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DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES IN THE CONTEXT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

The study is dedicated to analyzing the role of demographic processes in the evolution of regional development concepts. The article focuses on the most influential elements of regional development, one of which is the demographic process. The aim of the research is to identify modern theoretical approaches to economic-regional development involving demographic indicators to optimize regional policy in Ukraine. It is established that regional policy is developed under the influence of various theories that seek to legitimize the role of state intervention in national economic processes, the relationship between regions (communities) and the state, and the efficient use of productive forces. It is found that modern geographical science contains many alternative models of regional development (dynamic and spatial). The most common concepts of regional development include neoclassical, cumulative growth, regional growth, and the modern concept of regional clusters. It has been observed that concepts and approaches to regional development over time have evolved towards emphasizing the importance and utilization of human potential, experience, and knowledge as crucial elements of regional development, and research in this direction still requires further improvement and development.

The conclusions highlight the importance of regional development in the context of demographic processes amid economic crisis. The practical significance of the obtained results lies in their potential utilization for the formulation and implementation of state economic policy. The use of a comprehensive approach in the development of regional development concepts, taking into account all factors and regularities, which potentially contributes to strengthening the development potential of the territory, can have a positive impact on population development and addressing demographic and economic crisis issues. Further research is aimed at conceptualizing the target model of modern regional development.

Keywords: *development, region, demographic situation, factors, development theories.*

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Problem Statement. The issue of deepening the approach to regional development and particularly identifying the significance of demographic processes within it is becoming increasingly relevant. Regional development, by its nature, is an economic concept that takes into account the mutual influence of economic activity and market integration on geographical regions. The theoretical and methodological development of regional studies lies in the plane of deepening the research object by rethinking new processes and phenomena that require comprehensive study of regularities, principles, factors, and instruments of regional development. At the present stage of Ukraine's economic development, it is characterized by socio-economic inequality between regions, increasing disparities in the development of each region, and significant differences in the sectoral structure of the economic system. In particular, the invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine, which escalated into a full-scale war, worsened the situation and led to the destruction of Ukrainian cities and towns, the destruction of vital infrastructure in many regions and communities, forced displacement of millions of people, and significant changes in the demographic situation in various regions. New challenges, which were not even taken into account for planning for various reasons, have now become dominant and will continue to affect Ukraine and its regions for a long time. Among them is the strategic management of regional development,

which is a complex and dynamic process. Therefore, its study requires an analysis of the concepts of the regional economic system and the factors influencing its elements.

Analysis of Recent Research and Publications. A significant number of researchers, including T. Prykhodchenko [17], O. Todorova [19], Yu. Kharchenko [20], M. Pashkevich, S. Shagoyan [16], have studied the impact of regional development and demographic processes on the Ukrainian economy, including modern concepts and strategies. I. Bryzhan, V. Chevganova, O. Hryhor'yeva, L. Svystun examine the state of socio-economic development of regions based on demographic forecasts [2]. L. Buyanovska, V. Yavormka, V. Bezuhly point out that regional development influences demographic processes [3]. I. Hukalova focuses on the formation of a strategy for demographic development in rural areas [4]. O. Didenko, A. Myroshnychenko indicate that regional development is impossible without effective state policy, namely the set strategic goals: multilevel governance, increasing competitiveness of regions, support for regions at all levels – social, economic, environmental, humanitarian, etc. [5]. V. Yemets focuses on the formation of a strategy for regional development [7]. S. Shults, O. Lutsky, L. Simkiv provide a classification of external and internal factors of regional development, including social conditions, demographic processes, economic, political-legal, etc. [21]. S. Korinayevsky cites successful

examples of EU countries supporting regional development at a high level. The author notes that Ukraine should borrow this experience [9]. A. Lelechenko examines the concept of "regional policy" and presents mechanisms for the formation and implementation of regional policy in Ukraine [11]. N. Makhnachova, I. Semenyuk defines important goals and methodology for community strategy formation [12]. O. Bilenko, S. Horban define important goals of demographic processes in Ukraine in modern conditions [1]. O. Ovdin examines the categories and concepts of state management of demographic processes as an element of regional development [15]. H. Kish presents a classification of factors of regional development into internal and external factors, among the external factors are those related to cause-and-effect relationships of external influence, adjacent factors related to demographic development, political-legal factors (influencing the implementation of legal projects affecting migration attractiveness, the state of the legal situation in the country also affects natural and migration movement), socio-economic factors (providing population needs at levels of infrastructure development, education, health, services, housing, working conditions), technological factors are also highlighted as one of the most important external factors of region development, historically formed systems of productive forces placement are also related to the demographic component through formed settlement systems [8].

Previously unresolved aspects of the overall problem. First of all it's worth mentioning regional development is fundamentally an economic concept. In initial attempts to identify effective regional development concepts, significant attention was paid to the impact of economic activities on territorial development. Consequently, efforts to identify more comprehensive concepts are still in the developmental stage. There is an evident need for comprehensive research into demographic processes as key factors in the development of Ukraine's regions. This would allow for an understanding of the evolution and interrelationship of regional development concepts.

Formulation of the article's purpose. The objective of this study is to formulate a new paradigm for regional development and demographic indicators based on a comprehensive analysis of concepts and an assessment of the current situation, particularly in light of the ongoing conflict and the general situation in Ukraine, as well as within its regions and regional communities.

Presentation of the main research material. When forming an effective system of regional development, it is possible to ensure a high level of socio-economic progress for the country. The region is not only a subsystem of the socio-economic complex of the state but also a relatively independent part with a particular manifestation of a complete cycle and a reproductive stage, characterized by certain features of the course of socio-economic processes [17]. In the region, a complete cycle of reproduction of the following systems takes place: population and labor resources; basic funds and circulating funds; a part of the state's

wealth; monetary circulation; production of goods; distribution, consumption, and exchange of products [14]. In a market situation, the role and function of each region primarily lie in shaping economic relations and the living environment of the population. The regions of the country are classified by various indicators and criteria, such as the level of economic development, population density and growth rates, economic specialization, structure of the economy, availability of natural resources, level of development of industrial and social infrastructure, demographic situation. The main object of regional development management is the regions that are part of the territory of Ukraine, which, for the purpose of ensuring effective management of the socio-economic development of the state, are divided into administrative-territorial units. The formation of the human potential of regions and states is considered as the ability to ensure the demographic reproduction of the population and to acquire in the future such qualitative indicators as social protection, education, and healthcare. The population is the basis for the formation of human potential and determines its characteristics, reproduction, and dynamics [3, p. 27]. Regional development is a process of humanitarian, social, environmental, economic, and other positive changes in each region. The main task is to clarify the regional productive forces, flows of people, physical resources, goods, services, capital, information, systems of connections, and relations (both territorial and temporal) [11, p. 123]. Also important is the functioning of the regional economy, which ensures sustainable and balanced reproduction of the socio-economic, resource, and environmental potential of the region, as well as parameters of the level and quality of life of the population. There are a number of factors influencing the development of the region, which are detailed in Figure 1.

According to the study, three main factors of influence on the development of the region were identified: external, national and regional factors. The most significant in the context of the topic of the article are the factors of the regional level, in particular, the state of demographic indicators of any region, and the importance of human and social capital is separately emphasized.

The concepts of regional development have been improved, changed and evolved into their current form over the years. There are a number of theories of regional development, which are described in Table 1.

The theories of regional development mentioned above are significantly influenced by the distribution of demographic processes and indicators. For instance, in neoclassical theory, the primary focus is on creating new jobs by utilizing unused production capacities, increasing labor productivity, and improving production organization. Growth theories based on the region's competitive advantages include one factor of regional development related to the size and qualification of human resources. Consequently, if demographic indicators worsen or are unacceptable, then these and other theories will not succeed.

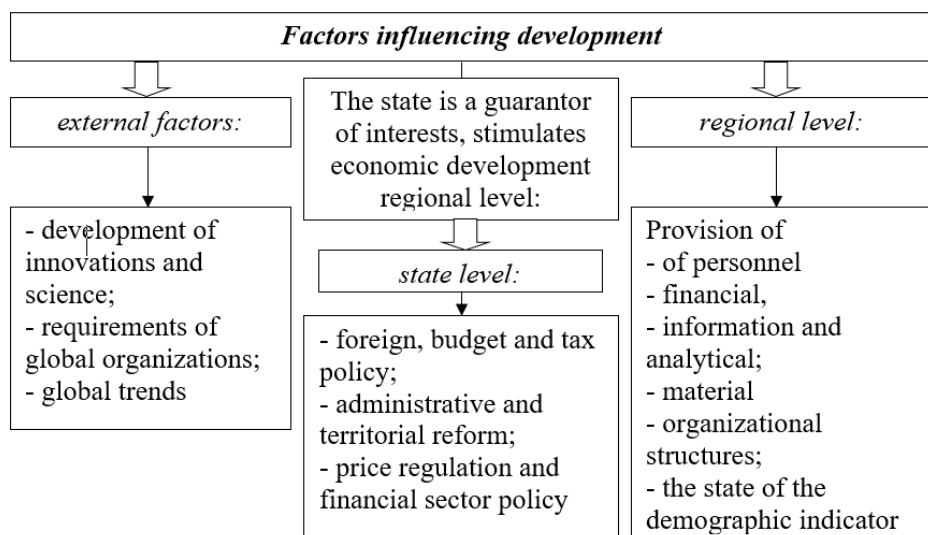


Fig. 1 Factors influencing regional development

Source: compiled by the author based on [8]

Table 1

Main paradigms and theories of regional development and growth

<i>Name of the theory</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
Neoclassical theories	The region's growth is driven by rising aggregate demand, capital accumulation and investment efficiency, job creation through the use of unused production capacity, a competitive market system, the introduction of new technologies, increased productivity and better production organization
Theories of growth on the region's competitive advantages	Uneven regional development is a temporary phenomenon, and based economic growth reduces regional disparities. According to the theory, there are a number of factors that influence the uneven development of regions: economies of scale, regional convergence, availability of natural resources, the number and qualifications of labor resources, capital stocks, and the level of technological innovation
Theories of cumulative development	Economic growth is associated with the emergence of growth centers and channels of their diffusion, the formation of clusters of growth centers, the diffusion of innovations and innovations, and economies of scale. The national economy grows unevenly across all regions, with different intensities and different effects
Institutional theory	Capital accumulation and economies of scale are evidence of economic growth, not its source. Historical traditions and institutional structures play an important role in ensuring economic growth. Property rights and contractual rights and obligations are important sources of economic growth
New theories of economic development (economic geography, economic growth models, etc.).	Spatial factors of growth include various economies of scale, regional economic transportation costs, mobility and agglomeration of factors of production, as well as spatial and multiple effects of interaction of economic factors. Human capital is an important endogenous factor of economic growth in the context of imperfect competition. The formation of clusters and value chains is recognized as a form and mechanism for increasing national and regional competitiveness and accelerating economic development.

Source: compiled by the author based on [6;10; 21]

Changes in population distribution in regions affect their economic potential and social structure. Increases and decreases in population size impact the labor market, resource availability, infrastructure, and other aspects of regional development. Demographic processes such as natural growth, migration, and age structure determine the potential for economic growth in the region. For example, regions with stable natural growth have higher demand for labor and consumer goods, which is favorable for business and infrastructure development. The distribution of demographic processes and population indicators can also influence regional

development by concentrating population in certain areas and altering the economic activity and socio-cultural dynamics of the territory.

The new stage in the genesis of the theory of regional development began with the recognition of the importance of territorial identification, its role as a competitor and partner of other territories, as a specific subject of economic relations. Accordingly, the theory of stimulating (increasing) regional competitiveness has become a new theory of regional development. It takes into account all the existing regional theories and concepts, methods and ideas of economic and social

theory and provides for the use of its own innovative mechanisms for ensuring territorial development [15]. The interest in this concept is not only scientific but also practical, as all countries and regions strive to become more developed and competitive.

The authors found that none of the analyzed theories is successful enough to be applied in practice. This is due to the fact that the above-mentioned certain paradigms and theories of regional development are similar to each other, in particular, the theory of cumulative development and new theories of regional economic development. Among the new theories, only economic geography analyzes transportation costs. Including transportation costs in endogenous growth models would make them more economically realistic. At the same time, some theories analyze positive market externalities, but the analysis itself is rather conditional.

The above analysis of regional development theories can contribute to the formulation and implementation of effective regional policies and the creation of a theoretical framework for reducing disparities between the poorest and richest regions. However, it should be emphasized that there are currently various attempts to integrate different theories of regional growth with modern theories of the research material.

The modern theory of regional innovation development includes the following: the theory of an innovative regional cluster, the theory of regional development of endogenous technological progress, the theory of an innovation network and the theory of a regional innovation system.

The theory of the innovative regional cluster is to intensify the activities of firms in the region with undeniable competitive advantages through completely new products, which is associated with the operation of the cluster system. As we can see, this concept does not mention human activity, as the focus is on the commodity product.

The essence of the theory of regional development of endogenous progress is the introduction of product and technological innovations - the main means of ensuring innovative regional development. It also emphasizes the role of venture capital funds and enterprises as business entities that encourage the transformation of new scientific results into real products. But the most important thing in this theory, which is important for solving the problems of the article, is the involvement of scientific knowledge and the accumulation of human capital in economic development. This has a significant impact on the development of human and financial capital, and, accordingly, makes people one of the main factors of regional development.

An important element of the innovation network theory is cooperation between business entities. The main goal of developing such a network is to reduce risks, uncertainty, and gain access to information and knowledge. This theory also mentions people, as it has been found that close ties between customers and suppliers determine a high degree of specialization of companies through vertical disintegration.

The theory of the regional innovation system also

mentions people. Accordingly, the essence of the theory is a set of economic, political, and institutional ties that arise in a certain geographical area and generate collective learning processes that facilitate the rapid dissemination of knowledge and best practices.

Modern concepts of regional development are aimed at solving the following tasks: justifying the transition from socially oriented to globally oriented regional policy, exploring new paradigms of regional integration and cooperation. Sustainable development of the region in social and economic terms means not only maximizing and improving internal and external credit resources to meet the needs of local residents, but also improving the standard of living and quality of life while overcoming unfavorable socio-economic and environmental trends that have arisen in connection with the full-scale invasion.

In regional development, population resettlement is of great importance, which is a process that covers the spread of the population across the territory and is associated with its increasingly intensive economic development and spatial movement.

The concept of a settlement system should be understood as a set of settlements in a certain territory, unequal in number of inhabitants and functions, united by various types of connections, common engineering infrastructure, a single network of public centers for social and cultural services and places of mass recreation. It is important to note that the leading place in the state's settlement system is occupied by the centers of metropolitan urban agglomeration, i.e., zones of maximum spatial concentration, usually large and medium-sized satellite cities. These are special manifestations of the territorial organization of urban settlements and population distribution.

The regions of Ukraine have suffered differently from destruction, internal and external migration, and this has long-term consequences for the demographic situation of the regions, so special attention should be paid to the differences between the regions.

In modern concepts, the demographic process is seen as an element of regional development that influences its course. And this is not in vain, since the population of a region is not only the basis for the formation of social infrastructure, but also an important factor in its further development and improvement. The population is both the object of service provision and the subject of production activities of enterprises, organizations and infrastructure facilities. Accordingly, economic development, quality social services and health care in the regions have a positive impact on demographic processes [2, c. 3].

The development of infrastructure depends on the demographic dynamics of the region, the level of population reproduction, the share of people with disabilities in the regional structure, and the level of employment of workers in the production process. Demographic factors in the development of social infrastructure make it possible to organize the activities of sectoral and territorial structures more rationally, taking into account the concentration of population and regional demographic features.

Analyzing the current state of Ukraine's

demographic component, identifying trends and finding ways to reproduce and revive the nation should already be one of the state's priorities. Unfortunately, Ukraine has been experiencing a demographic crisis for years, exacerbated by the war. Its causes include low birth rates, lack of adequate support for families, high mortality, poor health, high prevalence of chronic diseases, and significant emigration abroad.

The most important results expected from the use of modern concepts are improving the quality of life of the population, increasing the socio-economic potential of the region, and sustainable development of the entire socio-economic system of the region as a whole [13]. Therefore, concerted efforts at all levels of government, a competent policy of regional economic development, creation of favorable working and educational conditions for the population, and support for families are important for increasing the competitiveness of the regional economy and achieving an appropriate level of socialization of the population [18]. Accordingly, with the improvement of regional development, the demographic situation not only in a particular territory but also in the whole of Ukraine will intensify and improve.

Conclusions. The demographic process in the

country has a significant impact on regional development. It is found that regional policy is evolving under the influence of various theories that try to legitimize the share of state intervention in national economic processes, the relationship between regions (communities) and the state, and the efficient use of productive forces. The most common concepts of regional development include neoclassical, classical and neo-Keynesian theories, theories of endogenous regional development, the theory of the innovative regional cluster, the theory of the innovation network and the theory of the regional innovation system. The concepts have evolved to recognize the use of human potential, their experience and knowledge as the main factors of regional development.

It is important to formulate and implement an economic policy that will contribute to the country's economic and demographic growth. It should provide for the creation of new jobs, promotion of entrepreneurship, attractive investment conditions, and development of regional infrastructure. The subject of further research in this area is the development of measures that should be effectively implemented to prevent a demographic crisis and, accordingly, enable the development of regions in Ukraine during the war and post-war reconstruction.

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ДЕМОГРАФІЧНІ ПРОЦЕСИ У ВИМІРІ КОНЦЕПЦІЙ РЕГІОНАЛЬНОГО РОЗВИТКУ

У цій статті досліджується взаємозв'язок демографічних процесів та еволюції концепцій регіонального розвитку з урахуванням їх впливу на регіональну політику в Україні. Розглянуті різні теорії, такі як неокласична, кумулятивний ріст та регіональні кластери, зазначаючи їхню залежність від демографічних показників. Дослідження має на меті виявити сучасні теоретичні підходи до економічного та регіонального розвитку з використанням демографічних показників для оптимізації регіональної політики в Україні. Встановлено, що регіональна політика розвивається під впливом різноманітних теорій, які виправдовують державне втручання в економічні процеси, міжрегіональні відносини та ефективне використання продуктивних ресурсів. Сучасна географічна наука пропонує численні моделі регіонального розвитку, підкреслюючи важливість демографічних показників в контексті економічних криз. Практичне значення цих висновків полягає в їх потенційному застосуванні для формування та реалізації державної економічної політики.

Подальші дослідження необхідні для узагальнення цільової моделі сучасного регіонального розвитку, зокрема в умовах соціоекономічних нерівностей, поглиблених конфліктів, таких як вторгнення російської федерації в Україну. Дослідження вказує на те, що ефективність регіонального розвитку залежить від ефективної державної політики, спрямованої на досягнення стратегічних цілей, багаторівневого управління та підтримки регіонів на різних рівнях. Виокремлено значущість демографічних процесів, соціальних умов, економічних факторів та технологічних досягнень у регіональному розвитку. Інтегруючи різні теорії та сучасні концепції, політики можуть сформулювати міцні регіональні політики з метою стимулю-

вання соціально-економічного зростання та вирішення демографічних викликів в Україні. Стаття вказує на те, що подальші дослідження повинні зосередитися на розробці стратегій для подолання демографічних криз та сприяння регіональному зростанню під час періодів конфлікту та післявоєнної реконструкції. Шляхом вирішення цих викликів та використання демографічних тенденцій політики можуть працювати над досягненням соціоекономічного просування та підвищення загального рівня благополуччя у громадах України.

Ключові слова: розвиток, регіон, демографічне становище, фактори, теорії розвитку.

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