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Ensuring spatial inclusion of the socio-economic development of urban-rural formations of Ukraine

Abstract

The purpose of this article is to analyse the formation of a new vision of socially oriented development, focusing on the improvement of the agricultural sector within the framework of the urban-rural space organisation, as a prerequisite for solving social problems and ensuring the sustainable development of rural areas. The principles of organisation of natural and economic activity in the urban-rural entity are disclosed. The development trends of inclusive types of spatial natural and economic systems are determined. A socially oriented model of the functioning of an inclusive urban-rural economy is proposed. The focus is on some systemic issues. First, the

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category of “inclusion” is revealed, seemingly known as a process of increasing the degree of participation of all citizens in society, but it largely concerns the issues of insufficient mental preparedness of the population to be included in active social and economic processes. Secondly, the issue of reconstruction of the urban-rural organisation of economic activity is identified as essential on the agenda. Here, managers and stakeholders are charged with several tasks. Thirdly, a social problem that needs to be overcome. The focus is on the problem of difficult perception of the concept of space by the population as a system of interaction of interested parties (stakeholders). Fourth, problematic issues and means of overcoming them, while determining the ways of development of urban-rural formations, should take into account the trends in the cluster organisation of specific spatial, natural and economic complexes.

Keywords: socio-economic development, inclusion, urban-rural formations, post-war recovery of Ukraine, convergence of urban and rural population

Introduction

Today, the key challenge facing Ukraine is to ensure conditions for the postwar recovery of the country's population. It largely involves the restoration of agricultural activity. Of course, this issue is multifaceted, but given the deep knowledge of specialists in this field, we can state that the solution of complex problems on the way to improving the situation is still far from complete. To a large extent, this is due to the fact that the process of finding ways to solve them is based on outdated methodological approaches, while achieving positive changes requires updated views and methods in managing reproduction processes of the rural living space.

Here, we should focus on other systemic issues. First, the category of “inclusion” needs to be clarified, which is seemingly understood as a process of increasing the degree of participation of all citizens in society; however, in our case, it largely concerns the lack of mental preparedness of the population to engage in active social and economic processes. Secondly, the issue of reconstructing the urban-rural organisation of economic activity is a significant one on the agenda. This raises several challenges for managers and stakeholders. Third, a social problem that needs to be overcome is the very difficult perception of the concept of space as a system of interaction between stakeholders. To a large extent, people's lack of confidence in their abilities and strengths, against the backdrop of prolonged shocks, requires special social psychological rehabilitation. Fourthly, the problematic issues and means of overcoming them, when determining the ways of development of urban-rural formations, should take into account the trends in the cluster organisation of specific spatial natural and economic complexes, which are known to significantly affect the social organisation of territorial communities.

Thus, the four key methodological positions outlined above also determine the substantive features of the researches presented in this article, starting with the literature review, conceptual positions of the researches, as well as discussion issues,

methods of implementing the authors' proposals, and relevant conclusions for further research.

Literature review

Based on the above, the authors of the article focused on those literary sources that reflect, to a greater extent, the views of foreign scholars, in particular, those related to the analysis of European trends in the subject area of this work.

As for the understanding of "inclusion", the fundamental point here is that there are three main directions of its interpretation. The first is associated with economic concepts of an inclusive economy. The second reflects the social and psychological components of the inclusion phenomenon. The third direction has a spatial aspect, taking into account mainly the territorial and production component. All of these issues go hand in hand, sometimes implicitly. Nevertheless, they must be kept in mind at all times.

Thus, in the context of "inclusion", the authors focused on the works of numerous authors (Allen et al., 2016; Bansal, 2014; Goel & Vishnoi, 2022; Kim et al. 2018; Sun & Tu, 2023; Varghese & Viswanathan, 2018; Zhu et al., 2018). The analysis of these works reveals a the emphasis on financial inclusion, which is primarily associated with a person, in particular, a person living in rural areas. Financial inclusion, indeed, aims at bridging the income gap between rural and urban areas. However, this requires a significant increase in the importance of improving financial inclusion, in line with the creation of an inclusive financial system, the concept of which was officially put forward by the UN in 2005. Overcoming inequalities in financial inclusion requires the use of high information technologies that enable active communication between stakeholders within the framework of corporate sustainability, innovative management of urban spatial development, etc.

As for the second issue, i.e., the reconstruction of the urban-rural space for organising economic activity, scientists involved in spatial development and planning are largely involved. The key for the purposes of this article is the point of view of specialists related to the decentralisation of the spatial organisation of economic systems (Cattaneo et al., 2022; Feltynowski, 2024; Goel et al., 2021; Heffner, 2015; Hofmann et al., 2023; Kłodziński, 2014; Kłodziński & Zarębski, 2016; Li et al., 2024; 2014; Liu et al., 2021; Liu, 2021; Śleszyński, 2024; Stanny et al., 2016; Zarębski, 2015), which makes it possible to ensure the coadaptation of rural and urban development processes. If we take a closer look at the outlined works, we can define a comprehensive approach encompassing the peculiarities of the population's life organisation, its multi-vector functioning, both of individuals and communities in general, as a principle. First, it advocates a bottom-up management paradigm. That is, the sustainable development of urban-rural territories, relying on innovative communication technologies, sets a new interpretation of the inclusion of spatial development, showing that "rural" and "urban" territories are not only highly interdependent, but also, actually, create a personal reality of life that requires the development of separate strategies, foresight projects and master plans to determine the means of ensuring their own forms of functioning.

The concept of integrating not only urban space into rural space, but also vice versa, rural forms of organising life into urban space, is also important. In other words, a theoretical framework is proposed that reveals how to overcome the relevant social dichotomy of “urban-rural”. Moreover, the introduction of empirical research on this issue is an appropriate step towards expanding what is referred to as previous “urban” approaches by focusing on the junction of peripheral functional zones of rural and urban purposes. Within this theoretical framework, scholars, which is very important for the Ukrainian context, redirect attention to such essential positions as flows and connections, institutions and behaviour, lifestyles and livelihoods. In principle, such an understanding of the organisation of the space of life can become an effective point of responsibility for ensuring the potential sustainability of development per se.

In this regard, the proposal for a continuous reconfiguration of material flows, practices, contexts of meaning and spatial structures in the concept of urbanisation becomes very attractive. The definition of a rurbanity as a separate space makes it possible to harmonise the practices of organising economic activity, including social, economic, and environmental components, with a corresponding reassessment of the attributions associated with them.

The third question is very interesting for the authors of this article, which concerns the peculiarities of perception by socialised individuals and their groups, taking into account not so much the spatial-territorial aspect of the issue as the space-relationships of stakeholder interactions. Moreover, realising that the means of organising the territory, the choice of strategies for their development, objectively, follows the qualitative characteristics of harmonising the relations and interests of stakeholders. In this area, it is advisable to pay attention to some of the views of scholars set forth in a number of publications (Amcoff & Westholm, 2007; Anioł, 2019; Cesarski, 2014; Cocklin et al., 2002; Hedlund & Lundholm, 2015; Michoń, 2013; Olmedo & O’Shaughnessy, 2022; Rickardsson, 2021; Solana-Solana, 2010).

The ideas of Western scholars who emphasise the need to form a decentralised system of management of the development of relations between stakeholders at the level of self-organisation, which is mainly associated with a developed system of functioning and interaction of formal and informal institutions, are of fundamental value to the authors of the article.

However, the question of how the dynamics of general social processes affect the formation of stakeholder relations is important here. In this regard, two demographic trends are influential, namely rural depopulation and repopulation. As rural restructuring has established itself as a popular area of research in recent years, it can be seen that there are trends in the empirical support for the process of rural restructuring. Nevertheless, scholars have concluded that contemporary rural restructuring should be distinguished from the previous restructuring that shifted from agriculture to manufacturing. This is what is called the neo-endogenous approach. Its essence lies in the fact that the emphasis is on local and territorially integrated rural development, involving different actors within the framework of (local) democratic processes, as well as the valorisation of local resources through (social) entrepreneurship and innovation.

As rural decline is a constant phenomenon in many parts of Europe, neo-endogenous rural development is gaining support as a conceptual and policy approach.

Within this framework, rural social enterprises are identified as potential key actors, contributing to the development of territories. Studies also show that mobilising the social commitment of business entities and their collective nature and achieving common results is a lever for both developing joint dynamics with stakeholders and harmonising relations between different spatial formations.

In addition, such organisations can apply exogenous forces by buffering their impacts with locally oriented solutions that meet the needs of their rural communities. Thus, rural community-based social enterprises can play an important role in neo-endogenous cooperation, where an institutional framework that takes into account the diversity of rural areas and is able to balance cooperation between different rural development stakeholders is a precondition for increasing their competitiveness.

Regarding the fourth issue, which is about determining the ways of development of urban-rural formations, it is interesting to look at the differentiated approach to taking into account local conditions. But unlike those already mentioned, here we focus on trends in the cluster organisation of specific spatial natural and economic complexes. In other words, we take into account the influence of the environment, including its natural and economic components, on the organisational forms of activity of the population (communities). This refers to the aspect of clustering of natural and economic systems (complexes). In this regard, the authors of the article focused on a number of publications (Bian et al., 2025; Henderson & Wang, 2005; Henderson & Loreau, 2021; Hoen, 2002; Li et al., 2019; Ma et al., 2020; Petrovici & Poenaru, 2025; Rocha et al., 2019; World Development, 2015). Carefully analysing the approaches of these specialists, we should emphasise that clustering, as a process, can be carried out at different depths of cooperation, both vertically and horizontally. That is, the well-known thesis should be tied to the conditions of a particular situation under consideration or projected.

Although there are many methods for studying the links between economic sectors, most methods analyse only the links between a particular sector and all other sectors, or the impact of all sectors on the economy as a whole. However, for the authors of this article, the views that promote spatial clustering of livelihoods are of interest. Of course, cluster analysis can be useful for analysing the situation in urban-regional formations, as it can significantly contribute to the processes of harmonising relations between stakeholders who are closely related to each other.

In our case, it is essential to identify the factors that influence the choice of clustering type. Although we have partially mentioned them before, we would like to emphasise their importance once again. Firstly, it is the information component of the era of the digital economy. This force is important not only from the standpoint of promoting economic and social development, but also of transforming a different type of perception of reality, which certainly gives an influential impetus to the search for new tools for regulating relations between the urban and the rural areas. The key point is to identify the general trends in the spatial and temporal evolution of the links between the digital economy and the processes of urban-rural integration. That is, focusing on the study of spatial spillover effects and dual impacts of the digital economy and urban-rural formations, from the perspective of understanding the complexity of their relationships to promote coordinated development.

Secondly, the issue of inequality in the use of land resources, as well as the migration problem between two economically diverse spatial formations, remains important. Different practices and behaviours related to our external society support the question of the future sustainability of the population and the natural environment. It is clear that unequal access to resources and differences in technological progress change the outcomes of land management (i.e., conservation) and social behaviour (i.e., migration). Any socio-environmental management practice must be fair to diversity in land access, population, livelihoods and development in society. In this process, it is believed that diversifying livelihoods in rural areas, creating market-oriented institutions, and strong social capital contribute to increasing resilience and strengthening urban-rural communities.

Finally, three conditions for the sustainable development of urban-rural space become important: the introduction of innovative forms of economic activity that can respond to potential urban demand; local entrepreneurship that can create and expand these new activities; and social capital that can support entrepreneurship in new activities with access to credit, labour, foreign markets, and innovation, etc. Third, based on cluster analysis, a typology of urban-rural formations was conducted, taking into account the differences and patterns of demographic, economic, and spatial transformations. The typology not only confirms the complexity of suburban development but also provides a crucial basis for studying the socioeconomic forces that shape these areas. Since urban-rural formations show considerable heterogeneity, their formation processes, dynamics, relations with major cities, and trajectories vary considerably and depend on specific contexts.

Here we discuss what we call unevenly distributed spatial figures that form the suburban feature of development. By expanding the features of “spatial differentiation” that objectively emerges from the logic of spatial deployment, we challenge urban-rural dichotomies and emphasise the intercultural dynamics of change in discontinuous and historically rooted suburban areas. The article contributes to the development of results in the field related to the definition of specific types of suburban spatial formations, from the point of view of the dominants in the ordering of internal innovative variations.

In general, cluster policy incentivises all regions to promote employment growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Nevertheless, research has largely focused on cluster economic performance, but less on social cohesion characteristics, which are important when economic growth is created with deprivation, poverty, and inequality. Therefore, studying the dynamics of urban-rural clusters by developing theoretical models based on dynamical systems is becoming a timely issue for Ukraine.

Results

Methodological positions

The principal methodological position of the authors of the article, unlike, in particular, several researchers in Ukraine (Pavlov et al., 2024), is to consider European integration approaches from the perspective of improving social forms of governance

in Ukraine. It is known that social governance means the management of any social systems and processes, as opposed to biological, technical, technological, and other forms of governance. While the latter mostly refer to spontaneous forms of governance, social governance largely concerns conscious forms of governance. First of all, social governance involves preliminary selection of targets and means of achieving them in accordance with specific conditions and interests of the stakeholders. Here, the factor associated with taking into account the level of development of the social system, which is known to differ significantly by spatial features, becomes noteworthy. Of course, a distinctive feature of the level of development is the ability of a community to act within the framework of self-regulation and self-management. The higher the level of development of a social system, the lower its dependence on external forms of influence and management. The difficulties faced by Ukraine, particularly in the agricultural sector, have their own specifics in overcoming the problems of implementing self-organisation skills. Realising this, we conclude that it is advisable to start working with the mentality of the average citizen of the rural space. According to such views, the idea of inclusion of the rural population should be implemented not only from the standpoint of organising individual forms of activity, but also from the standpoint of its inclusion in urbanised structures. In other words, the process of convergence of rural and urban populations is being intensified. In this case, we assume that this process should significantly contribute to the development of economic relations. It is logical that it should be started in the urban-rural space.

This also applies to the organisation of urban-rural space, both as a prerequisite for intensifying the processes of interaction between rural and urban areas (convergence) and improving infrastructure, information, energy, and other types of its support, including the regulation of financial relations. This refers to the underestimation of the value of rural space as such, when spatial rent is transferred beyond its borders and hinders activities aimed at improving the lives of the rural population.

In conclusion, it is under these conditions that we hope for possible positive shifts towards a significant improvement in the conditions of rural development and the solution of the country's complex demographic problems that lie ahead. It should be emphasised that these methodological positions require an updated institutional environment for spatial development management. It should be focused on removing the contradictions that characterise the process of realisation of social, economic, and environmental interests of business entities, with the actual dominance of financial ones. It should be recalled that at present the institutional setting of environmental and economic interests is characterised by a limited motivational basis for their realisation, which is determined by the temporary presence of an institutional vacuum or "institutional traps". In conceptual terms, the institutional environment should develop in the direction of ensuring, first of all, the conditions for the reproduction of socio-ecologically oriented forms of management in the relevant space with a target orientation towards creating a quality of life.

Targets that provide impetus for further development of ensuring the rational use of territorial resources, their reproduction and improvement of the quality of the environment include overcoming the general imperfection of the legislative framework for the system of applying modern financial incentives that encourage economic

activity in the desired direction. And here we see the increasing role of the state as a guarantor, intensifying the processes of modernisation of economic activity and its transition to an innovative, socio-ecologically oriented path of development. This role consists in the formation of various institutional forms, including updated organisations and institutions, legislative documents, legal norms, etc., that would adequately respond to the needs of economic, social, and environmental development of specific spatial formations where the standard of living of the population is formed. Of course, the institutional environment should be dynamic, as economic activity itself is dynamic, always taking advantage of the surrounding urban and rural space. At the same time, it should contribute to the formation of an integral economic system based on harmony between public and private individual interests of business entities. In this regard, a significant role should be given to the harmonisation of relations between the government, business and society, and in particular to the search for new mechanisms and instruments of partnership, as well as to the formulation of innovative proposals for their creation. Here, the institution of property, and in particular the formation of combinations of property rights, becomes one of the defining institutions. The economic justification of sustainable spatial development is, thus, in the plane of sound management actions related to the institutional matrix of a particular spatial formation by establishing equilibrium property relations between business entities.

We also hope that, based on the European experience, we can look to the future with hope for a significant improvement in the situation. Once again, we emphasise the importance of implementing the practice of EU countries in the development of the spatial planning system as a specific social construct that characterises the use of certain methods of social cooperation in institutional contexts, in time and space, aimed at managing collective actions regarding the use of urban and rural space.

Model concepts

Model concepts of the urban-rural space largely correspond to the process of municipalisation of relations, due to the growing general understanding of the importance of hidden, previously unclaimed socio-cultural potentials in the development of society. The transformation of their targets is becoming typical for Ukraine. Thus, where previously economic interests dominated, now socio-cultural features are becoming predominant, in the context of which economic interests are being realised. This tendency is largely implicit, but it can still be captured by using special research methods of metasystem analysis. In this regard, in the context of the ongoing reforms in Ukraine, there is a need to find sources of social energy. Such “transformations” of life as the introduction of developed forms of the market, new technologies, etc., are only superstructures in relation to the essential forms of life that have existed in Ukraine since ancient times. Attention should now be paid to how this or that overbuilding structure will be supported by these activities, that is, the search for their unity and harmony becomes necessary. Of course, in this area we should look for sources of creative social energy, without which real transformations are impossible. It is about identifying the essential nodes of interaction between the “new” and the

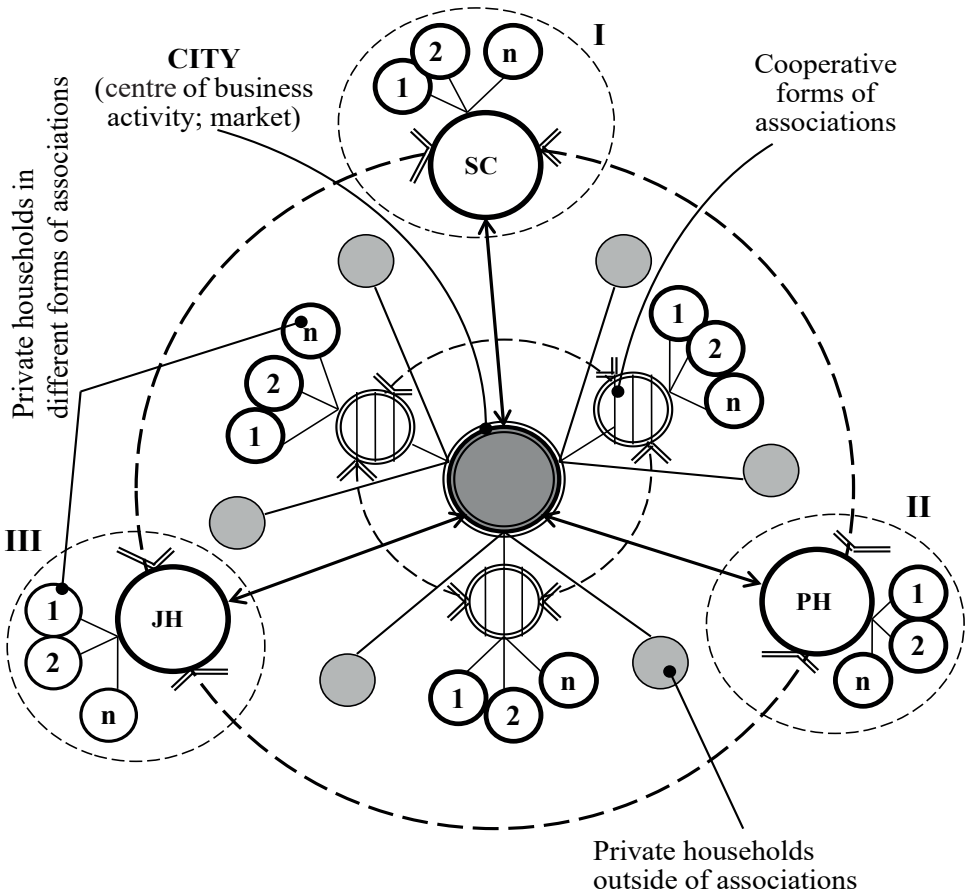
“old”, behind which a system of basic values rooted in the depths of national life is hidden. Here we mean archetypal constructions that have been formed over thousands of years by different generations, thus creating the face of a people with a very specific type of personality. In this regard, comprehensive research on the identification and development of mechanisms of self-development, which, taking into account the activation of both individual actors and reference social groups, are capable of ensuring the synthesis of artificial and evolutionary and natural foundations of development, becomes extremely necessary. This kind of interaction requires the establishment of appropriate constructive relations and connections between holders of different positions, which primarily concerns the relationship between different subcultures arising on a demographic, professional or ethnic basis. From this point of view, it is the mechanism of development of relations based on related but distinct subcultures that should underlie the new subjective organisation of the urban-rural space. In this regard, in Ukraine, the formation of this living space should be based on the principle of reviving the cultural and historical paradigm of the territory, which primarily involves a cultural reconstruction of the relations between different socio-cultural entities.

According to the above-mentioned problem, studies that, in fact, the focus on the “peripheral” level of governance, where the actual human problems that need to be addressed urgently, become important. For Ukraine, such a turn in the methodology of organising space is quite new, since in the pre-reform period, the deductive approach – from the general to the private – dominated, while now, on the contrary, the inductive approach – from the private to the general – is dominant. The new methodology aims at solving the problems of an individual and a specific territorial community. However, critically assessing the current state of affairs in this area, it should be noted that approaches that do not correspond to the spirit of the times on which the system of life space management is built are still generally preserved. It should be borne in mind that this phenomenon is associated with a certain inertia of territorial development itself.

The material basis for the progressive spatial development of the economic system is the intensification of the processes of interaction between the rural and the urban. While the urban is innovative, the rural, on the contrary, is conservative; such interaction ensures the semantic completeness of economic activity. The generating function of the urban, in ensuring reproduction processes, is the interaction of the economic pair “production – consumption”. The rural areas play an important role in this system. Today, in the context of the war in Ukraine, its importance in ensuring survival in extreme, critical historical situations is especially felt, since its production processes are based on renewable energy.

Therefore, special attention should be paid to the object of management, which is the economic relations that arise in the course of achieving the paired targets of urban and rural development. The main thing here is not to achieve a separate goal, but to ensure a balance in the interaction of objects of innovation and conservation functions from different sectors of economic activity (social, economic, environmental). In this formulation of the issue, it is possible to put a real barrier to the destructive power of techno-spheric processes characterised by an unbridled exponential growth of destructive loads. This emphasises the importance of strengthening spatial economic systems of rural development, or more generally, the agrosphere.

In this regard, the authors focused on the identification of the market model of the formation of a multi-structured agricultural enterprise in the urban-rural space (Figure 1). The type of activity is a rather complex system of relations and forms of interaction between various subjects and objects. However, there is a certain topological basis in these relations that reflects the well-known general scheme of the process of streamlining the market-oriented economic system. In this scheme, the basic elements are private households, which form the basis of all types of agricultural associations. However, unlike traditional approaches, here the private household is considered primarily as a category that has the properties of self-deployment and self-growth. Private households, which as primary business entities can be organised into different structures by type of ownership – state, collective, private, and others, but at the same time, bring with them a special cultural connotation.



I; II; III – large economic associations:
SC – state corporations, JH – joint-stock holdings; PH – private households

Figure 1. Conceptual scheme of the functioning of the urban-rural spatial formation

The scheme shows possible types of associations in the form of state corporations (SC), joint-stock holdings (JH), private households (PH), and other forms of cooperative associations. Today, as we know, private households play a significant role in agricultural production, but they are unfortunately not integrated into a common holistic system with other forms of management. One detail that has arisen in relations with the market, or rather the phenomenon of the “intermediary”, attracts special attention. Here, it is important to analyse the “intermediary” as an economic (business) category. A close look at the behaviour of the “intermediary” reveals its aggressive position, with its hypertrophied role in the system of economic relations. The “intermediary” most often usurps one of the most important systemic functions for its selfish purposes – the regulation of relations between business entities. Having seized a free management niche that should rightfully belong to the state in the person of territorial authorities or other social entities as representatives of the interests of society as a whole, the “intermediary” intercepts free business entities at the market and appropriates the main share of the rent received from agricultural activities through shadow mechanisms. Moreover, since the unregulated private way of appropriating this rent currently dominates, its role in shaping the economy of urban-rural formations is practically reduced to zero, as the process of its reproduction is interrupted at the stage of redistribution. This circumstance leads to the fact that it is impossible to maintain reproductive cycles in certain territories on their own; the economic process remains incomplete. In order to fill this gap, it is necessary to create special institutions that ensure the development of the infrastructure of the territories, promote the accumulation of capital in the hands of the producer, and ensure a fair redistribution of income in favour of the development of the territorial community. Thus, without disrupting the system of independent interaction of business entities in the market, we can talk about the process of regulating market relations by territorial governance structures. Here we discuss the harmonisation of market systems of varying degrees of orderliness. Namely, a market with a high degree of spontaneity, when private households enter the market on their own. The second type ensures the interaction of private households with the market through various forms of association. It can be characterised as a semi-ordered type of interaction. The third type is categorised by the fact that a block of institutional ordering appears in market relations, with appropriate infrastructure support. The distinguished types of market relations largely determine the peculiarities of the spatial organisation of economic systems. The format options can be quite diverse, but if we want to form a highly developed agrosphere in social and production terms, then in this case we should rely on the third, institutional type of market relations. This is understandable, since the development of an efficient infrastructure requires significant costs and specialised knowledge, which can only be realised within a highly developed economic system. Since all types of economic systems usually exist simultaneously on the territory, the problem is to find a certain proportion in their combinatorics that is appropriate to the specific conditions and ensures the required efficiency.

In general, the conceptual urban-rural territorial-spatial model, as a holistic entity that sets a special regime of interaction between business entities in market conditions at the regional level, acquires a rather structured form, as shown in Figure 1.

Based on the content of the proposed scheme, virtually all of its elements individually, as well as the system as a whole, require their spatial ordering. The trigger for the need for such an ordering may be the process of organising the market system. The extent to which it is actively carried out determines the depth of the economic system as a whole.

Cluster organisation

The definition of urban-rural spatial formations allows us to consider them as relevant territorial clusters within which it is convenient to carry out a set of measures to streamline economic activity, including the factor of harmonising the interests of stakeholders involved in the process.

The conditions for achieving this type of harmonisation in Ukraine are certainly different. Thus, it is possible to speak about the need to differentiate urban-rural formations in order to develop an appropriate justification for tools to improve the efficiency of managing the integrated development of the agrosphere. In this case, the methodology of targeted point management methods that take into account the specifics of the formation of economic systems of the respective urban-rural territories becomes essential.

Given the different forms of ownership of resources and means of production, additional institutions for managing urban-rural formations need to be introduced. However, institutions should be viewed from two perspectives. Firstly, as a system of certain links between stakeholders, conditioned by external conditions of survival, which constitute the framework of the community to ensure its sustainability and reproduction as a social integrity. Secondly, it is a system of governing bodies that manage the development of urban-rural formations. From this perspective, an urban-rural cluster is a space within which relations between business entities interacting on certain agreements are regulated. In other words, an urban-urban spatial cluster is a complex, primarily institutionalised, multi-level set of relations between stakeholders interacting in a specific territorial environment and aimed at creating a comfortable living environment.

It is advisable to differentiate between urban-rural spatial formations based on the general picture of the socio-ecological and economic conditions that have historically developed and will be reproduced to some extent in the future post-war state of Ukraine. The analysis of the situation in this case makes it possible to distinguish them based on possible scenarios of development and assessment of the business environment for urban-rural formations, including forecasting the behaviour of possible partners or actions of competitors, in different market segments in which clusters act as a seller or buyer, primarily at the national level.

It is clear that forecasts of the development of urban-rural spatial formations are impossible without tracking current information on the relevant processes. For this purpose, there is an effective method involving monitoring of the socio-economic and regulatory environment. In addition, the method of creating a system of reserves is of interest, which is close to insurance. Thus, the identification and assessment of influ-

ence factors allows determining the areas where management resources should be in focus, and vice versa, the areas from which part of the resources can be released.

A preliminary expert assessment of the territory of Ukraine according to the structure of factors that have developed in the regions of Ukraine and the peculiarities of economic activity in them makes it possible to identify 15 regional types of influence on the formation of urban-rural spatial clusters (Figure 2). In particular, the factors of influence that were taken into account include the peculiarities of natural resources, the ecological situation, the social characteristics of regional population groups, the cultural component and, of course, the dominant type of economic activity. Conventionally, they can be linked to the names of cities that characterise certain typical factors of influence. These are: Kyiv, Lviv, Uzhhorod, Volyn, Khmelnytsky, Cherkasy, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Simferopol, and Yalta types.



Figure 2. Scheme of differentiation of the territory of Ukraine by complex signs of factors influencing the development of urban-rural spatial clusters.

Uzhhorod type includes the Zakarpattia region. Lviv type includes the Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Chernivtsi regions. Volyn type includes the Volyn and Rivne regions. Khmelnytsky type includes the Ternopil, Vinnytsia, and Khmelnytsky regions. Kyiv type includes the Kyiv, Zhytomyr, and Chernihiv regions. Cherkasy type includes the Cherkasy and Kirovohrad regions. Dnipro type includes the Dnipro region. Kharkiv type includes the Kharkiv, Sumy, and Poltava regions. Donetsk type includes the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Zaporizhzhia type includes the Zaporizhzhia region.

Kherson type includes the Kherson region. Mykolaiv type includes the Mykolaiv region. Odesa type includes the Odesa region. Simferopol type includes the internal part of the Crimean Peninsula. Yalta type covers the coast of the Crimean Peninsula.

Despite the fact that the presented scheme of differentiation is based on the basic characteristics of the pre-war period of Ukraine, we believe that it largely reflects the principle of the approach to clustering the urban-rural division of the space of activity in the agricultural sector. Moreover, since Ukraine's economic system is characterised by a high level of resilience. We hope that in the postwar period it will largely recover and take on its historically inherent contours.

Discussion

In order for the process of clustering of the urban-rural space to move forward, it is necessary to generally organise the very targets of transformations. This implies that transformations in the agricultural sector should aim not only at the formation of cost-effective agricultural production, but also at creating a basis for the reproduction of national and cultural traditions as a pillar of Ukraine's statehood as a whole. Then the "costly" nature of activities in the agricultural sector becomes clear and justified. From an economic point of view, this is due to the fact that agricultural products are consumed by all members of society without exception, and the responsibility for maintaining the natural resource indispensable for this product is shifted to the producer alone, which is not fair. From a social point of view, a somewhat dismissive attitude to the agricultural sector threatens to lose the national identity of the people living on their own land. Considering the agricultural sector as a national treasure, its supra-economic nature is immediately apparent, and thus, the role of the subjective component in its management increases. Simply put, it is not the economic paradigm of management that comes to the fore, but the human being in many of her or his manifestations (spiritual, cultural, economic, etc.). Then the inadmissibility of "shock" measures to regulate agrarian relations and restructure the means of agriculture becomes obvious. An alternative to the "shock" of the reform process should be the tactics of evolutionary transformations while maintaining the strategic course. It should be remembered that the agricultural sector as a system is characterised by extreme conservatism and inertia, so, from a methodological point of view, it should be considered in different spatial and temporal coordinates than industrial production. The adjusted image of the general goal of reforming the agricultural sector of Ukraine's economy automatically determines the set of tasks that need to be solved. The specifics of the tasks, in turn, are determined by a set of external and internal factors of social, economic, environmental, and cultural nature. We believe that focusing on the spatial aspect of clustering the organisation of the agricultural sector through the recognition of urban-rural formations is one of the effective steps towards improving the situation in general.

Managing the accessibility implementation process

Since we are considering a living socio-economic model rather than a mechanistic one, it is natural that a person plays a decisive role in it, as she or he is the cause and effect of her or his actions. As it follows, the main components of the movement in the process of transformation are the will of a person, or rather the totality of the interaction of wills, as well as ideas about the need for essential changes that should take place. In such a semantic construction, in order for a grassroots positive reflection on transformation to take place, the subject of governance must have, first, an understanding of the need, and, second, trust in the initiators of transformational events. In the harsh conditions of a general systemic crisis and lack of trust, this is not easy. The point here is not words and promises, but concrete actions aimed at improving people's lives. However, these actions should not be philanthropic. The peasant, as it has happened many times in history, needs real freedom. It is clear that freedom that is not supported by a set of socio-economic attributes of protection can turn into its opposite – another enslavement. Thus, the process of fading away of agrarian reforms, which is currently observed, is determined precisely by the farmers' bewilderment, their complete insecurity, and sense of uselessness. Thus, there are socio-economic and psychological prerequisites for the need to formulate a special protective policy for the agricultural sector. In our opinion, the first step should be taken toward the primary unit of the agricultural sector – the private household. Significant legal support for people is needed to make them feel more confident and independent from the harmful effects of the deepening crisis. In particular, this concerns the creation of dynamic programmes for short- and medium-term periods to support the development of personal subsidiary plots, gardening, horticulture, and animal husbandry. An amendment to the Law of Ukraine on Private Peasant Farming to enshrine measures to support them and to provide for preferential conditions for their activities would be highly desirable. Another effective force that should act as an initiating point for increasing the overall activity of the agricultural sector is cooperation. And here, first of all, effective small-scale cooperation of the innovative cluster type should play its role, allowing for taking into account the interests of individual independent producers related to improving the quality of management and logistics. The focus on small-scale cooperation is aimed at creating and sharing storage and processing facilities, developing infrastructure in a given area, pursuing a coordinated pricing, sales and supply policy, various types of mutual support, including financial support, and protecting their regional markets. In a more detailed form, it is the formation of credit unions with the status of non-profit organisations from solvent agricultural producers, and later cooperative investment banks focused on servicing small and medium-sized enterprises. The purpose of such cooperative banks is to combine banking activities with mutual lending funds. Other priority areas should be those focused on the development of local integration links between agricultural production and processing enterprises and the trade sector and consumer centres, as well as the development of market infrastructure for the food sector in the territory. The process of formation of regional agricultural markets is of fundamental importance. This is where all kinds of state support for the development of local

marketing systems, that is wholesale food markets, auction trading, food or agricultural exchanges serving certain territories, etc., becomes important. At the national level, the priority should be to create institutional prerequisites for enhancing the participation of financial capital in the reform and development of the agricultural sector. It is well known that the difficulty lies in the fact that due to the low concentration of capital in the agricultural sector, its participation in banking and industrial capital is rather limited, and moreover, there are no guarantees that large capital will not suppress small-scale production and the trade network of farmers. That is why specific financial and credit institutions are needed to help smooth out the existing contradictions. Such institutions include, first of all, cooperative investment banks.

The issue of property, in particular land ownership, is within the competence of the national level. This is the cornerstone of the accusation of different views, the irreconcilability of which leads society to a split, and, very dangerously, to the separation of society and the state, to undermining the statehood in general.

To summarise, it should be emphasised that in order to intensify creative processes in carrying out reconstructive actions in the agricultural sector, it is advisable to organise consulting structures on a non-profit basis that would be able to combine the intellectual potential of specific territories, including scientific, entrepreneurial, and managerial components. At the same time, considering models of reforming the agricultural sector, it should be borne in mind that in the difficult socio-economic conditions in which Ukraine is currently operating, the only correct recommendations and proposals are those that contribute to a real turn of the management system towards the worker, who is directly connected to the land over which so many debates are being held.

Conclusions

Following the European trends in spatial development, we pay attention to the dominance of the social aspect of problem-solving. First of all, it aims to change the traditional approaches to the development of territories, making the process more interactive and inclusive. Given this context, it is advisable to pay attention to the management of urban-rural spatial clusters by introducing advisory approaches that involve the intensification of multi-level communications between all participants in the process (stakeholders).

We emphasise that today, the urban should play a special role, which will be determined by its systemic function, focused on ensuring the development of a holistic economic reproduction process of the urban-rural space. Under such conditions, a high level of resilience of the economic system is ensured by supporting the principle of managing paired objects in the “rural-urban” system. Since the initial energy that ensures the closedness of reproductive processes in economic relations lies in the plane of human interaction with the earth, the primary element in the rise of the agrosphere should be personal subsidiary plots, which, in fact, concentrate the entire metaphysics of the economy. It is in this cell that the fullness of the variety of forms of economic relations that unfold in space and time, depending on the conditions determined by life itself, is located. Ultimately, it is the human being who is the focus of both the

problems and the means to solve them. That is why it is so important and necessary to take measures that promote a real turn to a socially oriented system of governance, that is, facing the worker directly connected to the land, which is the subject of such an extensive debate.

Recognition of the urban-rural space as a special territorial cluster provides real opportunities to improve the quality of management decision-making to reconcile public and private interests, as well as to strengthen citizens' trust and responsibility for shaping the future of their living space. In addition, the defined object of spatial planning, as a process that takes into account not only economic and geographical aspects but also social ties between people and groups, focuses the community's attention on targeted guidelines for actualising levers of influence on the development of the quality of the living environment, and business on finding effective means of interaction with the authorities and the community.

The implementation of an urban-rural spatial model of agricultural development in Ukraine requires comprehensive changes to overcome the dominant principle of a centralised management system and to further increase the level of public participation in ensuring the inclusion of economic activity. The ongoing decentralisation process in Ukraine is currently creating the preconditions for greater involvement of the public and business in decision-making processes.

In this vein, in order to intensify the process of convergence of rural and urban social systems, we should promote the development of public activity, increase transparency of governance, create platforms for discussing problematic issues, introduce modern technologies of social organisation of the community, etc. Thus, although the challenges are significant, trends toward the integration of the social approach are already evident, and Ukraine has the potential to implement it.

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