

REGIONAL ECONOMY

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METROPOLIZATION DUALISM

In the conditions of civilization transition from industrial to post-industrial (information) society organization of economic activity is going more and more actively beyond the boundaries of specific states and is done within the global reference frame with involvement of the branched network of economic agents and starts depending more and more on generation, processing and dissemination of information, effective use of human and social capital. In modern spatial economy there gets gradually affirmed the interpretation of economic space as a force field, the determining elements of which are growth poles, and of which innovations diffusion is the process. Permanent high-quality transformation of the centres (cores) of economic space is considered to be the driving engine ensuring permanent development and recreation of economic space due to generation, introduction and diffusion of innovations [8].

In this background the polycentric model of social and economic development and economic space structuring is becoming more and more popular, and it is based on the idea of formation of a multi-tier system of powerful centres of local, regional and interregional levels. To our mind, it is the model of polycentric development that is most suitable for studying the processes of metropolization manifested in the rapid growth of the role of metropolitan centers in the conditions of globalization and regionalization challenges [3; 4].

The complexity and ambiguity of metropolization processes cause a wide spectrum of directions of their study and the topicality of relevant discussions among scientists and experts. Modern studies of metropolization phenomena are mainly based on its interpretation as a manifestation of the new way of territorial division of labour, capital, knowledge and power [9] and «response» of urbanization processes to globalization challenges [1].

The majority of those who research metropolization processes today agree to the statement that metropolization is more of a functional rather than morphological process [5; 9]. That presupposes the determining role of functional criteria (here primarily performance of certain metropolitan functions and their further development by the metropolitan centre is meant).

Preliminary analysis of literary sources in the outlined topics has shown that in contemporary scientific literature there are certain discrepancies in the interpretation of the content of notions and terms directly referring to identification and study of

metropolization phenomenon used by the representatives of different research schools and directions [3].

For instance, an outstanding Polish social scientist *B. Jaiowiecki* determines metropolization as the «process of acquisition of certain managerial functions by some large cities in managing post-industrial economy on the supranational scale, along with a political and/or creative function in culture» [7], while in the opinion of the Russian researcher of metropolization processes *A. Druzhinin*, metropolization stands for achievement of systemically significant mission, functions, structure, status by the city (and the corresponding region, country on the whole) in the background of (and in competition with) other key elements of the urbanistic network [2].

In our opinion, in the given situation it is worth distinguishing between metropolises in the narrow and broad sense of the notion. It is quite logical to consider global and continental cities (they can relatively be called 1st type metropolises) metropolises in the narrow sense, while centres of national and subnational (regional) levels as well (they can relatively be called 2nd type metropolises) can be considered metropolises in the broad sense.

Such division of metropolises enables to differentiate between the approaches to the analysis of the very metropolization as a kind of manifestation of the processes of globalization and regionalization, synthesis of quality and quantity [2]. Since when we speak about the so called «supranational» (global and continental) centres, that is 1st type metropolises, professionals more and more frequently point to their role as the centres of innovations and certain «higher level» units in the global network of contacts (including cultural and political contacts) [3]. For the development of such metropolises international contacts start playing a greater role, while the adjacent territory does not have a crucial impact on the structure and functions of such cities (figure 1, a). Therefore, many experts come to agree that intensification of contacts between global and continental centres makes those cities more «independent» of physical distances, and, as the result of that, - on their nearest surroundings.

In case of 2nd type metropolises the picture is absolutely different. National and regional metropolises are the places where the regions «get involved» in global contacts and processes. And that means that «transfer» of development impetuses obtained due to international contacts out to the surrounding territories and the corresponding regions in general can be considered to be almost the most substantial function of the 2nd type metropolises (fig. 1, b).

Such peculiarity in the development of national and regional centres is, in particular, pointed out by *B. Domacski*, who outlines the effects of the so called «positive metropolitan spread» manifested in the corresponding structural changes in the economy of the whole region, and hence - also in the formation of additional conditions for the improvement of the living standard of local residents [6].

Therefore, it is absolutely logical to talk not only about the existence of two types of metropolises, but about two metropolization types (let us call them correspondingly 1st and 2nd type metropolizations). The same as in case with metropolises, different

metropolization types are determined by the prevalence of different types of contacts between metropolises and their surroundings (fig. 1): in case of the 1st type metropolization there prevail «supranational» contacts, while in case of the 2nd type metropolization there dominate intraregional and interregional contacts. To our mind, it is the 2nd type metropolization processes that enable the regions to form their polyfunctional centre (**areas**) of competitiveness - **centres of innovations and new economy** [3; 4].

It is easy to notice that the suggested approach to the differentiated study of the metropolization phenomenon coordinates well with the standpoint of those authors who stress that metropolization is a controversial process, ambiguous by its prevailing vectors.

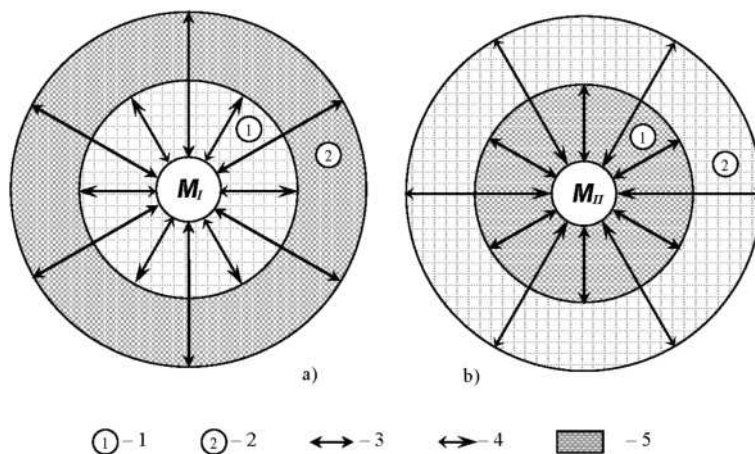


Fig. 1. Contacts of 1st and 2nd type metropolises with the surroundings:

M_i - 1st type metropolis; *M_u* - 2nd type metropolis;

1 - subnational (regional) and national levels;

2 - supranational (continental and global) levels;

3, 4 - lines of metropolis' «field force»;

5 - area of dominating impact of a metropolis.

Source: compiled by the authors

For Ukraine particularly topical is the study of the 2nd type metropolization processes, and that can be accounted for not only by the need for systematization and deepening of the corresponding theoretical knowledge about the specificity of metropolization, but by the practical significance of the outlined problems as well. That is because the results of those studies are aimed to become the theoretical basis of scientifically substantiated recommendations both on the development of Ukrainian cities with metropolitan functions and on the improvement of national regional and spatial policies with due account of available and potential metropolization challenges. That

is why special attention shall be paid to the issues of profound spatial analysis of the complex impact of metropolization processes both on the development of cities-me- tropolises and their nearest surroundings, and on the development of specific regions and the country in general.

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