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Twenty-five Years of Independent Ukraine: Is there a Way to Sustainable Healthy Development?

Dwadzieścia pięć lat niepodległej Ukrainy: czy jest na drodze zrównoważonego rozwoju?

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Abstract
The article is dedicated to the analysis of problems and perspectives of sustainable and inclusive development of Ukraine, at the present state of its functioning. The main pillars of sustainable development, such as political, socio-economic, ecological, health and demographic were analyzed in space-time dimension. Ukraine declares compliance with the sustainable development principles and aims to change towards the implementation of this social ideology, however, in reality the implementation of sustainable development concepts is occurring very slowly and unsystematically. Therefore, Ukraine on its way to sustainable development and inclusive development is facing a complex range of typical and untypical social problems. A certain uniqueness of the situation and the geopolitical importance of Ukraine constantly puts in the spotlight the question of its support on the way to sustainable development on behalf of democratic countries. However, this support should be encouraged by the Ukrainian population consolidation towards the democratic choice and the decisive actions of the Ukrainian government towards the reforms recently implemented in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to overcome the legacy of the authoritarian regimes.

Key words: sustainable development, inclusive development, Ukraine

Streszczenie
Artykuł poświęcony jest analizie problemów oraz perspektyw rozwoju zrównoważonego i inkluzywnego na Ukrainie, na obecnym etapie funkcjonowania państwa. Przeanalizowano główne filary rozwoju zrównoważonego na Ukrainie w ujęciu przestrzenno-czasowym, takie jak polityczny, społeczno-ekonomiczny, ekologiczny oraz zdrowotno-demograficzny. Ukraina deklaruje dotrzymanie zasad stałego rozwoju i zamiar wdrożenia ich założeń do różnych sfer życia społecznego, jednak realizacja koncepcji rozwoju zrównoważonego przebiega w sposób bardzo powolny i nieusystematyzowany. Na drodze do stałego rozwoju Ukraina napotkała na szereg typowych i nietypowych problemów społecznych. Pewna unikatowość sytuacji oraz geopolityczne znaczenie Ukrainy powodują zainteresowanie wsparcia Ukrainy na jej drodze do stałego rozwoju ze strony państw demokratycznych. Jednak wsparcie to powinno opierać się na konsolidacji wewnętrznej ludności Ukrainy w jej wyborze na rzecz demokracji oraz zdecydowanym działaniu władz ukraińskich w kierunku reform, które przeprowadziły nie tak dawno inne kraje Europy środkowo-wschodniej na rzecz wygaszenia wpływów panowania reżimów autokratycznych.

Słowa kluczowe: rozwój zrównoważony, rozwój inkluzywny, Ukraina

Introduction

Despite the number of initiatives undertaken at improvement of the well-being of a society, the European community continues to face polarization of the society by increasing political, socioeconomic, ecological and health inequalities at international, national and local levels. The concept of sustainable development is more than just sustainability (Harris et al., 2001; Harding, 2006). Sustainable development should be understood as a process towards a new normative horizon and implies a paradigm shift from the development based on inequality and overexploitation to one that requires new forms of responsibility, solidarity and accountability (Shiva, 2005; Kjærgård et al., 2013). According to A. Pawłowski (2008) environmental, social and economic pillars of sustainable development should be complemented by the moral pillar.

Inclusive development emphasizes the social and environmental aspects of sustainable development. Inclusive development first appeared in 2007 in publications of the Asia Development Bank (Gupta et al., 2015). It is as a strategy towards equity based on poverty decreasing, human capital development, social capital development, gender development and social protection (Rauniyar & Kanbur, 2010).

Inclusive development should be defined as development that includes marginalized people, sectors and countries in social, political and economic processes for increased human well-being, social and environmental sustainability, and empowerment (Gupta et al., 2015, p. 545).

One of the indicators of the development of the country is a wealthy and healthy society. In different international policy documents concerning sustainability, a notion of health is mentioned as a part of social sustainability and one of the basic human needs among housing, water supply, and sanitation (WCED, 1987; p. 55). The Adelaide Statement on Health in All Policies (WHO and the Government of South Australia, 2010) emphasises the need for a new social contract between all sectors to achieve human development, equality and sustainability, as well as to improve health status of the population.

Health is simultaneously an outcome and precondition of sustainable development and relates to all four pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, environmental and governance. The Hancock approach (1993) shows a link between health and social, economic, and environmental wellbeing with sustainability aspect.

According to the Kickbusch (2010), the interaction between the three pillars of sustainable development (economy, society and the environment) is a key determinant for creating healthy and sustainable communities.

The concept of sustainable development existed in Europe for a long time already (2001) and the majority of European countries take sustainable development principles into account in their countries' and certain regions' development strategies (Europe-2020). Five main aims which each country should achieve till 2020 has been defined by EU countries. These aims involve such priority areas as employment, innovation development, education, social integration, climate/energy sector. Five main factors have been defined as success indicators, including the following: 75% of population aged 20-64 have to be employed; 3% of EU countries' GDP has to be invested in research and development projects; achievement of the aim *20-20-20* i.e. 20% reduction of green-house gases emission in comparison with 1990; to 20% of the share of renewable energy increase in EU energy consumption; increase of energy efficiency by 20%; percentage of people with primary education should be higher than 10% and no less than 40% of young people should have higher education; the amount of people living below the poverty line should decrease by 20 million.

Strategy of sustainable development *Ukraine-2020* that aims at introducing European life standards and Ukraine's achievement of world's top position was signed by Presidential Decree No. 5 only on January 12th, 2015. Strategy *Ukraine-2020* established four directions of development for the country and implementation of 62 reforms, as well as designated 25 key indicators that will be used in evaluation of the implementation of anticipated reforms and programs.

However, introduction of sustainable development principles in all areas of Ukrainian life faced a range of problems and challenges. Twenty-five years ago Ukraine gained its independence and began its way towards democratic changes and market economy. However, political and socio-economic reforms in the country were chaotic, slow, and did not bring expected results. Socio-economic crisis that started in Ukraine at the beginning of 1990s was of protracted nature and created great challenges on the way to achieving higher standards and life quality of the population. When analyzing main indicators of socio-economic development of the country over a period of 1991-2016, it is possible to distinguish two periods of crisis culmination: 1996 and 2014. The first period – 1996 – Is connected with the climax of post-Soviet economic crisis when after the USSR collapsed, the economy recess reached its bottom, and according to the Human Development Index Ukraine descended from 45th place in 1992 to 102nd. The second period – 2014 – is connected with the annexation of Crimea and military actions in the East of the country.

Socio-economic transformations in the country during the last 25 years drastically strengthened social

and spatial polarization of society. The social stratification reached an enormous scale and created a huge gap between the rich and the poor. The wealth gap between the poorest layers of the society and the rich population is estimated at 1:47 or 1:50 (Korostelina, 2013, p. 60), while in EU countries this index is 1:5.7. Spatial differences are especially noticeable when comparing the capital region which during the years of independent Ukraine reached a comparatively high level of socio-economic development, the Eastern industrial regions, though less transformed after the USSR collapse, which are now under a constant war threat, and Western regions of Ukraine, which are less industrialized, but benefit in their development from a near-border position with EU countries.

During the years of its independence, Ukraine gained a status of post-communist country, but quarter of a century later, it still remains in a transitional phase, still unable to build a genuine democracy, functioning according to sustainable development pillars. In fact, the effective implementation of sustainable development principles in a country is only possible under two main preconditions: orientation towards other leading European states, as well as existence of proper democratic institutions working towards sustainable and inclusive development of the state, involving all components of this development. However, there are still no distinct norms of democracy in Ukraine, which are possible only by involving in state building process all layers of the society, not just economic elites, who are interested only in profit maximization.

The Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine in the fall of 2013/winter of 2014 became a clear indicator of formation of the Ukrainian nation's political subjectivity. However, subjectivity of Ukraine is being weakened now by external factors (pressure of Russia) and internal factors (absence of the nation's consolidation). This situation creates fragmentariness of sustainable development which is apparent in the priority development of some of its components and a distinct discrimination of other spheres. Military and state sectors become the priority spheres in the conditions of combat actions. Insufficient attention is paid to the support of vulnerable social groups, as well as to the healthcare problems.

The main goal of the paper is to analyze problems and possibilities of Ukraine's sustainable development under the current circumstances in the country, to provide a detailed spatio-temporal analysis of the crucial aspects of political, socio-economic, health, demographic and ecological components of the sustainable development.

Indicators of sustainable development of Ukraine and its regions: time-space analysis

As a starting point in the research of the level and problems of sustainable development in Ukraine serves the analysis of the dynamics of Sustainable Society Index (SSI). It is combined indicator, set in compliance with the methods of the Sustainable Society Foundation, which has been calculated every two years since 2006. As of today, there are previous data for 2014. The index is elaborated at the initiative of Dutch researchers Geurt van de Kerk and Arthur Manuel. When the index is calculated, statistical and analytical materials of international organizations are considered, representatives of research centers and independent experts are involved. The audit of the index is carried out by Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. Altogether, it involves 24 indicators divided into 3 groups: economic, human, and environmental. The scale ranges from 0 – the lowest to 10 – the highest level of sustainability. Ukraine's SSI was the highest in 2008 – 4.5, by 2012 it dropped to 4.4 (Table 1). All the neighboring countries of Ukraine which are EU members have a drastically higher SSI in comparison to Ukraine. It is also a bit higher in Moldova and Belarus. Only in Russia, this Index was the same as in Ukraine, and in 2012 was even lower than in Ukraine despite higher GDP figures. Apparently, this could be explained by worse social and ecological factors, as well as the resource-based economy of Russia. For the majority of Ukraine's neighboring countries which are EU members, over a period of 2006-2012, the SSI got higher or stayed at the same level (except Hungary). At the same time, it got lower in Russia and Belarus.

Table 1. Sustainable Society Indexes in Ukraine and its neighbors in 2006-2012, based on *Sustainable Society Foundation*

Countries	2006	2008	2010	2012
Belarus	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9
Moldova	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.9
Poland	5.2	5.5	5.4	5.5
Russia	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3
Romania	4.8	5.2	5.4	5.5
Slovakia	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.0
Hungary	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.3
Ukraine	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4

Researchers of sustainable development draw attention to the importance of democratic governance implementation on the way to achieving it. Sustainable development presupposes neutralization of globalized capital involvement, which does not care about states, environment and social problems of its functioning. It is possible to overcome the impact of globalized capital by leveling it with influence of the general public, public opinion, public's involvement in a decision-making process. Thus, the sustainable development is only possible under the condition of a compromise. A compromise presupposes democratization of the social relations. Democratic governance is possible on the basis of a social partnership.

In this context, a special importance goes to a well-known Democracy Index, which has been calculated by The Economist magazine since 2006 (by its re-

Table 2. Democracy Indexes in Ukraine and its neighbors in 2006, 2008, 2010-2015, based on *Economist Intelligence Unit*

Countries	2006	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Ukraine	6.94	6.94	6.30	5.94	5.91	5.84	5.42	5.70
Russia	5.02	4.48	4.26	3.92	3.74	3.59	3.39	3.31
Belarus	3.34	3.34	3.34	3.16	3.04	3.04	3.69	3.62
Poland	7.30	7.30	7.05	7.12	7.12	7.12	7.47	7.09
Slovakia	7.40	7.33	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.29
Hungary	7.53	7.44	7.21	7.04	6.96	6.32	6.90	6.84
Romania	7.06	7.06	6.60	6.54	6.54	6.54	6.68	6.68
Moldova	6.50	6.50	6.33	6.33	6.32	6.96	6.32	6.35

search department: The Economist Intelligence Unit, EIU). It involves 60 indicators divided into 5 categories. The index can vary from 0 to 10, with 0-4 being an authoritarian regime, 4.01-6 – a hybrid regime, 6.01-8 – a flawed democracy, 8.01and higher – a full democracy. Index was initially calculated once in two years, since 2010 it has been calculated every year.

As we can see from the table 2, only in 2006, under President V. Yushchenko, according to the Democracy Index, Ukraine was only a little behind than the neighboring EU member countries, which placed it in the group of flawed democracies. However, after V. Yanukovych and the *Party of Regions* came into power, democracy started to shrink, and Ukraine became a state with a hybrid regime. Russia, in its turn, changed from a hybrid regime to an authoritarian regime. Only in 2015, the Democracy Index in Ukraine grew again. But now it is much lower than in Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, and Romania.

The comparison of both Indexes – the Sustainable Society and the Democracy – provides interesting insights. Five countries with the highest SSI in 2012 (Switzerland – 7.4, Sweden – 6.7, Latvia – 6.5, Austria – 6.6, Norway – 6.4) are at the same time full democracies. The countries with the lowest SSI (Yemen – 3.0, Iraq – 3.1, Qatar – 3.2, Oman – 3.3, Turkmenistan – 3.2, Uzbekistan – 3.4, Libya – 3.4) – currently are, or used to be an authoritarian regime. Either way, it seems obvious that in the countries with no full democracy, there is a certain limit in the movement towards sustainable development. Upon reaching this limit, there arises an urgent need for democratic transformations. However, an authoritarian regime or a non-democratic hybrid regime are likely to opt for the avoiding of the sustainable development. Apart from that, *fragmentariness* of sustainable development will most probably be characteristic for non-democratic and hybrid regimes. It will not be evident in all the areas, not on all the territory, because there will be no society-wide compromise about sustainable development, instead there will be local compromises and agreements.

Several studies were carried out in Ukraine whose task was to find regional peculiarities of sustainable development. There are several centers in the country that research problems of sustainable development. The most significant results in the research of this problem were obtained by National Technical University of Ukraine Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. Problems of sustainable development are studied by the Institute for Applied System Analysis of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the National Academy of Science of Ukraine created in the Technical University in 1996. The World Data Center for Geoinformatics and Sustainable Development (WDC-Ukraine) was also created in 2006. These institutions conduct analysis of sustainable development processes in Ukraine and in the world. Integral indicators of sustainable development of Ukraine's regions were calculated for the years 2006 and 2013. These studies were based on different methodologies, that is why there are significant differences in their results. However, one should also take into consideration that in the period between the two studies, the global financial crisis of 2008-2009 significantly affected Ukraine's sustainable development. Ukraine was among the states which suffered from the crisis the most, its GDP decreased by almost 15% during one year.

The Sustainable Development Gauging Matrix (SDGM) was used in the research of sustainable development of Ukraine's regions as of 2006, with the traditional calculation of three sustainable development components: economic, environmental and human. Integrated indicator could vary between 0 and 1. According to the result of the research, the regions were divided into six clusters: superhigh, very high, high, average, low, very low. Kyiv had a superhigh SSI (more than 0.60). Charków, Dnipro, Lviv regions had very high SSI (0.55-0.60). Kyiv, Sumy, Kropyvnytskyi regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea had a very low SSI (lower than 0.47). No distinct territorial division was found. The same high index was obtained, for example, by the over urbanized industrial Donetsk region in the East (due to the economic component of the Index) and by the agrarian Transcarpathia in the West (because of the environmental component of the Index). The same was for Luhansk and Ternopil regions, they were in a group with average development (Fig. 1).

Significantly different results were obtained after the SSI calculation in 2013. Statistical data from 2011-2012 was mostly used. Sustainable development was calculated based on safety indicators and people's life quality. Population's life quality was traditionally defined by economic, environmental and human components. The life safety component was defined as an integrated score of the overall impact of threats on a region's sustainable development. On the basis

Figure 1. Level of Sustainable Development in Ukraine, 2006, source: own elaboration based on *Stalyj rozvytok regioniv…*(2009)

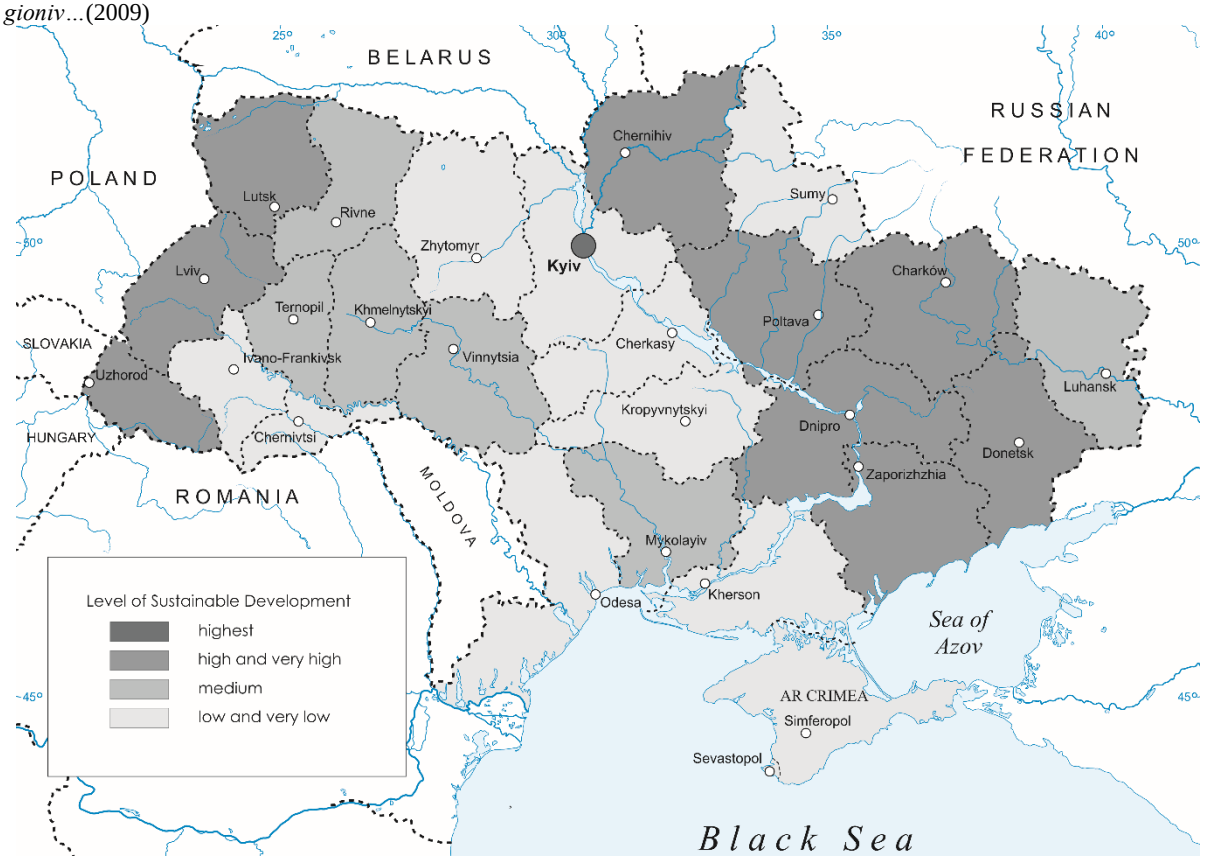


Figure 2. Level of Sustainable Development in Ukraine, 2013, source: own elaboration based on *Analiz stalogo rozvytku…* (2013)

of this score, the Index of Region Vulnerability to the impact of threats was found. It showed the level of proximity of this region simultaneously to all threats in the space, which was defined by the Minkowski norm. The indicator could be higher than 1.

According to the results of the research, the regions were divided by the level of sustainable development into four clusters: the highest, high, average, low (Fig. 2). In 2006, Kyiv got the highest indicator (1.34) because of the developed infrastructure and a high level of population's income. However, territorial peculiarities were distinctly seen in the further research. Thus, the group with a high level of sustainable development (0.97-1.05) included all South-Western regions of Ukraine and, in addition to them, Kyiv and Poltava regions. The group of an average level of sustainable development (0.90-0.97) included Central and Northern regions, and the low level group (up to 0.90) consisted mostly of Southern and Eastern regions of Ukraine.

Ukraine's political choice to pursue association with the European Union, the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 and military actions in the East of the country most probably intensified even more the peculiarities of sustainable development in Ukraine. Because in the context of these events the safest and the most sustainable were the Western regions of Ukraine, while the Eastern regions ended up on the opposite end of the scale.

Problems of political pillar of sustainable development

According to the data by O. Sushko and O. Prystayko (2016), the events following the annexation of Crimea and the de facto, occupation of the East of Ukraine by Russia, cost Ukraine in 2014 10% of the overall number of its population and around 9% of its GDP. As of 2015, the inflation was more than 43%. Ukraine paid and is still paying a very high price for its European choice and the reasons for it are both external and internal political factors.

The role of the external factor is defined, first and foremost, by a geopolitical position of Ukraine between the East and the West and the peculiarities of its historical development, which were summed up in the publications by J. Matlock and F. Jack (2000), who defined Ukraine as a *nowhere nation*. Ukraine is still on the road to a better life, or it is now in the midst of a transition to Western European democracy and market economy. Even before the beginning of the transition period, as was cleverly remarked by S. Huntington (1996, p. 168), *Ukraine is divided between the Uniate nationalist Ukrainian-speaking West and the Orthodox Russian-speaking East.*

A lot of works by both Ukrainian and foreign researchers (D'anieri, 2012; Kuzio, 2012; Kudelia, 2012; Riabčuk, 2012; Korostelina, 2013; Lomaka, 2013; Minienkova, 2013; Kuzio, 2014) are focused on a question of a democratic transition and political transformation in Ukraine. According to I. Lomaka (2013), the present-day Ukraine can partly be defined as a country which is modernizing, and partly as a country which is in a state of a political transition. According to the theory of *political transitology*, there are two main preconditions for the democracy: a presence of a certain level of national integrity and a wish for a democratic transition and genuine struggle for democracy. For more than two decades those preconditions were not present in Ukraine, accordingly, as was emphasized by P. D'anieri (2012, p. 458), Ukraine did not experience a genuine revolution either in 1991 (the year of gaining independence), or in 2004 (the year of the Orange Revolution). However, contemporary geopolitical events in 2013-2016 eventually demonstrated the presence of these two preconditions in Ukraine.

A democratic transition presupposes three stages: liberalization, democratization and consolidation. The first stage is liberalization, that is introduction of certain civil freedoms without changing the government apparatus, which began in Ukraine back in the times of the USSR. Transition to the second stage – democratization – began along with gaining independence in 1991, and this transition has lasted for decades. During the time of transition in 1991-2016 one can define periods of euphoria and excitement, and periods of disappointment and social depression. The Orange Revolution (2004) and The Euromaidan Revolution (2014) belong to the periods of excitement, but very soon those periods were followed by the state of social apathy and pessimism. Lengthy and crisis-full transition process in Ukraine led to increasing social dissatisfaction, doubts and disappointment among the Ukrainian population in both South-Eastern and in Western and Central regions.

According to T. Kuzio (2012) up till recently there were four main factors which caused Ukrainian state's immobility, in addition to the corruption in the country: political culture, weak political will and civil society, absence of institutions capable of effectively fighting corruption, weak ideology and mutual dependence between political parties and business.

Challenges and peculiarities of the democratic transition in the country were also described in details by N. Minienkova (2013). The author emphasizes that at the beginning of the 1990-s, after gaining independence, the state of the majority of social areas in Ukraine was rather unfavorable. Post-soviet structure of economy, which was based on an unfinished cycle of production, total absence of civil society, multiparty system, checks and balances between the branches of state government, weak political consciousness and consolidation of the nation were the luggage inherited by the young country. All these factors, together with a long-lasting history of its ungovernence and foreign reign in Ukraine, led to quite a slow transition to democracy. In the1990-s, the rul-

ing of former party nomenclature, a permanent weakness of national-democratic forces and immaturity of the middle class led to the appearance and rise of oligarchs who were very far from democratic principles and cared only about the satisfaction of their own interests. By the 2000s, the oligarchic class did not wish to remain in the business boundaries, started to interfere actively in politics, bringing a dominance of the state over the society, bureaucracy, corruption and a clan system, hindering the birth of a new economically and socially developed democratic society in Ukraine (Minienkova, 2013).

The studies conducted by K. V. Korostelina (2013) are valuable for a deeper analysis of how the transition happened in Ukraine. The researcher conducted a survey among 48 Ukrainian and 10 foreign experts from Europe and the USA about the development vectors of Ukraine. All 100% of Ukrainian and foreign experts considered Ukraine a state without a common national identity, national idea; according to this conception national image evolved around the ideas of *fence around the house* that praises individualism, and the idea of *good life* or *being in Europe* that concentrates on economic wellbeing. Ukrainians gave power to oligarchs, people representing success, in the hope that they would know how to build the country and change life for the better. But current government and oligarchs have not been motivated by national principles, and cared little about Ukraine and its future (p. 55). The process of unfinished transition led to a steady degradation of Ukrainian state, society and economy. Experts mentioned such areas which are in the state of recess and degradation: economic decline (72% of respondents), corruption (72% of respondents), failing state (68% of respondents), decreased level of education and culture (65% of respondents), degradation of agriculture (30% of respondents). 47% of Ukrainian and 50% of foreign experts deemed Ukraine as a divided state, with diametrically different moral values of the population, wealth inequality and different national identities. Ukraine was named a colonial state of oligarchs by 42% of Ukrainian experts and 80% of foreign experts. This being said, Ukrainian experts concentrated on structural factors and analysis of the oligarchy in Ukraine, whereas foreign experts focused on the differences between the Ukrainian and the contemporary Western society.

Presently, Ukraine is too weak to get its place in the world system, it is in a state of a permanent war threat from Russia and is so far unable to join the EU because of the absence or low efficiency of the reforms which should have approximated Ukraine to the European standards. However, after the 2014 events, the conditions for the transition to the stage of democratic consolidation eventually appeared, as well as for the stage of development under which the absolute majority of the population and all influential politicians agree that democracy is a general social norm. After freezing of the conflict in the East of Ukraine, the political life in 2015-2016 got stabilized and there has been progress in implementing reforms of local governance, launching of judicial reforms, a gradual increase of economic indicators. However, the real campaign against corruption and low professionalism in courts and prosecutor's offices, as well as against other negative social phenomena, is still ahead (Nations in transit…2016).

Problems of socio-economic pillar of sustainable development

According to the UN data, Ukraine with the result of 0.747 points at Human Development Index (HDI) got 81st place among 187 world countries in 2014. In 2013, Ukraine was on 78th place. Quite a high position of Ukraine in the world rating is first of all determined by the high educational level of the Ukrainian society. The index of GDP per capita as well as the average life expectancy still remains low, compared with developed countries of the world. Dynamics of GNP changes, household incomes and also the share of informal sector in GNP formation show certain discrepancies between Ukraine's development vectors and lack of efficiency of the implemented reforms (table 3).

According to the World Bank data, the Gini coefficient in 2014 was 24.1% which is a better indicator in comparison with a lot of neighboring countries, some EU countries are among them. However, according to experts' estimations (for previous years) its actual figure (including hidden income) was one and a half times higher (Bobuch, 2013; Gatskova, 2013).

A share of the population with equivalent cash income per capita each month was lower than a subsistence rate which was 11.1% in 2015 (with critical index 7.0%). Especially noticeable territorial differentiation of this indicator is on the level of big cities – small cities – rural areas, with 6.6%, 15.0% and 16.2% accordingly. The ratio of general incomes of the most and the least wealthy 10% of population was 4.4 times in 2015.

According to the UN data, the state can be deemed poor if its population spends more than 50% of its total expenditure on food. At the beginning of the 1990-s this indicator in Ukraine was on the level of 33%, but then it started growing rapidly to the level of 65.2% in 2000. Self-estimation of income levels by Ukraine's households indicates a significant level of impoverishment: in 2015, only 8% of the households had enough income to save, 41% could not spend money on anything but food, 4% of the households could not afford even food. A share of the so-called middle class in a society social structure is very low. According to different sources, this figure in Ukraine varies from 5% to 25%, while in developed countries the middle class is 50-60%.

The poverty problem is closely connected with the presence of children in households. According to ab-

Table 3. Dynamics of certain economic indicators in Ukraine, 1990-2012/2014, source: calculated according to the data: *WHO Data Base 'Health for All' for different years; Center for Social and Economic Research; Vytraty i resursy domogospodarstv for different years*

Years	GNP *per capita*, USD according to purchasing power parity (PPP)	Average monthly average household incomes per one person, USD	Average monthly household incomes per one person, USD according to purchasing power parity (PPP)	Shadow economy share in GNP, %	Share of expenses on meals and nonalcoholic beverages in general household expenses, %
1990	5433	18.2	…	15.5	32.8
1995	2400	29.2	44.9	46.6	57.0
2000	3816	26.5	127.3	45.0	65.2
2012/2014	8788	195.6	444.1	40-60*	51.9

** estimated data; … - absent data*

solute and relative criteria, high poverty risks threaten households with two or more children, with children under three, with children and unemployed adults. Even higher risks exist for multiple children families. According to self-estimation, among multiple children families 73.4% consider themselves poor, among all families with children – 66.5% (Cili rozvytku…2015). In fact, every third Ukrainian family with children and every fifth working adult is poor. Presence of one child raises poverty risks according to relative criteria by 17%, while presence of three and more children – as much as by 42%. According to UN minimal criteria of 5 USD per day, 99% of pensioners are below the poverty line.

In spite of generally low standards of job remuneration (average salary in 2015 was 4195 hryvnias, which is 192 USD), income from work comprises 50% of the general population income, income from entrepreneurial activities, property and agricultural product sale makes up only 10%. In the private sector a so called *salary in envelopes* is widely spread, that is a salary paid in cash and not declared to state tax administrations. In 2009, 21% of respondents of employable age received unofficial salary, at the same time 7% of the respondents evaded to answer this question (Balakirieva & Černenko 2009). Special apprehension is brought by the increasing share of social benefits in the total structure of households' income, such as pensions, scholarships, financial aid, allowances and subsidies as well as other compensation expenses. Its share in 1990 was only 13.4%, in 2014 – almost 31%.

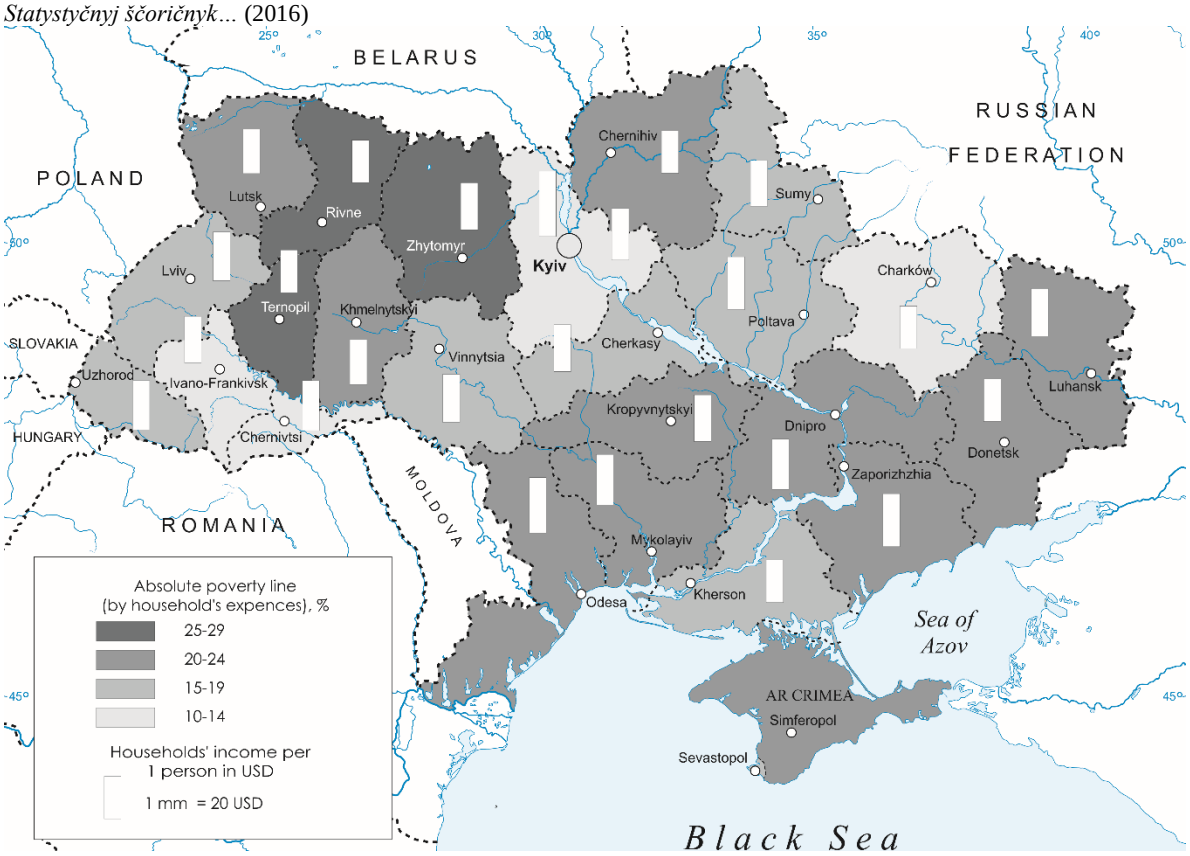
Living in rural area raises the risk of monetary poverty by 2.5 times. Because of the lack of money for medication even slight illness can lead to a sudden poverty. Due to this another 16% to 36% of the population are at risk of ending up poor. Village dwellers suffer more often from a lack of quality medical, educational and other types of services. Every second village household is deprived of an ambulance service and does not have institutions which provide domestic services. Every fourth village is significantly remote from the nearest medical institution or pharmacy, does not have a regular daily transport connection with a populated area with a more developed infrastructure (Cili rozvytku…2015).

Corruption is common for Ukraine as well as for the other post-communist states. Transparency International study in 2014 showed that Ukraine is one of the most corrupted states of the post-Soviet area. A Ukrainian constantly faces a so-called daily corruption, which is informal bribes for gaining access to needed goods and services. According to Corruption Perceptions Index 2015, Ukraine was on the 130th place among 168 surveyed world countries by the level of corruption, with the corruption index 27 (the scale ranging from 0 – the highest level of corruption, to 100 – the lowest level of corruption). Worse situation than in Ukraine among other countries of post-Soviet area was only in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kirgizstan and Tajikistan (Corruption Perceptions…2015). The highest level of day-to-day corruption is observed in Ukrainian medical institutions (in 2011 66% of questioned respondents and members of their families gave bribes on demand and 36% gave voluntarily bribes in health protection institutions) and in schools (61% of respondents paid required bribes and 62% paid voluntary bribes) (Ukrains'ke suspilstvo…, 2013, p. 259).

The introduction of a real estate tax should have played an important role in bridging the gap between rich and poor strata of the society. However, the Ukrainian version of this taxation (Article 265 of the Tax Code of Ukraine) did the opposite. It raised a social tension in the society since it presupposes taxation not for the cost of a real estate (as it is in the developed countries), but for the living space. As was promptly said by I. Bobuch (2013; p. 76), *they should have introduced a luxury tax in Ukraine, instead they introduced a poverty tax*.

According to O. Makarova (2011), extent of social benefits reaching the poorest population is only 56.4%, which shows its alienation from a social benefits system. This problem specifically applies to multiple children families: 58% of those with no right for social benefits are in fact in need of help. A share of the non-government sector in the social benefits scheme in Ukraine is only 10% and it is not able to satisfy the needs of vulnerable social groups.

Figure 3. Households' income and the poverty line of the population in Ukraine, 2014, source: own elaboration based on *Statystyčnyj ščoričnyk…* (2016)



Significant disproportions between the household income of the capital area and peripheral rural areas, as well as various state regions, are also a problem for Ukraine (fig. 3). Difference in a poverty level between the richest and the poorest regions according to the absolute criteria was 9.5 times in 2013, and 6 times according to the relative criteria.

Significant territorial inequality of the country's economic development was caused by historical and geographical peculiarities of the development of Ukraine regions as a part of different states, their labour resources potential, and geographical position. As of the end of the 1980s, the most developed regions were the Donbas (Eastern regions) and the Industrial Prydniprovya (Central-Eastern). Western Ukraine was the least developed. Such falling behind in the economic development was due to its peripheral geographic position as part of the states to which it used to belong. Consequences of the economic recess due to the USSR collapse and the transition from command-and-control to the market economy were significantly different in the various regions. The Eastern regions suffered the least, they partly preserved their economic relations with the rest of the former USSR. Apart from that, metallurgic products found market outlets in the world. *Exorbitant* privatization of the biggest and the most effective enterprises of the Donbas and the Industrial Prydniprovya took place in the 1990-s. Modern Ukrainian billionaire oligarchs formed their capital on this basis. However, the production remained ineffective, stayed active because of the subventions from the state budget, especially the coal industry. Apart from that there were almost no investments in productive capacities renewal.

But breaking free of the Iron Curtain created new opportunities for Western Ukraine, which had the most convenient position from the Eurointegration point of view. Rebuilding of the economic relations system was going on there. Development of the small businesses got faster, tourism and resorts became the leading spheres. Western Ukraine sent the biggest amounts of labor migrants to Poland, Italy, Portugal, Spain and other European countries. Thus, accordingly, the biggest were the amounts of money that labor migrants sent back home (Petroje & Vasijev, 2015). In other words, Western Ukraine integrated in Europe in different ways, whereas Eastern Ukraine tried to preserve its *archaic* quasi-Soviet economy.

A gradual fall of Eastern regions economic role also took place. By the official statistical index of GRP and the population's average salary, they were ahead. But by the population's life quality indicators, which were calculated by international methodologies, the Western regions constantly took first places, while the Eastern regions, especially Luhansk and Donetsk, were on the last places. Military actions in the Donbas which began in May 2014 caused an economic catastrophe in the East. The consequence of the combat actions in the East of

Ukraine was appearance of a so-called sudden poverty among the population: out of 6 million of ATO area and nearby territories' inhabitants more than 5 million ended up either in the group of suddenly impoverished or in the group of poverty vulnerable (Cili rozvytku…2015). Value of the Western regions in Ukraine's economy and politics rapidly grew.

Problems of the environmental pillar of sustainable development

The current environmental situation in Ukraine is characterized: first, by multiple unsolved environmental issues inherited from the former USSR; second, by the inconsistent environmental policy of the state up till recently because of the unstable political-economic situation in the country, corruption, low environmental culture of the population; third, by a certain improvement of some environmental indicators due to Ukraine's deindustrialization in the process of transition from the control-and-command to the market economy, and the decline of many industrial enterprises.

The period of 1990-2015 is generally characterized by the improvement of basic indicators of environmental pollution (table 4). The biggest environmental problem for Ukraine remains the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and high amount of polluted sewage water in a general sewage system.

Analyzing the most recent statistical data from 2015, one should take into account that they do not include the annexed territory of AR Crimea, Sevastopol and anti-terroristic operation area (ATO area) in the East of Ukraine. This is why the pollution significantly decreased according to the absolute indicators.

The military conflict in the Donbas had a significant impact on the environmental state of the whole territory of Ukraine. The Donbas is an industrially developed region, and combat actions on its territory create an increased environmental risk. As of September 2015, almost 65% of industrial enterprises in the ATO area were known to have been destroyed, demolished or stopped operation. Hazardous wastes and chemicals which were kept at the enterprises could have been released into the environment. During 2014-2015, coal mining reduced by 62%, the majority of mines stopped operating. Huge damages were inflicted to the large nature protection areas, national nature park *Holly mountains* and regional landscape park *Donetsk range*. Unique heath landscapes suffered from shootings and fires. There is no proper environmental monitoring in the ATO area.

The main environmental problem inherited from the1980 is overcoming the aftermath of the Chornobyl disaster. It led to radioactive pollution by Cesium-137 on almost 25% of Ukraine's territory (12 regions, 78 administrative districts and over 2000 settlements, the majority of them in Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Chernihiv regions, fewer in Vinnytsia, Cherkasy, Rivne, Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk regions).

According to the data of the National Research Center for Radiation Medicine of NAMS of Ukraine, 2.13 million of people are currently living on radioactively polluted areas, 2.08 million of people have the official status of the Chornobyl power plant disaster survivors, 22 % – children. Among the survivors was noticed a growth of oncological diseases (especially leukemia, thyroid and breast cancer, as well as lungs and urinary tract cancer), growth of non-tumor illnesses (diseases of cardiovascular system, digestive tract, respiratory track, nervous system and sense organs, endocrine, musculoskeletal and genitourinary systems). Growth of thyroid cancer is the most dangerous. Overall, the amount of thyroid cancer cases is 33 times higher annual than it was before Chornobyl, for children under 14 years old it is 60.0 times higher.

At the same time during the last 25 years radiation state of the adjacent to the power plant has significantly improved: populations of endangered animals have been restored, and the Ukrainian authorities even started considering the possibility of reducing the exclusion zone around the Chornobyl nuclear power plant.

Decrease of the forest index and a low share of nature protection areas in the general territory of Ukraine, which on January 1st, 2016 was not higher than 6.30%, should also be indicated among other current environmental problems. Ukraine belongs to sparsely forested countries: the forest covers only 1/6 part of its territory. But even in view of that, the export of wood from Ukraine is 2.5 times higher than the import. Consumerist forest management leads to the fact that forests are not renewing and lose their biological stability (the territory of forests suffering from diseases and vermin is constantly growing). At the same time valuable tree species (oak, beech and pine) are replaced with less valuable (horn beech, birch, sedge). The most difficult situation is in the Carpathians and Crimea where soil erosion and landslides are caused by the forestland degradation.

One of the most critical indicators of the environmental policy and state of Ukraine is the Environmental Performance Index (EPI). This index was developed from the Pilot Environmental Performance Index, first published in 2002, and designed to supplement the environmental targets set forth in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. During the last 10 years there has been a certain progress in government's and civil society's realization of Ukraine's environmental problems, accordingly the EPI in Ukraine is growing. However, it is falling behind the majority of post-socialistic countries (table 5). The main reason is quite a low cost of the ecosystem vitality index which includes air and water pollution, biodiversity and habitat, productive natural resources and climatic changes.

Also for analysis of the environmental component of Ukraine's sustainable development changes of the World Risk Index were analyzed. This index was

Table 4. Dynamics of Environment Pollution in Ukraine in 1990-2015, source: own elaboration based on *Statystyčnyj ščoričnyk…* (2016); *Dovkillja Ukrajiny…* (2016)

Indicators	Years					
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Emission of polluted agents in the air, thousand tons	15549	7484	5909	6616	6678	4521
Carbon dioxide emission, million tons	…	…	…	152	198	139
Disposal of polluted sewage water in surface water bodies, million metres^3	3199	4652	3313	3444	1744	875
Share of polluted sewage water in a general sewage system, %	15.8	31.1	30.2	38.7	21.0	15.7
Waste production of the I-III grades of danger, thousand tons	…	3563	2613	2412	1660	587

… - absent data.

Table 5. EPI dynamics in Ukraine in 2012-2016 compared to other post-socialistic countries, source: own elaboration based on *Global Metrics for the Environment…* (2016)

Countries	World EPI rating in years			EPI, 2016	Environmental Health, 2016	Ecosystem Vitality, 2016	EPI rating among post-socialistic countries in 2016	Progress in 2016 during the last 10 years
	2012	2014	2016					
Slovakia	12	21	24	85.42	83.77	87.07	6	10.4
Hungary	45	28	28	84.6	81.89	87.30	8	11.54
Russia	106	73	32	83.52	87.06	79.98	10	24.34
Bulgaria	53	41	33	83.4	85.18	81.62	11	12.01
Romania	88	86	34	83.24	81.19	85.28	12	28.93
Belarus	65	32	35	82.3	87.37	77.24	13	3.77
Poland	22	30	38	81.26	80.54	81.98	15	8.12
Ukraine	102	95	44	79.69	85.74	73.63	16	25.38
Moldova	108	74	55	76.69	78.08	78.03	20	9.09
Georgia	47	101	111	64.96	78.12	51.81	26	11.77

Table 6. Dynamics of the World Risk Index (WRI) in Ukraine and other post-soviet countries in 2011-2015, source: own elaboration based on *World Risk Report…* (2014)

Countries	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	WRI	Rank	WRI	Rank	WRI	Rank	WRI	Rank	WRI	Rank
Ukraine	3.02	148	3.19	149	3.14	149	3.11	145	3.09	144
Poland	3.42	143	3.53	140	3.46	141	3.28	141	3.27	139
Lithuania	2.89	151	3.23	148	3.18	148	3.01	146	2.98	147
Belarus	2.98	149	3.32	145	3.31	145	3.12	144	3.07	145
Russia	3.56	139	3.83	130	3.78	133	3.28	128	3.84	128

Table 7. Dynamics of certain indexes of the demographic situation in Ukraine in 1990-2015, source: own elaboration based on the data of *the State Statistics Service of Ukraine*

Indexes	1990	1995	2000	2005	2009	2015
Birth rate, ‰	12.6	9.6	7.8	9.0	11.1	10.7
Death rate, ‰	12.1	15.4	15.4	16.6	15.3	14.9
Natural increase index, ‰	0.5	-5.8	-7.6	-7.6	-4.2	-4.2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	12.8	14.7	11.9	10.0	9.4	7.9
Marriage rate per 1,000 people	9.3	8.4	5.6	7.1	6.9	7.8
Divorce rate per 1,000 people	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.2	3.3

calculated by the United Nations University for Environment and Human Security firstly in 2011 and consists of four components: exposure to natural hazards such as earthquakes, storms, floods, droughts and sea level rise; susceptibility as a function of public infrastructure, housing conditions, nutrition and the general economic framework; coping capacities as a function of governance, disaster preparedness and early warning, medical services, social and economic security; adaptive capacities to future natural events and climate change. In the World Risk Index Ukraine holds quite good positions even in comparison with other post-socialistic countries, which proves that its population is less

vulnerable to natural disasters, is more ready to counteract dangerous natural phenomena and takes measures to prevent them (table 6).

In addition to the indices mentioned above, one of the most popular and most recently criticized indices in terms of the analysis of the current environmental situation is the ecological footprint. The ecological footprint is a measure of human impact on the Earth's ecosystems. It is typically measured in the area of wilderness or the amount of natural capital consumed each year. For the first time, the ecologic footprint accounting method was described at the national level in the Ecological Footprint Atlas (2010). The biggest part of the ecological footprint in Ukraine consists of a carbon footprint. Its share makes up from 33% to 65 % in different countries, in Ukraine it is 52.7%. In Ukraine's regions an ecological footprint was calculated by L.A. Nekrasenko according to the 2007-2012 data. The data about yearly CO_2 emissions were used, as well as the data about carbon dioxide absorption, forested territory, volumes of forest harvesting. The highest carbon absorption is in the forests of the Ukrainian Carpathians and in the area of mixed forests, the lowest absorption is in the heath area (Mykolayiv, Zaporizhzhia and Odesa regions). The biggest carbon footprint is registered in Charków region (11.2 million of hectares of 2013), and also in Zaporizhzhia and Odesa regions. The lowest carbon footprint was in the Western region of Ukraine, in some Central and Northern regions.

Ukraine's transformation is impossible without new approach to the environmental problems. Ukrainian government's priority in the sphere of environmental policy should be the compliance of the Ukrainian environmental law with the EU directives (among them the directives on air quality, on waste, on water protection and management, on biodiversity protection, on environmental impact assessment, on access to environmental information, on public involvement in environmental issues, on the environmental assessment of plans and programmes, on industrial emissions). The following tasks hold a special priority: institutional reforms of the state environmental protection area; development of national climate policies; integration into regional strategic and program documents of the EU Directives and of the Strategy of State Environmental Policy for 2020; expanding the network of nature protection areas.

Problems of the demographic pillar of sustainable development

The second demographic transition which started in highly-developed countries in the 1960s which meant the decrease of the total figures of birth rate lower than the level of a simple population reproduction, delaying the decision of having a first child, increase of out-of-wedlock births, changes of the family forms and increase of an average life expectancy (Lesthaeghe & Neels, 2002; van de Kaa, 2004*)*, came to Ukraine with a 30-year delay (Prybytkova, 2000). However, the progression of the second demographic transition in Ukraine is quite different from the other European states, because it was accompanied with some situational factors, brought about by the political and socio-economic changes in the country.

Starting from the 1990s, Ukraine has suffered a major demographic crisis, caused by the decrease of the birth rate index, growth of the death rate index, especially among working age men, decrease in the marriage index and increase in the divorce index, quick pace of population's aging and migration outflow (table 7). Many of the mentioned problems also apply to the other developed world countries but they did not cause a demographic crisis. In Ukraine, degradation of the population quality turned the demographic situation into a crisis (Stešenko, acc.to: Bobuch, 2013, p.73). The major reasons for the degradation are unstable political and socio-economic situation, sharp decrease of living standards, especially in rural areas, high divorce rate, unsatisfactory state of the women's reproductive health, social tension, growth of a secondary infertility as a result of abortions, etc.

Because of the demographic crisis Ukraine's population dropped from 52 million people in 1992 (maximum amount) to less than 43 million people as of January 1st, 2016. This depopulation is especially noticeable in the rural areas. During 1990-2015, the amount of population in villages decreased almost by 3 million people, or by 17%. There have been no newborn babies in approximately 5% of Ukrainian villages during the last 5 years, in 6% of the villages there have been no young people. Share of the population at the age of more than 60 in villages is almost twice as high as the amount of children at the age of 0-14.

The highest population loss was in two Eastern regions: Luhansk and Donetsk (almost millions of people by the beginning of 2016), whereas seven Western regions of Ukraine lost only 0.5 million of people. Thus, in the population structure of the state the share of the Western region is growing and the share of the Eastern region is decreasing. The main reason for this is the best demographic situation in the Western Ukraine where the majority of population is still living in rural areas, people are generally more religious, the environmental situation is better. While in the Eastern Ukraine demographic indexes were constantly worsening due to industrialization hyper-urbanization, difficult environmental situation. Military actions in the Donbas, which began in May 2014, caused a demographic disaster in the area. According to the UN estimations, more than 1.5 million people fled the conflict zone, up to 600 thousand among them went abroad. As a result of this, the demographic role of the Eastern regions decreased even more.

One of the main factors for the state's demographic decline is a systematic and sharp birth rate decrease. In 2015, the birth rate quotient was 10.7% with a critical point at 22% required to maintain a simple reproduction of the population. The total index of female fertility in Ukraine showed a positive dynamics in comparison with 2001. However, in 2015 it was only 1.506 children per woman of reproductive age. Experts at Kyiv Institute of Sociology found out that a desired amount of children in Ukrainian city families is 1.9, and in village families it is 2.0. However, this family model is realized only in 68% of cases. The obstacles are low household income (this reason was indicated by 54 % of the respondents) and unsatisfactory living conditions (39%). Families' fear about their financial situation is well-grounded: a poverty level among families with children is 25-30% higher than the level of all the households. Poverty risk is growing after a birth of a second child (by 52%), a third (by 59%) and so on (Socialno-demografični charakterystyky…, 2016).

A significant raise of social maternity benefits in 2007 made the birth index in Ukraine spike, especially in the rural areas (because of the values and childbearing mindset of village women, and also because of the higher importance of the financial aid for village dwellers). But this growth was short-lived. Apart from that, total insignificant rise of the birth rate in the period of 2007-2015 can be explained not only by government allowances (41,280 UAH, or more than 1,600 USD), but also by reaching the reproductive age by women born in the 1980s, when the demographic policy of the former USSR which offered benefits to families with children caused a birth climax in Ukraine.

The data of different sociologic surveys show that modern Ukrainian families are oriented at having few children (Šlub, simja…2008), mostly because of the current political and socio-economic crisis. There is an ongoing transformation of a Ukrainian family from the model 2+2 to 2+1, or even 2+0, there is a growth of single-parent families, single mothers who bring up children and out-of-wedlock births (from 12.4% off the total number of all the births to 20.6% in 2015). An average maternity age grew significantly: in 2014 it was almost 26: a first child – 23, a second – 28, and a third – 31.

One of the main demographic problems for the Ukrainian state is population aging. Share of the population older than 60 was 19% in 1991, in 2015, it was already over 22% (in rural areas this figure was even higher – nearly 25%). Ukraine was trapped in a vicious circle: the depopulation causes the population aging, and the population aging strengthens the depopulation. The most powerful accelerator of the population aging is the birth rate decrease. Because of the population aging, losses of demographically reproductive and employment potential are growing, and the economic burden on productive population is increased by the retired population.

A distinctly different characteristic of Ukraine compared to other countries in the second phase of the demographic transition is the high population death rate, especially among working age men. The population general death rate was 14.9% in 2015, so it was twice as high as in 1970. The main causes of the high population death rate are cardiovascular diseases and malignant tumors. Together they cause almost 72% of the deaths. Share of the death rate caused by cardiovascular diseases in 1990-2015 grew by almost 50%, and this growth concerned mainly men. During 1990-2015, the death rate among working age men grew by over 3 times and surpassed by almost 50% the death rate among women of the same age group. This is connected with men's inclination to alcohol, tobacco and unhealthy life style, as well as with men working in more hazardous conditions in comparison with women.

An average life expectancy in Ukraine is significantly lower than in other countries of the European region. In 2015, it was 71.4 years (76.3 years for women and 66.4 years for men). Significant intergender disproportions of this index are connected first and foremost with a super high death rate of men caused by cardiovascular diseases, malignant tumors and also external causes of mortality. Still on the high level is mortality from AIDS and active tuberculosis. For instance, mortality from tuberculosis is 26 times higher than the corresponding average index for the countries of the *old* EU.

Another important factor of the state's demographic crisis is the current migration situation. According to experts, labor migration from Ukraine is estimated at 1.5-7 million people (International Migration Report…, 2013). According to the data of Oleksandr Yaremenko Ukrainian Institute for Social Research and the Center *Social monitoring* collected in spring 2015, 20.7% of respondents answered positively to the question *Would you like to emigrate from the country?* (Monitoryng gromads'koji dumky…, 2015). Among the motives for leaving the country the prevailing were wish to pay for children's education (86%), building of a house or improvement of living conditions (72%), providing a decent living for their families (69%), wish to pay off debts (59% of the surveyed). The majority of migrants were women. The deepening of economic crisis in 2014-2015 led to an abrupt worsening of the situation on the labor market, and devaluation of the national currency caused a critical lowering of an average salary to the equivalent of 200 USD as of November 2016. It gave a new incentive to migration.

Problems of the health pillar of sustainable development

Analysis of population's health condition indicators is a proof of the degradation of Ukraine's population quality because of the permanent demographic cri-

sis. The research carried out in 188 countries in 2015 measuring the health-related Sustainable Development Goals indicated that Ukraine is only on the 118th place in the rating of world countries by the total value of health related SDG indicators. For the estimation of the total index of population's health condition in the context of sustainable development goals, altogether 33 indicators were chosen, they included *indicators for health services, health outcomes, and environmental, occupational, behavioral, and metabolic risks with well-established causal connections to health* (GBD, 2015; SDG Collaborators, 2016, p. 3). The value of the estimated indicator changes in different countries from 85 (the best situation, the first place in the rating is Iceland) to 20 (the worst situation, 188th place in the rating is the Central African Republic). In Ukraine, the indicator's value was 54 as of 2015. A considerably better situation could be observed in other post-socialistic countries, such as Poland (indicator 85, 39th place in the world countries' rating), Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania. By the total value of the health-related sustainable development indicator Ukraine is in a worse situation than other post-Soviet countries, such as Uzbekistan Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and other countries.

Table 8. Health-related SDG index in Ukraine compared to other post-socialistic countries in 2015, source: based on *GBD 2015 SDG Collaborators* (2016)

Countries	Health-related SDG index	Rank
Ukraine	54	118
Poland	72	39
Czech Republic	74	34
Hungary	73	36
Slovenia	76	25
Lithuania	68	48
Latvia	69	45
Uzbekistan	67	55
Turkmenistan	66	60
Armenia	61	86
Kazakhstan	62	85
Tajikistan	59	99

Poor population health and related social exclusions are connected first of all with the existing financial limits in access to quality medical service. Share of healthcare expenses in % of the GDP in 2014 was 7.4% in Ukraine, whereas in the majority of European countries it was at the level of 10%. By the ratio of the available number of physicians and hospital beds, Ukraine is on the level, or even surpasses, European countries. However, the problem is in the financial access to quality medical services and limited access of village inhabitants to emergency medical aid. There is a scarcity of medical institutions and staff in rural areas (around 9 thousand of Ukrainian villages do not have medical institutions at all; staff scarcity is estimated at 20%). Another crucial problem is the village roads' condition and lack of ambulance vehicles. Despite the guaranteed by the Constitution of Ukraine the right to free medical aid in state and communal medical institutions, in many cases patients have to pay for medical services out of their own. Results of the research conducted in June 2012 among the population of Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary and Ukraine concerning informal payments in health protection institutions, revealed that in Ukraine 53% of the respondents made informal payments in such institutions, and 58% of the respondents gave presents to the medical staff for the rendered services (Stepurko et al., 2015). According to the data of Ukrainian households' survey conducted in October 2015, 29.3% of the households which needed medical assistance failed to receive it due to the different reasons (Samoocinka naselennjam…2016). The biggest difficulty was to buy medication (was indicated by 25.4% of the households from the total number of those who needed medical assistance), doctor's house call and medical tests (15.3% for each reason), getting medical assistance at an in-patient clinic (13.2%). Moreover, the difficulty with purchasing medications did not depend on the place of residence.

An epidemiologic transformation in Ukraine also follows its own path completely different from other European countries, in particular, there is a shift in the main death causes from contagious to chronic and civilization diseases (such as cardiovascular diseases, malignant tumors (Murray et al., 2013). Analysis of the main health condition indicators of the Ukrainian population for the period of 1990-2015 showed that the country lives in a permanent crisis in view of the constant growth of population incidence, prevalence, and death rate caused by social and civilization diseases (table 9).

The incidence rate among the village population increased significantly. Nearly 35% of rural population suffer from chronic illnesses which last 6 months and more (Tereščenko & Moroziuk, 2014). According to households' sociological research, the most wide-spread are hypertension and heart diseases – correspondingly 43.6% and 26.4% of village inhabitants reported living with these chronic diseases (Samoocinka naselennjam…2016). During 1990-2015 the number of diseases of blood and hematopoietic organs, endocrine system, diet and metabolic disorders, cardiovascular diseases increased twice among the rural inhabitants; 1.5 times increase was noticed in tumors, diseases connected with pregnancy and labor, congenital development defects.

Indicators of self-estimation of population's health are not only significant indicators of the social health state, but they also provide verification of the existing statistical information about the sickness rate for various illnesses. According to the sampling inquiry of households' life conditions in Ukraine in October 2015, people who estimated their health as satisfactory prevailed, whereas in the EU counties people with good health dominated. Almost every second

Table 9. Dynamics of certain indicators of the population's health in Ukraine in 1990-2015, *source: based on Pokaznyky zdorovja naselennja…* (2015)

Indices	Ukraine				
	1990	1996	2002	2009	2015
Death rate due to circulatory system diseases per 100,000 people	641.5	879.0	965.4	1002.1	946.0
Death rate due to malignant neoplasms per 100,000 people	195.4	192.4	197.2	191.0	186.0
Death rate due to external death causes per 100,000 people	107.2	158.0	158.3	106.5	80.8
Death rate dye to respiratory system diseases per 100,000 people	71.8	86.0	66.0	45.9	32.6
Tuberculosis incidence rate per 100,000 people	31.9	45.8	75.6	72.7	56.0
AIDS incidence rate per 100,000 people	0.002	0.293	2.790	12.8[1]	19.9
Incidence rate of malignant tumors per 100,000 people	301.2	309.4	322.0	331.5	314.2

[1] *data as of 2010.*

Table 10. Population's distribution according to health self-estimation in Ukraine and EU-countries, source: based on the data of *Eurostat, Samoocinka naselennjam…* (2016)

Administrative unit	Share of the people at the age of 18 and older who estimated their health as			Share of the population aged 16 and older whoreported having chronic illnesses or health problems
	good	satisfactory	bad	
Ukraine	43.3	45.0	11.7	41.8
EU	66.8	23.3	9.9	32.6

person in Ukraine at the age of 16 and older suffers from chronic illnesses, or health problems which last 6 months and longer (table 10). It is important to note that the rural population estimates their health more optimistically. However, there is a higher death rate among rural inhabitants. And apart from that their representatives often die from neglected forms of diseases.

Conclusion

Ukraine as a European country declares compliance with the sustainable development principles and aims to change towards the implementation of this social ideology. However, in reality the implementation of sustainable and inclusive development concepts is occurring slowly and unsystematically, and it almost stopped during the last years.

Difficulties in the transition to the sustainable and inclusive development are caused by a whole range of factors culminating in the unfinished democratic transition of Ukraine, particularly in the delay of its last stage – a democratic consolidation, as a result of the formation of the oligarch class in the state. It started actively interfering with politics which slowed down democratic reforms, strengthened the corruption and the clan system, caused degradation of the Ukrainian state, society and economy. The movement towards the sustainable development for Ukraine is significantly determined by its geopolitical location between the democratic European Union and the authoritative Russia, the internal division of the country into two parts with considerable differences of identity and values of the population.

A complex combination of internal and external factors led to the acute political crisis in Ukraine in 2004 and 2014. The last one, on the one hand, caused the annexation of Crimea and a de facto occupation of the East of Ukraine by Russia, economic recess, lower living standards, on the other hand it caused a swift population consolidation in the face of external threat and, hopefully, the final choice of the democratic way of development. In 2015-2016, the political and economic situation stabilized, started the implementation of reform aimed at solving the problems that have been hindering the sustainable development for many years.

Among such problems of economic and social development of Ukraine one should first of all emphasize a large-scale corruption on all levels, low salary standards, the poverty problem, closely connected with children's presence in the households, increased risks of sudden poverty, low coverage of the poorest population with social benefits, significant disproportion between the income in the households of the capital region and peripheral rural areas.

In the implementation of sustainable development component, the most prominent are the problems of the aftermath of Chornobyl nuclear disaster, the decrease of the index of forest density, a small share of nature protection areas compared to the total territory of the country, compliance of the nature preservation laws of Ukraine with the EU directives, environmental risks that occur in a connection with the military conflict in the East of the country.

A combination of situational factors brought about by unsolved political, socio-economic and environmental problems led to a significantly different de-

mographic transition in Ukraine to other European countries. The country, in fact, ended up in a severe demographic crisis caused by decrease of the birth rate index, increase of the death rate index, especially among working age men, decrease of the marriage rate and increase of the divorce rate, fast pace of population aging and population migration outflow.

As a result of a permanent demographic crisis the degradation of Ukraine's population quality could be observe which could be proved by the analysis of the population health indicators. The population health decline and other health-related social exclusions are caused, first of all, by the problem of financial access to qualified health services and a limited access of village dwellers to emergency medical aid. The growth of incidence and death rate indicators caused by social and civilization illnesses is still ongoing.

Therefore, Ukraine on its way to sustainable development and inclusive development is facing a complex range of typical and untypical social problems. A certain uniqueness of the situation and the geopolitical importance of Ukraine constantly puts in the spotlight the question of its support on the way to sustainable development on behalf of democratic countries. However, this support should be encouraged by the Ukrainian population consolidation towards the democratic choice and the decisive actions of the Ukrainian government towards the reforms recently implemented in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to overcome the legacy of the authoritarian regimes.

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