when the tendency of shifting from nation-state forms of social existence to global democratic civil society (single humanity) became apparent (Lagno, 2015).

Having in mind the acceleration of European integration for Ukraine the problem of improving efficiency of state management of sustainable regional development moves from a purely theoretical plane to scientific and practical availability of economic, social and environmental components of sustainable development give place to taking into account the rise in environmental, social and economic policy requirements of sustainable development. To track the provisions of economical and social policy, that regulates the targeted transition to sustainable development, is impossible because of the lack of legal instruments at the current stage of country's development. As for the environmental component there are more favorable conditions for the implementation of the principles of sustainable development due to the Concept of National Environmental Policy of Ukraine till 2020 (Conception , 2007), which is clearly focused on the priorities of sustainable development.

Defining in the Concept of sustainable development the movement and challenges of regional policy for its implementation at the regional level with specification of tools and mechanisms for its achievement is the key to drawing the regions of Ukraine to the economic management based on principles of sustainable development. At the regional level, taking into account the principles of sustainable development should be implemented while adopting regional strategies, plans, programs, agreements on regional development and so on.

To ensure sustainable economic development it is necessary:

1) to transfer regional economy to an innovative way of development by: creating an effective competitive environment in the system of economic activity at national and regional levels; to develop a long-term program of transition of Ukraine's economy to innovative way of development and its specification at the regional level; to pursue an active public policies that

support innovation development of regions and formation of regional innovation systems; to stimulate innovation activity and formation of innovation clusters; to intensify international economic relations and promote foreign economic activity of the regions; to create conditions for involvement direct foreign investments in each region;

2) to establish a strict system of efficient use of resources based on: introduction of energy saving technologies, technologies vicious cycle; development of alternative energy sources; development of cleaner production; involvement in the production system industrial waste accumulated in previous period, recycling of domestic wastes; stimulation of rational use of natural resources;

3) to carry out economic restructuring of the regional economy by: transferring regional economy to a new technological level; increasing the share of industries with high specific weight of the added value, in industry increasing the share of tool and machine building; expansion of service businesses, and increasing in their structure information and other high-tech services; developing cleaner production.

To ensure sustainable social development it is important: gradual establishment in the public consciousness the philosophy of sustainable development by the way of wide coverage by the media and the educational system and the concept of the noosphere and the necessity of coevolution of human and the environment; formation in population the system of needs and ethical values, corresponding to the principles of sustainable development; formation of modern consumption patterns corresponding to the principles of sustainable development (resource-saving, optimal and rational, ecologically friendly and oriented on the priority of spiritual and social development of individual); provision of development of social services and social infrastructure on the basis of sustainability, ensuring their maximum conflict-free integration with the ecosystem; creation of the necessary legal, organizational, financial and material conditions for human development in all its versatility; making the state social policy of sustainable development .

To ensure sustainable environmental development of the regions the following is necessary: formation of the modern environmental infrastructure in the region; working out Environmental Passport of the region with identification of the most significant threats and risks for regional ecosystems; improvement of monitoring systems in terms of man-caused impact on the regional ecosystem with showing dynamic changes occurring in the environment; development and implementation of regional programs for greening production and consumer activity of the population; total overhaul and modernization of major production facilities funds of environmental protection; initiation of the stringent national and regional environmental production standards and control over their observance; making a complex system of recycling

and disposal of domestic wastes based on the introduction of separate collection and removal waste covering all segments of the population.

The ways of achieving sustainable development in economic, environmental and social areas are similar for regional, and state levels.

The majority of both domestic and foreign researchers think the main "arena" for the implementation of sustainable development theory into practice should be the regions, as they: are the most manageable structures that take equidistant situation in administration of the country (center - regions - city council(districts) - a citizen); are historically the most stable territorial entities that were formed during by separate social medium, some even with a certain set of national and ethnic features; are commensurate in size with some countries of the world, being the most optimal structure for positioning in a foreign economic space; within the periods of reforms have acquired experience of combining the practice of stimulation of market reforms on their territories with the policy of state regulation of these processes.

Besides, the existing production becomes more and more oriented not on the sectoral but the regional economic system. Transformation of the recent years have led to a weakening of sectoral specialization of regions and corresponding perception of them as parts of national economy of the country, and their formation as regional economic complexes. These circumstances not only reinforce the need for regional research, but also provide them with particular relevance in the context of ensuring the sustainability of socio-economic systems.

By a combined indicator of sustainable development of regions of Ukraine Transcarpathia is always in the top five (Omarov, 2014). Its special location and proximity to the European Union is of particular interest to researchers. In Europe, it's difficult to find a region that would have such a unique geographical location at the confluence of the borders of 5 countries. Geographical and geopolitical factors and should be added by ethnocultural and civilizational dimension of centuries of peaceful coexistence of many ethnic and sub-ethnic groups, the fact that makes it an important part of the security architecture in the European megaregion and Europe in general. The sketch map clearly shows that the border regions of five countries that make up the Interregional Association "Carpathian Euroregion" as much as spatial clusters and approach to passing pan-European network of transport corridors in this Carpathian megaregion - Transcarpathia occupies the central and key positions of geographical and geopolitical location (The strategy of development, 2015).



Pic.1 The place of Zakarpattia in Interregional Association "Carpathian Euroregion"

The tendencies of global world processes make it possible to reevaluate the place of border areas in the development of international relations. It is the desire of the regions of many countries to find their place among the participants of international cooperation that requires joint research of socio-economic problems of the border area, the result of which should be making of projects decisions and justifications for their practical implementation both at the national and international levels. From a practical as much as from academic position a complex process of European integration and extension of EU helped draw the attention to border regions as the areas of intergovernmental cooperation (Lagno, 2015).

Transcarpathian region is right the thing, that borders on four EU countries and this directly affects the socio-economic development of the region. Since the beginning of the independence of Ukraine the region has started working out the plans for its development, and since the early 2000s there have being introduced strategic initiatives that enhance the predictability of the territory and minimization of the negative effects of different levels of socio-economic development on both sides of the border. Analyzing the timeline of the long-term and forecasting documents of Transcarpathian regional authorities it could said that some formulations appeared in the late 80s of XX century. In general, during 1989-2016 the following key planning documents with strategic direction have been developed:

1) The concept of socio-economic development of Zakarpattia (1989).

- 2) The project of the program of socio-economic development of Zakarpattia region for 1999-2010 years ("Zakarpattya - 2010") (1999).
- 3) The " Zakarpattia - 2004" program (2000-2001.).
- 4) The concept of sustainable development of Zakarpattia (2002).
- 5) The Regional Strategy for Development of Zakarpattia region by 2015.
- 6) The Strategy for Development of Zakarpattia region by 2020.

At the national level the most important documents are:

- Concept of State Regional Policy of 25.05.2001;
- Guidelines for the development of regional development strategies approved by order No.224 of the Ministry of Economy and European Integration of 29 June 2002
- National Strategy for Regional Development of 06.08.2014, No.1850-IV .;
- Law of Ukraine "On stimulation of regional development" of 08.09.2005. No.2850-IV;
- Strategy for economic and social development of Ukraine "Towards European Integration" for 2004 - 2015 years, approved by Decree of the President of Ukraine of April 28, 2004, № 493/2004;
- Strategy for Sustainable Development "Ukraine - 2020"

Hence, a new national system of planning of regional development, which is being formed in Ukraine today includes the following subjects of national system of planning of regional development:

- At the national level - the Verkhovna Rada (Supreme Council) of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, who adopt laws and regulations as well as the central executive body on economic policy, who is developing mechanisms for their implementation, and other central bodies of executive power;
- At the regional level - regional councils and regional state administrations on their own or through regional development agencies, chambers of commerce, business associations, etc. are meant to accumulate opinions of business, scientific and other communities and find and implement the best options for partnership between the sectors for the sake of effective fulfillment of tasks connected with the development of territories.

The comparison of strategic and operating goals and objectives of the Strategy "Ukraine - 2020" , National Strategy of Regional Development - 2020 and regional development strategies " Transcarpathia – 2015" testifies to a unique geopolitical and geographical position of Zakarpattia region at the confluence of Ukraine's borders and 4 countries - neighbors and the EU members-Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania.

And it is this peculiarity that made Development Strategy for Zakarpattia till 2020 in view of European integration strategy of Ukraine's development in the region be considered as

strategic and constantly improving platform for economic, cultural and spiritual development of Zakarpattia and its communities (The strategy of development, 2015).

Moreover, if in the Regional Strategy - 2015 CBC "Enhancing cross-border and euro regional cooperation" was pointed out as a separate strategic goal, in the Strategy for Zakarpattia - 2020 CBC is considered to be one of the important tools for regional development that should be applied to any and all strategic and operational goals and objectives. Thus, a new regional strategic role of CBC will be caused by the modern European approaches to interaction between border areas with prioritization of financial support of the CBC as of 4 aspects of interaction: economics; society and the social sphere; ecology and sustainable development; organizational and administrative cooperation mechanisms. And these are the aspects the Strategies of Regional Development are aimed to solve the relevant problems in the regions of Ukraine.

It is also important that the EU regional policy aimed at eliminating disparities of development and improvement of living standards, mainly concerns peripheral, eastern regions of countries neighboring Ukraine. And these eastern regions for them since the time of the USSR are adjacent to the peripheral Ukraine's western regions, which include Zakarpattia. Thus, the goals of the EU and Ukraine as for spatial and regional development are the same, and their achievement can largely be ensured through the mechanisms and tools of TCR (The strategy of development, 2015).

Strategic Initiatives of the region are closely connected with initiatives of border regions of the European Union, the initiatives that are being implemented in the operational programs and technical assistance programs of the European Union. An important step in the strategic planning of border regions is to create a joint cross-border development strategies and programs, communication strategies aimed at strengthening cooperation and competitiveness of areas. Fulfillment of strategic objectives "Enhancing cross-border and Euroregional cooperation", Regional development strategy for Zakarpattia region by 2015 "for 2007 - 2014 was done both through project activities of enterprises, organizations and institutions, and through organizational and contractual relations with neighboring border regions as well as through the development and implementation of bilateral and interregional strategies of CBC in border regions. For the first time new methods of strategic planning were used in 2003 during the development of strategy for cross-border cooperation "Carpathians 2004 - 2011". Later- in the development of Polish-Ukrainian strategy of cross-border cooperation for the period of 2007 - 2015 g. and the Strategy of Ukrainian-Slovak border cooperation till 2020 (Draft of the strategy of development, 2013), The development strategy for the Interregional Association "Carpathian Euroregion" till 2020.

The list of existing agreements on bilateral CBC with the border regions of the neighboring countries which were concluded by Zakarpattia State Regional Administration and Zakarpattia Regional Council at the beginning of 2015, includes the following neighboring regions: Preshivskyy and Kosice self-governing region (Slovakia), Satu Mare and Maramures (Romania), Sabolch -Satmar-Bereg and Heves (Hungary) Podkarpackie (Poland). The named common and coordinated management documents of regional authorities play an important role of medium-term CBC programs of strategic nature. The strategy of common development of cross-border region is the action plan that provides for cooperation involving the public authorities and local governments, companies and other institutions on both sides of the border. Availability of strategies for common of cross-border regions will enable to develop cross-border clusters that are already fairly well known phenomenon in Europe, and they are maintained not only at national but also at European level, in particular through the implementation of EU regional policy (Lagno,2015).

The formulation of a strategic plan is a systematic preparation for a future based on sustainable development. Strategic plans should be developed in the way to not only remain all-rounded for a long time, but also be flexible enough to modify and refocus them, if necessary. The general strategic plan should be considered as a program that directs the activities of all parties concerned for a long time, with understanding that competitive and conflicting, changing business and social environments make constant adjustments inevitable. The reflection of the various interests in the strategic purposes of border regions and on that basis, providing public support becomes an important factor of regional sustainable development.(Nosa-Pylypenko, Jurkovičová 2015).

So, today, having in mind the current challenges and risks, strategic planning becomes a necessity for each region of Ukraine. It depends on the professional implementation of strategic management at the regional level whether we will be ready to solve the problems that can arise in the future, how we can minimize the risks that can arise in the course of economic modeling and strategic planning, optimize our decisions on further development in the conditions of globalization and territorial development. In the process of strategic planning, when at the stage of the analysis of external factors, according to the degree of reliability of forecasts, one can not only be given answers to the questions, but also the timing of the expected developments, and this means that the challenges can be properly prepared to and the losses and their negative impact on future can be minimized.

Annotation. The article analyzes the concept of sustainable development on regional level in Ukraine. It gives understanding of the basic concepts and identifies the main components. There has been studied the role of national and local authorities of Ukraine in promoting sustainable development of boundary regions using the example of Zakarpattia. This region has got a unique geographical location at the confluence of the borders of 5 countries. Zakarpattia boasts considerable experience of planning documents of strategic directions

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