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FOR SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
OF TRANSBORDER COOPERATION**

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I.V. ARTIOMOV
*director of the SR Institute
of European integration studies TSU,
PAD, Professor*

CROSS BORDER STATISTICS AS AN INSTRUMENT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Regular international scientific-practical conference on problems of methodology and tools of sociological analysis of cross-border cooperation is a consistent and logical phase of the research project “Borders through the eyes of people.” It is an honour and a pleasure to be a member of this gathering of highly professional scientists, leading sociologists, among which are M.Churylov - CEO of TNS Ukraine, Doctor of Social Sciences, Senior Researcher of Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and academician V.Symchera, Honoured Scientist of the Russian Federation.

Relevance of sociological analysis research by TBC is undeniable, given the basic concept of increasing efficiency of cross-border cooperation in the implementation of the project, which at a high scientific level is implemented by the Institute for transborder Cooperation (Uzhgorod), Project Coordinator - PhD, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary S. Ustych.

When discussing issues of CBC, first of all, we must try to determine its place, role in modern terms, as the global financial crisis was another challenge to global civilization, which led to uncertainty of global perspectives, and national economies, accelerated the search for ways to modernize social systems.

Varied geopolitical influences on Ukraine in conditions of inefficient security guarantee, the presence of “protracted conflicts” in the border areas, and critical external dependence of national economy on energy resources are causing vulnerability of Ukraine, weakening its role in the international arena and driving it out to the periphery of world politics, - as stated in the Annual address of the President of Ukraine to the Supreme Council of 2011 [1].

Integration of national economies in the modern world economic processes in general, and international trade in goods and services, without exaggeration, could be called a key to dynamic of socio-economic development of any country, regardless of the extent of its economic potential. Ukraine is not an exception. Today, it goes without saying that international trading creates almost unlimited opportunities both for satisfying domestic demand with products and services of foreign origin, and sale of goods and services of national production on world markets, which ultimately leads to higher welfare of each country. Proof of this thesis is an analysis of the economic impact on Ukraine in recent years [2].

Simplified perception of market and public relations entails primitive view of the world as a whole, so as a result, so-called market fundamentalism, the ideology of domination of the world market has been criticized. It should be noted that market does not conform to either states or their associations or supranational bodies. At the same time, market anarchy causes depleting of resources and generates conflicts over their possession. However, the market does not destroy the state. Therefore, neither the concept of free market, nor the concept of a strong state should be imposed upon modern world. [3]

Global features of modern trade and economic relations, involving Ukraine, once again confirm the relevance of perspective of CBC Sociological Research.

The famous American scientist J. Moreno once said that one of the greatest achievements of social thought of XIX century was the emergence of sociology as applied science. [4] It is well known that attempts to learn, to understand society, to realize our attitude towards it have been influencing humanity in all phases of its history. On the crest of this wave, in the 30-ies of the XIX century was established sociology as a science of functioning and development of society and its structural elements.

As we know, the term “sociology” is derived from the Latin word “societas” (society) and the Greek “logos” (word, studies). In the 30-ies of the XIX century, French philosopher, sociologist Auguste Comte,

who identified social science that encompasses all areas of knowledge about society, introduced it to scientific use [5].

As is known, the subject and object of sociology are not identical. The object identifies something that is being studied. The subject always clearly outlines the scope and purpose of the study. Therefore, the subject of sociology is some aspects, peculiarities, and the relationship of the object of study. Thus, sociology is the science of formation, development and functioning of society and its elements, social relations and social processes, mechanisms and principles of their interaction.

It should be noted that in Ukraine have only recently been lifted ideological constraints, and emerged hope for a plethoric development of sociology as part of unified global science. In 1990 was founded Institute of Sociology of NAS of Ukraine. In Kyiv and Kharkiv University began to operate departments of sociology, and in Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk and Odessa - relevant sociological departments that train professional specialists in sociology. Sociology as an academic discipline was introduced in all higher and secondary specialized educational institutions.

Place of sociology in social and humanitarian sciences is conditioned by the fact that it is the science of society, its processes and phenomena, which covers general sociological theory, serving as the theory and methodology for all other social and humanitarian sciences. In the system of social sciences, sociology closely interacts with history. Object and subject of research of history and sociology is a society, regularities of its development and operation in specific temporal dimensions.

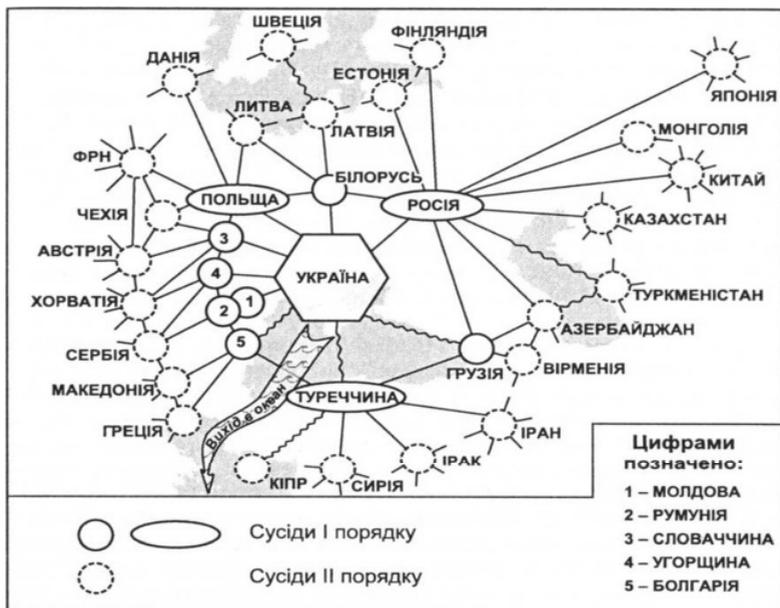
When studying problems of methodology and instruments of sociological analysis of cross-border cooperation, it should be considered that sociology “works” on the margins of economic science, the subject of which is the study of patterns and forms of functioning and development of relations in the process of production, exchange and distribution of wealth. This leads to the conclusion that economic sociology can be seen as a system of scientific analysis of complex problems, solution of which requires transcending certain scientific discipline [6].

CBC of Ukraine is aimed at solving national problems: social, economic, environmental, as well as ensuring the competitiveness

of Ukraine in the European and world community. That is why sociological analysis of constituents of cross-border cooperation is a crucial methodological part of the objective definition of the current state of problems and prospects of its development.

A particularly important factor of objectivity of sociological research is the analysis of diversified external relations of border areas of Ukraine with neighbouring regions. After all, border areas, utmost and foremost implement common interests of Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

The border area of Ukraine, where cross-border cooperation is implemented, covers 76.4% of its territory; there live 71.4% of the population. 19 of the 25 regions of Ukraine are border regions. The length of the land border of Ukraine is 5638.6 km., sea border - 1050 km. The longest borderlines are: with Russia - 22.95 km, Moldova - 12.92 km, Belarus - 1084 km. Length of the Ukraine-EU borderline is: with Romania - 608 km, Poland - 542 km, Hungary - 136 km, Slovakia - 98 km.



Ukraine in the system of countries of central Eurasia

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1. ***Ukrainian-Polish border crossings: Krakivets - Korchova, Mostyska - Przemyśl, Smilnytsia - Krotsenko, Rava-Ruska - Hrebennie, Rava-Ruska - Verhrata, Ustilug - Zosin, Khyriv - Krotsenko, Shegyni - Medica, Yagodyn - Dorogusk, Volodymyr Volynsky - Hrubieszow, Ludyn - Izov.***
2. ***Ukrainian-Slovak border crossings: Uzhgorod - Vishne-Nyemetske, Maly Berezny - Ublya, Chop (Strazh) - Chiyerna upon the Tisza, Mali Selmentsi - Ruska, Pavlovo - Matovtse, Uzhhorod (control point).***
3. ***Ukrainian-Hungarian border crossings: Vilok - Tiszabecs, Luzhanka - Berehshuran, Kosino - Barabash, Dzvinkove - Lonya, Chop (Tisza) - Zakhon, Chop (Friendship) - Zakhon, Batovo (control point), Solovka-Eperyeszke.***
4. ***Ukrainian-Romanian border crossings: Dyakove - Helmeu, Solotvino - Sighetu Marmatiei, Teresva - Kypulunhla Tisza, Dilove - Valya Vysheuluy, Kiel - Kilija Veche, Reni - Galati, Ismail - Plaur, Vilково-Pereprava, Ruska - Ulma, Bila Krynica - Klymoutsi, Shepit - Izvoarele Suchevey, Porubne - (Siret), Dyakovtsy - Rakovets, Krasnoilsk - Vikovu de Sus, Vadul - Siret (Vikshany).***

Expansions of the EU in 2004 and 2007 and the emergence of common Ukrainian-EU border objectively resulted in favourable situation for Ukraine's geo-strategic position, opening additional integration opportunities. This primarily concerns existing cross-border gas, transportation, energy arteries - pipelines "Progress", "Urengoy - Pomary - Uzhgorod", pipeline - "Druzhba", power grid - "Mir", the third and fifth international Cretan motor corridors, extensive rail network, etcetera.

Based on the fact that cross-border cooperation plays a key role in regional development in the context of European integration processes of Ukraine, sociological monitoring of existing problems is extremely important and relevant. In order to form a monitoring system of cross-

border cooperation, project “Borders through the eyes of people” is seeking to use existing methodologies and instruments of sociological analysis of this trend component of state foreign policy.

Speaking of features of cross-border statistics, Ukrainian scientist-researcher of issues of regional policy Z.Varnaliy noted that specifics of formation of cross-border statistics is the fact that the object of the study is adjacent territory of two or more countries, each of which is subject to national legislation, tax, financial and other systems, and is provided with national statistical information. In addition, cross-border regions at the frontiers with the European Union use Eurostat methodology [7, p.708].

It is therefore important to implement national statistical agencies, collection and processing of cross-border statistics as recommended by Eurostat. During the formation of the system of regional statistics in Ukraine, a number of authors introduced classification of regions into two groups:

- Regions of primary (basic) territorial division;
- Regions of secondary territorial division.

This classification, according to Z.Varnaliy, should be extended through the introduction of cross-border statistics into it.

Given that the Euro-regional cooperation is quite common and cross-border statistics is formed primarily as a research and evaluation of European regions, the monograph “State Regional Policy of Ukraine” offers to collect and process cross-border statistical information according to the following groups [7, p. 713-715]:

1. **General statistics.** Primary basic information on cross-border cooperation, such as area, population and employment, along with other specific data on demographic processes, transport, border communications infrastructure, environment, tourism, agriculture and so on. Such general statistical data is presented in the context of participants of the Euroregion and compared by territory of the participant and between the parties.

2. **The second group** of indicators for assessing the European regions can be obtained from statistical information relating to socio-

economic and environmental development of cross-border region: national average income per capita (in euros) across the territory, national average unemployment rate (%) across the territory; national average nominal wage (in euros) across the territory, number of business entities (by sector), investment in the area, including that of participants of the European region, their dynamics on the formation of the European region before and after its formation, as well as investment of the territory overseas, including to the territories of participants of the European region, external area trade with neighbouring countries (in goods and services) and its dynamics before and after the formation of the European region, border trade, spending of foreigners in the country and expenditures of population abroad, including in neighbouring countries, the level of pollution of the territory, environmental activities.

3. Group “**Border infrastructure**” includes following parameters: the length of the common border, the number of checkpoints across the border (current and projected): railroads, motorways, pedestrian ways, waterways, airways, hiking trails, etc. and their status (international, interstate, local, simplified), capacity of border crossings (on both sides), the level of technical support (high, medium, low) on both sides, the level of access roads’ development. Evaluation of border crossings for passengers and transport: the number of buses (regular-route or travel), the number of trucks and cars, the number of trains (passenger and freight, electric trains, etc.), cross-border movement of passengers and cargo for a certain period of time through all existing checkpoints.

4. Group “**Activities (projects) in various fields of cooperation**” within the Euroregion includes information on events in the political field: mutual consultation of the authorities and state governments, cooperation with other European regions, European international, interregional organizations, etc., in the environmental, economic, travel, cultural and educational sectors, on the development of transport infrastructure and so on.

Programme of Ukraine’s Integration into the European Union provides the measures to adapt Ukraine’s legislation to the EU’s one, including the need to: harmonize the methodology of calculating

shared statistical data with Eurostat, and continue to implement a unified statistical methodology and standards for the different branches of statistics. Therefore, for the purpose of development of methods for collecting and processing statistical data, we will cross-examine the statistics at border and cross-border regions, used by Eurostat.

Fast development of cross-border cooperation in the border areas of neighbouring countries raises public and private interest on both sides of the border regarding the content and presentation of the results of such cooperation. Therefore, there appeared new specific needs for the official statistical bodies of territorial-administrative units at various levels of cross-border statistical information, which should be based on accurate and informative common data for: [7, p.708-709]

- Reliable cross-border and comparative statistical information being accessible for the structures of border and cross-border regions (Euroregions), regional and local authorities, government and business structures;
- Researchers and planners involved in the development of border and cross-border regions having comparative statistical database for regional analysis, forecasting and amplification of socio-economic development.

It is important to note that comparable data of cross-border statistics is necessary to regional authorities for control of the border and cross-border regions, namely:

- For review carried out by municipalities, counties and regions on both sides of the border;
- For Regional Planning and regional development in all areas, including the immediate needs of socio-economic formations;
- To ensure development of regional science.

Extremely important tools for objective sociological analysis of cross-border cooperation, in our opinion, is the scientific concept of efficient growth of cross-border cooperation, implemented by the Institute for cooperation on the basis of the second phase of the project “Borders for people”, implementation, which enables the

use of quantitative methodology and qualitative assessment of CBC, and formation of the system of indexing and monitoring of CBC of neighbouring regions of Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine. [8]

Under the said project, it was proposed to determine the overall CBC index according to a 10-point scale based on specific indices and indicators. The study offers the following special codes [9]:

- Geographical, climatic,
- Demographic;
- Historical, political and spiritual factors;
- Conflictogeneous: the risks and threats;
- Infrastructural and organizational;
- Contacts between people and institutional partnerships;
- Socio-economic potential and competitiveness of the region;
- Criminogenic effects and their control;
- Environmental Conditions and Environmental Protection.

Given the achievements of the Institute for CBC led by S. Ustych, we have every reason to believe that the implementation of the next phase of research of project “Borders through the eyes people,” an important element which is to define the methodology and tools of sociological analysis of cross-border cooperation, would enrich the scientific component of perspective issues of Ukraine’s CBC under conditions of global challenges of our time.

At the same time, assessing the status and prospects of cross-border cooperation in general, we would like to draw attention of the distinguished conference participants to the following:

- Complete absence of proper communication links between different segments of CBC and absence of effective collaboration between local authorities and representatives of business and public communities. In particular, there should be noted insufficient understanding by some participants of issues and motivations that guide other subjects among members of CBC;
- Inadequate information component of CBC in Ukrainian regions, which requires organizational strengthening and

updating of information and technical equipment of all actors involved in this field, especially in dealing with foreign partners and local communities. The priority direction to overcome this situation is the liberalization of foreign trade and levelling of living standards in Ukraine;

- The slow pace of adaptation of Ukraine's legislation and its institutions to the EU legislation in the field of regional development and cross-border cooperation.

We agree with the offer of expert researchers on CBC to define cross-border cooperation as a distinct sphere of international activities of local authorities, governed by special regulations. This is especially relevant for the successful ratification of the EU-Ukraine treaties on Association, Free Trade Area and the liberalization of the visa regime, which (at present time) is being the main priority for our country.

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