

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE
ODESA NATIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY ECONOMICS

**THE PLACE OF ECONOMIC ENTITIES IN ENSURING THE SAFE
DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL-URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS**

Materials of the scientific colloquium

Odesa
November 26, 2021

Odesa
«Astroprint»
2021

UDC 631.1:338(063)
P71

Responsible for the collection and publication
Oleksandr Pavlov

The place of economic entities in ensuring the safe development of rural-urban
P71 agglomerations : Materials of the scientific colloquium (Odesa, November 26, 2021) /
respons. for the collec. and public. Oleksandr Pavlov; Department of Industry
Economics, Odesa National Technological University. Odesa : Astroprint, 2021. 52 p.
ISBN 978-966-927-796-1

The collection contains abstracts of reports of participants of the scientific colloquium. They
substantiate the essence of the rural-urban agglomeration as a socio-spatial entity, consider various
aspects of the functioning of economic entities as guarantors of the safe development of these new
entities.

The publication is addressed to scientists, teachers, specialists employed in the agri-food
industry and in the field of public administration.

UDC 631.1:338(063)

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ISBN 978-966-927-796-1

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RURAL-URBAN AGGLOMERATION AS A SOCIO-SPATIAL PHENOMENON

In the scientific literature and in social practice, the use of the term «agglomeration» (from the Latin «agglomer» – joining, accumulating) is traditionally associated with the development of urbanization, resulting in the formation of large socio-spatial formations, which include the central settlement (large town) and located at a short distance from it are much smaller cities, between which there are certain functional connections.

Since 2015, agglomerations have begun to appear in Ukraine, destroying certain stereotypes that have formed in the public consciousness about the nature of such socio-spatial formations.

Such changes in perceptions of the essence of the agglomeration are a consequence of decentralization of public power and administration, the institutional foundations of which were laid by the Order Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine «On Approval of the Concept of Reforming Local Self-Government and Territorial Organization of Power in Ukraine» (April 2014), of Ukrainian law «About voluntary association of communities» (February 2015), the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine «On the formation and liquidation of districts» (July 2020) and other regulations.

The implementation of the decisions contained in these documents has led to the enlargements of communities and administrative districts, the unification of cities, towns and villages within their spatial boundaries. Thus, on a formal basis, most of the united territorial communities (UTCs) created in Ukraine and new districts, regardless of their population, have become «mixed» rural-urban agglomerations, in which cities play a leading role. However, provided that there are financially and economically viable villages within these socio-spatial formations, these settlements are also able to play the role of centers of economic growth and social welfare.

Apparently, the purpose of such transformations was to decentralize power by transferring financial, economic and other resources from central executive bodies to communities. At the beginning of the reform, as a result of voluntary unification of territorial communities, UTCs appeared, the administrative centers of which became not only large villages, but also small and medium-sized towns with a population not exceeding 50.000 people. Over time, UTCs began to form around cities of regional significance, six of which have the status of administrative centers of the regions. In 2020, with the formation of new districts, the centers of some of them became all regional centers. As a result, the use of administrative measures in Ukraine, some UTCs have emerged, the population of which far exceeds the population of many new districts. This trend is also observed in the ratio of large population centers, the centers of which are large cities, and some regions, which are inferior to these areas in terms of population.

Thus, despite the fact that at the legislative level no special documents have been adopted on the formation of rural agglomerations in Ukraine, in fact they exist. In this regard, the question of defining the essence of this socio-spatial phenomenon acquires scientific relevance and practical significance.

The total number of rural-urban agglomerations is 1574 units, of which 1439 are represented by UTC and 136 – by districts with a «mixed» population. However, if we

take into account the existing practice of forming urban agglomerations, in the context of which their population was over 500 thousand people, then to such can be attributed only 18 rural-urban agglomerations, represented by districts whose administrative centers, except Kriviy Rig, Mariupol and Kramatorsk, are regional centers.

In addition, these agglomerations differ from urban ones in their functionality, given the agricultural and industrial activities that are traditionally inherent in rural and urban settlements.

The combination of these activities within a single space indicates a violation of the principle of division of labor, which distinguishes between rural and urban territorial subsystems of society. That is, the emergence of rural agglomerations to some extent occurred contrary to the historical evolution of the settlement system, associated with the action of certain trends in social development. Therefore, despite the consolidation of the process of creating rural-urban agglomerations in the regulations of Ukraine, this phenomenon is artificial.

The decisions of the Ukrainian authorities that contributed to the emergence of this phenomenon, at first glance, seem illogical against the background of inconsistencies and even confrontation of interests of urban and rural areas at the present stage of globalization, due to their belonging to different technological systems of production and historical perception of the city as an exploiter of the village, fixed in the planetary space in the form of two poles – «world city» (developed North) and «world village» (backward South).

However, the native village is still not a conditional «world village». Therefore, the time has come when the demarcation of cities and rural settlements, which eventually led to significant socio-economic and cultural differences between them, was replaced by their spatial integration, which allows to combine the resources of these settlements to meet the growing needs of urban and the rural population and the solution

of existing problems that hinder the achievement of a higher standard of living by these communities.

With the formation of rural agglomerations, rural development loses its traditional object (rural space), while expanding its boundaries at the expense of urban space, thus creating a precedent for integrated rural-urban development. Today, it is difficult to predict which trend of the combined development will be dominant – rural or urban. This will lay down from several factors, including from the composition of the population of UTC and districts, the determinants of their economic development – agricultural and industrial.

The practical aspect of the idea of such synthesis highlights a number of problems associated with the formation of rural-urban relations, which are as follows:

- dependence of infrastructure availability on the resettlement structure (for suburban rural areas the territory acquires «centrality», and for remote – isolation);
- diversification of the economy of rural areas and cities in a broad sense, its isolation by the location of industrial facilities in the countryside, the development of tourism and recreation, proximity to markets, the use of new information and communication technologies);
- territorial impact on agricultural structural changes in more urban spaces, which serve as a «buffer», which integrates agriculture, nature and leisure;
- the dual role of natural heritage (nature conservation as centers of biodiversity and its use as an instrument of employment);
- use of culture in economic development strategies (increasing interest in the assessment of cultural heritage in rural areas as a common property of the region and the country);

– expansion of cooperation between rural and urban authorities (expression of interest in the joint use of the economic base, infrastructure, natural resources of the territories located at the rural-urban junction).

The spatial boundaries of rural-urban agglomerations significantly expand the economic powers of economic entities, which raises the question of the nature of relations in the triangle «society – state – business» (Fig. 1).

By carrying out decentralization, the central state authorities have thus deliberately redistributed power in favor of UTCs, districts and large towns of regional significance, but do not weaken their own control over their implementation.

Given failure to resolve an issue related to reforming the territorial organization of power at the regional level, it can now be noted that the economic powers of regional authorities depend not on their distribution from the state budget, which is extremely limited, and of the district budgets, of towns of regional significance and UTC, belonging to a certain region. The share of financial resources distributed among the subjects of authority forms the total amount of local budget expenditures and their share in the country's GDP. Economic relations within the spatial boundaries of the region are determined by the share of own revenues in the structure of local budget revenues, which indicates the degree of financial and economic independence of each of these budgets separately from transfers from higher budgets.

Strengthening the financial and economic capacity of UTCs, consolidation of districts, transformation of regional centers into district centers leads to a weakening of the power of both the representative body of communities (oblast councils) and oblast state administrations.

Given the priority of financial and economic decentralization over political and administrative, should be taken into account. that business, as the main carrier of economic power, will direct its investments to those administrative-territorial units

where a favorable investment climate will be created, there will be adequate resources and proper market infrastructure.

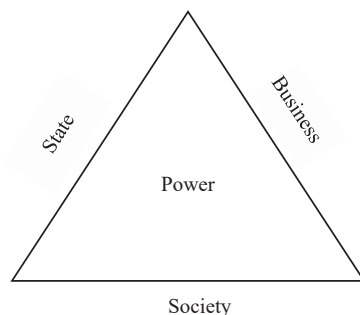


Fig. 1. Triangle «society – state – business»

Source: compiled by the author

Harmonization of relations in the public-power triangle provides [1, p. 168]:

- coordination of the system of interests of all three subjects of interaction;
- their mutual social responsibility;
- partnership;
- recognition in the systemic triad «society – state – business» of the leading role of society and, consequently, the priority of social goals.

The redistribution of power within the spatial boundaries of rural-urban agglomerations of different subjects of public administration is accompanied by certain risks for their safe development [2].

A tracking the development of social processes at the level of district and basic units of administrative-territorial organization of the country it is extremely important to prevent the emergence of local «princes» and ethnic enclave socio-spatial formations in Transcarpathia, Bukovina, Ukrainian Bessarabia, in the south-eastern part of the country. To do this, the Ukrainian political nation should be consolidated on the basis of the formulated national idea.

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THE ROLE OF AGRI-FOOD HOLDINGS IN ENSURING THE INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL-URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS

The process of decentralization and administrative-territorial reform, which has been going on in Ukraine since 2015, has led to active voluntary unification of territorial communities and the formation of rural-urban agglomerations of convergent-continuous type, which creates preconditions for inclusive development of districts to create decent

Збірник містить тези доповідей учасників наукового колоквиуму. Обґрунтовано сутність сільсько-міських агломерацій як соціально-просторового утворення, розглянуто різні аспекти функціонування суб'єктів господарювання як гарантів безпечного розвитку цих нових утворень.

Видання адресоване науковцям, викладачам, фахівцям, зайнятим у агропромисловій галузі та у сфері державного управління.

Наукове видання

Місце суб'єктів господарювання у забезпеченні безпечного розвитку сільсько-міських агломерацій

Матеріали колоквиуму

*м. Одеса,
26 листопада 2021 р.*

Англійською мовою

Відповідальний за випуск
Олександр Павлов

Надруковано в редакції авторів з готового оригінал-макета

Формат 60 × 84 / 16. Ум. друк. арк. 3,02 . Тираж 300 прим. Зам. № 694 (106).

Видавництво і друкарня «Астропринт».
65091, м. Одеса, вул. Разумовська, 21
(048) 7-855-855; (0482) 33-07-17, 37-14-25

www.astroprint.ua
www.stranichka.in.ua
astro_print@ukr.net

Свідоцтво суб'єкта видавничої справи ДК № 1373 від 28.05.2003