

ESTIMATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS OF WESTERN REGION OF UKRAINE REGIONAL CENTERS' METROPOLITAN FUNCTIONS

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***Abstract.** The essence of the theoretical concept is that regional centers are formed metropolises function of different hierarchical levels, which in the future may develop into a full-fledged regional metropolis that affect the development of the whole of Western Ukraine, which in turn necessitates their research to support the development of such functions and enhance their impact on the development of the periphery.*

Щеглюк С.Д. Оцінка розвитку метрополітенських функцій обласних центрів Західного регіону України. Сутність теоретичної концепції полягає у тому, що метрополітенські функції в обласних центрах формуються на різних ієрархічних рівнях, що в майбутньому може забезпечити формування повноцінних регіональних метрополій, які впливатимуть на розвиток усієї Західної України, що, в свою чергу, вимагає відповідних досліджень, спрямованих на підтримку розвитку таких функцій і підвищення їх впливу на розвиток периферії.

The peculiarities of forming and development of metropolises come as the result of urbanization processes strengthening. Therefore they have always taken central place in the attention of scientists of different knowledge branches. Urban planning problems of metropolises development are reflected in the tractates of V. Dubyna, T. Mazur and P. Krupa. Geographical and ecological peculiarities of cities functioning are encompassed in the articles of M. Nazaruk and O. Denysenko, social and economic problems are examined by L. Shevchuk, S. Sadova, etc. Among the native scientists that study regional centers as the environment of living activity of the population within the whole region we can name the tractates of O. Boyko-Boychuk, M. Dolishniy, V. Kovtun, V. Nudelman, V. Onikiyenko, Ye. Pityurenko, A. Stepanenko, etc.

Spatial aspects of metropolis living activity are detached in the tractates of the foreign scientists: O. Druzhynin, R. Florida, D. Harvey, R. Huggins, A. Scott, M. Storper, etc.

It is worth noting that legal acts adopted by the EU during 2007-2012 in order to partially improve existing acts and to add the new content and the new management philosophy: "European Urban Charter II: Manifesto for a New Urbanity" directly concern the problems of metropolises development.

Cities-metropolises and metropolitan areas take the central place in forming of social and economic development of mankind.

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Strengthening of large cities role in regional economy is stipulated by the activation of globalization, regionalization and glocalization processes. This can be observed on the example of large cities, urban agglomerations and foremost metropolises as the highest form of spatial organization of population. Notwithstanding the differences of the views over the interpretation of the abovementioned term, we should stress that the large city – metropolis – is the historic notion.

Primary interpretation of the term “metropolis” (from Greek *μητροπολίτης* from *μητρο* — *mother* + *πολίτης* — *city*, literally «*mother city*») is regarded as: 1) city-state that had founded its settlement (colonies) on other lands; 2) state that possesses the captured colonies (usually overseas). Later this term gains the new sense: the city, economic and cultural center of agglomeration, sometimes the synonym of the “capital city”, the functions of which overcome its limits.

Current notion of the term “metropolis” comes down to historically formed forms of population settlement around the large cities and agglomerations that function as complex territorial and social systems with strongly marked metropolis functions and connections. High capacity of self-organization and competition for the resources stipulates the review of their functions and recognition of the leading role within the limits of regional and national spatial policies.

It is worth mentioning that metropolis is often regarded as the core city of agglomeration that performs capital functions in relation to the region where it is situated. In separate research the notion of agglomeration is identified with the definition of metropolis but simultaneously most attention is paid to capital regional or even interregional functions. The research of metropolis functions is of utmost importance in Ukraine, where it is highly important to activate the cities development examination, in particular metropolises as far as they are the unique cores of scientific and technical progress, the centers of diffusion of territorial and structural processes both in metropolises and in peripheral zones.

The urgency of research of regional centers development in the Western area of Ukraine (in particular Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Lutsk, Rivne, Ternopil, Uzhorod, Chernivtsi) gains even more importance due to the process of new functions forming in these cities and emergence of new city types of economic activity that fall under constant change granting those cities with metropolitan functions and thus attracting new resources (human, financial, economic, etc).

Metropolization is the global process that ambiguously influences the development of metropolises in all countries of the world. It is much weaker expressed in forming of metropolises in post-Soviet countries, in particular in Ukraine. The metropolization as the aggregate of processes that promote the advance of city or urban agglomeration range in the world or continental systems of settlement through the increase of concentration of metropolitan functions in them, e. i. the functions that have international value, is often referred to as peculiar reflection of globalization processes.

It is worth mentioning that in the Western area Lviv is the city that most intensively increases its potential of metropolitan functions enabling in perspective its status of European metropolis of higher range comparing with the current one.

Such conclusions are made on the basis of assumption about the increase in Lviv of population and amount of branches and agencies of transnational companies; transnational and financial establishments; transport companies and communications, etc. Thus we can insist that nowadays Lviv has formed its metropolitan functions with concentration of powerful metropolitan potential for the whole Western area and it can be referred to as the city with higher level of metropolitan functions development that go beyond the limits of administrative region comparing with other regional centers. Lviv is the centre of Western area that encompasses 7 regions (Volyn, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zakarpattya, Lviv, Rivne, Chernivtsi, Ternopil), the metropolis, the capital of Galicia, cultural capital of Eastern Europe, small Paris, the gate to Europe that in the nearest future can overcome the million mark by the number of citizens.

The problems of metropolitan functions development in the regional centers of Western region lie in the complication of connections between them and the periphery and exchange of goods, resources, information and people that is not always equivalent leading to transformation of city functions. Thus it can be assumed that in the regions of the Western area of Ukraine the regional metropolises are formed with the cores in regional centers: Lutsk (specialization – mechanic engineering), Rivne (specialization – mechanic engineering and processing industry), Uzhorod (specialization – mechanic engineering and logistic services), Ternopil (specialization – agroindustrial complex and education centre), Chernivtsi (specialization – trade, education centre), Ivano-Frankivsk (specialization – mining industry, education centre).

Development of urbanization has led to forming of active cooperation between Lviv metropolis and its periphery that has manifested itself in the form of territorial and structural processes, i. e. the processes that constantly influence the change of the density of some phenomena on the territory of the region. Moreover, increase of the metropolitan functions number requires conduction of special research of the process of evolution from large city to metropolis.

The main problem of periphery lies in the initiation of processes that disable their efficient development. The necessity of creation of “critical mass” (of goods and services production, investment and innovations) able to activate local development resides in activation of metropolitan functions possibilities and diffusion processes of innovations transfer from central places to periphery.

At the same time the range of issues concerning spatial development of regional centers of Western area, its living activity planning and forming of metropolitan functions remain to be controversial and require profound examination.

REFERENCES

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