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DEMOGEOGRAPHIC PROCESSES IN THE WESTERN REGIONS OF UKRAINE ON THE EVE OF THE REFORM OF TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES

Demogeographic processes are an indicator of societal development that responds most actively to any changes. Geographers interpret demogeographic terminology in different ways, but they unanimously agree on the importance of comprehensive research into the demogeographic development of a territory both in time and space. By the end of the second decade of the 21st century, several directions in demographic research had formed among social geographers: purely theoretical and methodological approaches, studies of the territorial peculiarities of demogeographic processes at the state level, and attempts at typology on a local level. With the implementation of the administrative-territorial reform, the problem of comprehensive spatial-temporal research arose at the level of both old and new administrative districts for a significant area.

We conducted a typology of demogeographic processes within the administrative regions of Western Ukraine at the level of administrative districts based on the administrative-territorial structure before 2020, covering the period from 1990 to 2020. The conducted research showed that stable types of demogeographic processes are mainly found in the foothill, mountainous, and border areas. Specifically, in the foothills and mountains, there is a predominance of the positive type, with the regional centers joining them. However, in border areas, we clearly observe a population decline due to mechanical outflow. Nevertheless, the main type of geodemographic processes in all western regions of Ukraine is consistently negative, with a decrease in population primarily due to natural decline with minor mechanical outflow.

Thus, by early 2020, when statistical observations transitioned to a new stage of collection and processing (according to new administrative districts), in the western regions of Ukraine, despite general negative demographic trends, it was possible to identify demographically positive Carpathian, Polissian, and Lviv areas, as well as demographically favorable territories around regional centers.

Keywords: *demogeographic development, population growth, depopulation, type of demogeographic process, migration movement of the population, natural movement of the population.*

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Problem Statement. Demogeographic processes have always been and remain indicators of any changes in society. Trends in their dynamics vividly reflected the economic and political crises of the 1990s, the improvements of the first decade of the 21st century, the onset of military aggression in 2014, and so on. While migration movements of the population can immediately reflect reactions to changes in living conditions, natural changes in population are slower but longer-lasting. Understanding the fluidity of demogeographic processes has led scientists to develop typologies that comprehensively reflect trends characteristic of specific territories. This scientific approach to studying demogeographic processes was well-established and clearly structured until 2020, when official statistics transitioned to recording primary statistical information based on newly created administrative districts according to the administrative-territorial reform [11]. With the implementation of the new administrative-territorial structure, scientists faced a new problem: a logical gap in studying the typology of demogeographic processes at the local level. The number and structure of administrative districts changed, creating a need for a clear demarcation regarding the characteristics of demogeographic processes at the end of statistical observations for administrative districts as of 2020.

Additionally, it is important to note the region under study, which is represented by the western regions of Ukraine (considering eight regions that form the Western socio-economic district according to O.I. Shablii) [15,16]. These administrative units have shown diverse demographic characteristics over the past thirty years, ranging from growth to depopulation. Until recently, the western regions stood out positively against the backdrop of other regions in Ukraine in terms of demogeographic processes. However, today we observe a general decline in the population for the majority of these regions.

Analysis of Recent Studies and Publications. The study of demogeographic processes is neither new nor unpopular, which can be explained by the wide range of users of this information on the one hand, and the dynamic development of the demogeographic processes themselves on the other. We are primarily interested in works of socio-geographic orientation. Firstly, it is important to note the theoretical developments in the methodology of studying and typologizing demogeographic (geodemographic, demographic according to different authors) processes by V. Dzhaman [6], N. Mezentseva [10], K. Sehida [13], V. Yavorska [3, 17]. Their scientific contributions have become fundamental for studying the characteristics of demographic processes and identifying their types and subtypes. As previously mentioned, many researchers study demographic processes at the national level. For instance, S. Batychenko investigates static indicators of demographic development and identifies five groups of regions in Ukraine based on demographic indicators through the construction of Kohonen Self-Organizing Maps [2]. K. Sehida and G. Karaychentseva evaluated the dynamics of demographic processes in Ukraine from 2002 to 2018 and found that demographic processes in Ukraine are dynamic and heterogeneous, influenced by various factors of different degrees and directions [14]. Kushnir conducted a study on the dynamics of the components of the geodemographic process from 1990 to 2020 and highlighted the main demographic trends in Ukraine [9]. As previously noted, another direction of geodemographic research can be identified – studies at the level of administrative regions, districts, or specific types of settlements. Here, it is worth mentioning the research by Iryna Hukalova conducted within the framework of the scientific research work of the Institute of Geography of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, particularly her article on the peculiarities of geodemographic dynamics of the rural population in the regions of Ukraine [5]. Gudzeliak I. and Dnistrianska I. dedicated their work to studying demographic processes in rural areas of Ukraine [4]. O. Bratso conducted a comparative analysis of the main demogeographic parameters and population dynamics of medium-sized cities in the western regions of Ukraine, highlighting common features and analyzing differences in demographic processes [1]. S. Puhach and D. Piatak studied the main indicators of demographic development in the Volyn region, characterizing the territorial peculiarities of the distribution of natural and migration movement indicators across the region and within administrative districts and cities of regional subordination [12]. Kaptsosh S. and Korchynska Z. separately investigated the demographic processes in Irshavshchyna from 1991 to 2020, providing an interesting example of demographic research at the grassroots level [8].

Identification of Previously Unresolved Aspects of the General Problem. Analyzing the research in this field, we can note that, considering the significant volume of primary statistical information required for the typology of demogeographic processes, scientists predominantly conduct studies at the level of administrative regions of Ukraine or at the national level. If research was conducted at the level of administrative districts, the study area was typically limited to one or two regions. However, we are interested in a comprehensive approach: both typology (i.e., taking into account natural and mechanical characteristics over time) and territorial coverage at the local level.

Formulation of the Aim of the Article. Given the relevance of the research topic and the results of the analysis of recent publications in this field, our aim was to reveal the territorial peculiarities of the formation and course of demogeographic processes in the western regions of Ukraine and to conduct their complete typology as of the beginning of 2020, the period of full transition to the new administrative structure of the regions.

Outline of the Main Research Material. Setting the goal to determine the types of demogeographic processes, we first need to identify approaches to this issue. A demogeographic process refers to the temporal development of the population in a specific area, encompassing its quantitative and qualitative changes, as well as the general direction and nature of these changes. Broadly, the demographic process includes changes in the spatial distribution of the population and trends in its settlement patterns. However, primarily, the demographic process represents a "temporal trajectory" of population development in a specific area, reflecting the trend of its quantitative and qualitative changes. Such trends can be identified by comparing the geodemographic situation of an area at different times. However, this approach, in any context, does not actualize the concept of a demogeographic process and does not integrate numerous changes and trends within the socio-geographic process. A demogeographic process, as a demographic category, should be understood as a single, holistic, continuous process with its own features, parameters, directions, and trends. When studying and systematizing demogeographic processes, the main distinguishing characteristics are the ratios of population movement indicators – birth rates and death rates, migration inflow or outflow. Various combinations of these demographic characteristics yield five main summaries. The selection of types and subtypes is based on the analysis of the static components of population movement, while the specific component of geodemographic process typology is formed through the study of the dynamic features of their development [7].

At the same time, according to Yavorska V.V., "the typology of regional GDP represents a methodological transition from traditional territorial settlement systems, identified on an administrative-territorial basis, to genetic settlement systems that objectively form on historical-geographical foundations" [17]. Thus, in the territory of Western Ukraine, Victoria Yavorska identifies the following types of GDP: "recreational, polycentric-urbanized, mountainous-steppe, which includes the Transcarpathian region; the type that includes most regions of western Ukraine – the Carpathian, monocentric-urbanized, urban-rural, mountainous-forest-steppe: Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk,

Chernivtsi regions. The type that includes two regions of the area – Polissian, monocentric-urbanized, urban-rural geodemographic with Volyn and Rivne regions. And the type of demogeographic process – rural-urban, monocentric-urbanized with a predominance of rural settlement zones, Polissian-forest-steppe, which includes nine Ukrainian regions, but of particular interest in this work are those that belong to Western Ukraine: Ternopil and Khmelnytsky regions" [17].

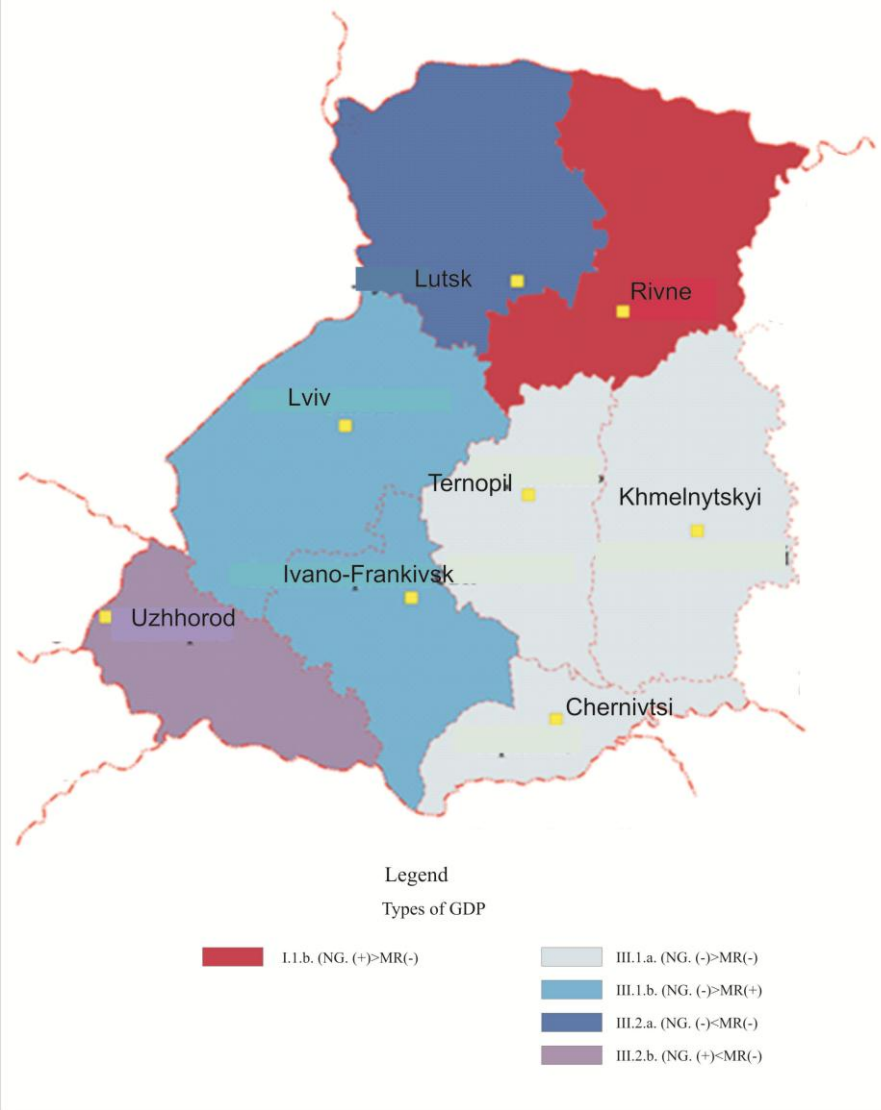

Fig. 1. Cartographic Scheme of GDP Typology in the Western Regions of Ukraine (as of January 1, 2020)

Based on previous studies and data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, as of January 1, 2020, the types of demogeographic processes in the western regions of Ukraine are as follows: Volyn region – III.2.a., population decline due to mechanical outflow with a slight natural decrease. For the Transcarpathian region, the characteristic type of demogeographic process is III.2.b. – population decline due to mechanical outflow with a slight natural increase. Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv regions are characterized by population decline due to natural decrease with a slight mechanical inflow, corresponding to the III.1.b. type of GDP. Meanwhile, Ternopil, Khmelnytsky, and Chernivtsi regions correspond to the III.1.a. type of demogeographic process, characterized by population decline due to natural decrease with a slight mechanical outflow. Accordingly, Rivne region, according to previous indicators, has the I.1.b. type of GDP – population growth due to natural increase with a slight mechanical outflow. For the overall Western Ukraine, as of January 1, 2020, the identified type of demogeographic process is III.1.a. – population decline due to natural decrease with a slight mechanical outflow.

Regarding the geodemographic situation at the beginning of 2020 in general, according to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the types and subtypes of GDP remain unchanged compared to previous data in this work. However, on this chart, it can be seen that the natural population decline reached -28,837 persons, or -2.72 ‰ overall in the Western socio-economic region. Meanwhile, the migration decline of the population in the Western socio-economic region slightly decreased compared to 2019, reaching -1,505 persons, or 0.14 ‰. Accordingly, the identified type and subtype of GDP is III.1.a. – population decline mainly due to natural decrease with a slight mechanical outflow.

This study is distinguished by the fact that it separates geodemographic processes in each specific district of Volyn, Rivne, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil,

Khmelnytsky, Transcarpathian, and Chernivtsi regions. This allows for the compilation of a cartographic scheme "Geodemographic Processes in the Western Socio-Economic Region," which clearly shows the following types of GDP – positive: I.1.a (NG(+)>MR(+)); I.1.b.(NG(+)>MR(-)); I.2.a. (NG(-)<MR(+)); stagnation: II.2.(NG(-)<MR(+)); II.3.(NG(+)>MR(-)); negative: III.1.a.(NG(-)>MR(-)); III.1.b.(NG(-)>MR(+)); III.2.a(NG(-)<MR(-)); III.2.b. (NG(+)<MR(-)).

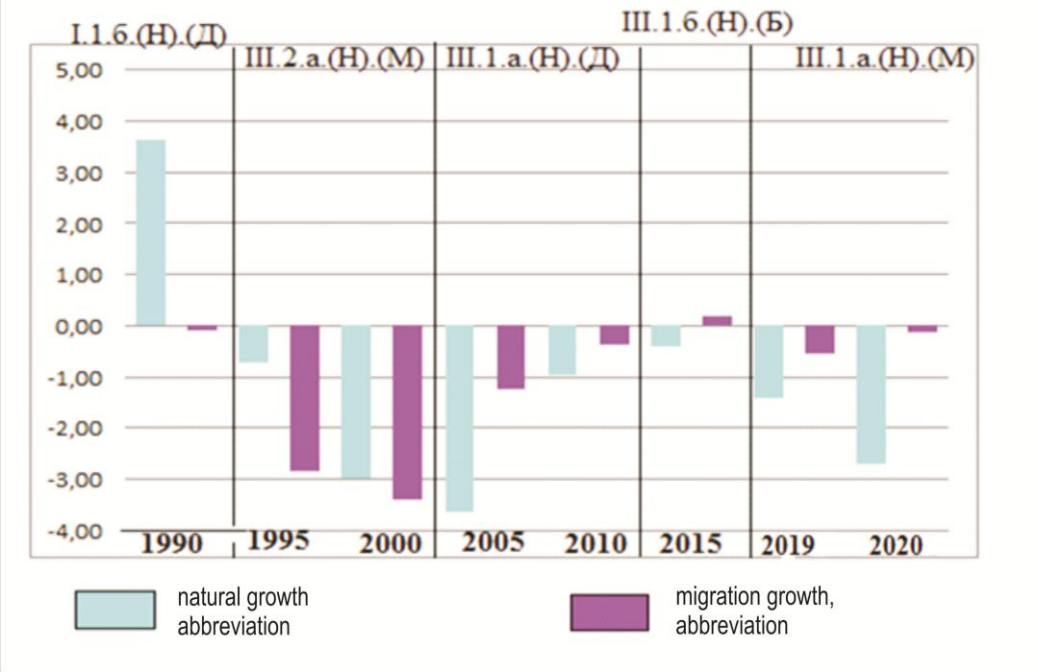

Fig. 2. Demographic Development of the Research Region 1990-2020

According to the developed cartographic scheme, the most administrative districts with a positive type of GDP are located in Rivne and Transcarpathian regions. Specifically, the northern and eastern districts of Rivne region and the foothill and mountainous districts of Transcarpathian region.

Regarding some other regions, it can be said that the positive type of GDP – I.1.a (NG(+)>MR(+)) – is found in Hertsa district of Chernivtsi region, Irshava and Rakhiv districts of Transcarpathian region – population growth due to natural increase with slight mechanical inflow.

In Nadvirna district of Ivano-Frankivsk region, population formation is due to natural increase with slight migration outflow – I.1.b.(NG(+)>MR(-)). The same statement applies to Hlyboka district of Chernivtsi region. In Lviv region, this type of GDP prevails in Pustomyty, Kamianka-Buzka, and Busk administrative districts. In Volyn region, it is Kamin-Kashirskyi administrative district. In Rivne region – Volodymyrets, Sarny, Rokytne, and Berezne districts. In Ternopil region – Shumsk and Ternopil districts; in Khmelnytsky district of Khmelnytsky region, as well as Uzhhorod and Perechyn districts of Transcarpathian region.

The final positive type of GDP, characterized by population increase due to mechanical growth with slight natural decline – I.2.a. (NG(-)<MR(+)), is present in Storozhynets and Vyzhnytsia districts of Chernivtsi region, Yavoriv district of Lviv region, Lutsk and Kivertsi districts of Volyn region.

Stagnation type GDP has recently been observed in Mykolaiv (II.3.(NG(+)>MR(-)) of Lviv region, Ternopil city, and Putyla district (II.2.(NG(-)<MR(+)) of Chernivtsi region.

However, despite the positive GDP trends in some districts of the regions, the most widespread is the third negative type of geodemographic process – namely, population decline due to natural decrease with slight mechanical outflow – III.1.a.(NG(-)>MR(-)). This type applies to the entire Khmelnytskyi region except for Khmelnytskyi district, and almost the entire Ternopil region except for Ternopil and Shumsk districts. In Ivano-Frankivsk and Transcarpathian regions, this type of GDP is observed only once, in Kosiv and Volovets districts, respectively. In Lviv region, this type is characteristic for Skole, Dolyna, Zhydachiv, Staryi Sambir, Sambir, Zhovkva, Sokal, and Brody districts. In Volyn region, it is found in Lokachi, Rozhyshche, Liuboml, Shatsk, and Stara Vyzhivka districts. In Rivne region, the trend prevails in Kostopil and Zdolbuniv administrative districts.

As we can see on the cartographic scheme below, the type of GDP – III.1.b.(NG(-)>MR(+)) – population decline due to natural decrease with slight mechanical inflow, is observed in the following districts: Novoselytsia, Zastavna, Kitsman (Chernivtsi region), Kalush, Tysmenytsia, Sniatyn (Ivano-Frankivsk region), Svaliava and Berehove (Transcarpathian region), Stryi, Drohobych, Peremyshliany, Zolochiv, Mostyska (Lviv region), Horokhiv, Kovel (Volyn region), Dubno, Korets (Rivne region).

Such a type as III.2.a (NG(-)<MR(-)) – population decline primarily due to mechanical outflow with slight natural decrease, is most clearly observed in the border

regions of Volyn and Rivne: Ratne, Lyubeshiv, Zarichne, and Dubrovytsia districts. For Lviv region, the GDP type is characteristic of such a district as Turka. In Zakarpattia region, it includes Mukachevo and Mizhhiria districts. Among the districts of Ivano-Frankivsk region: Rozhniativ, Bohorodchany, and Kolomyia.

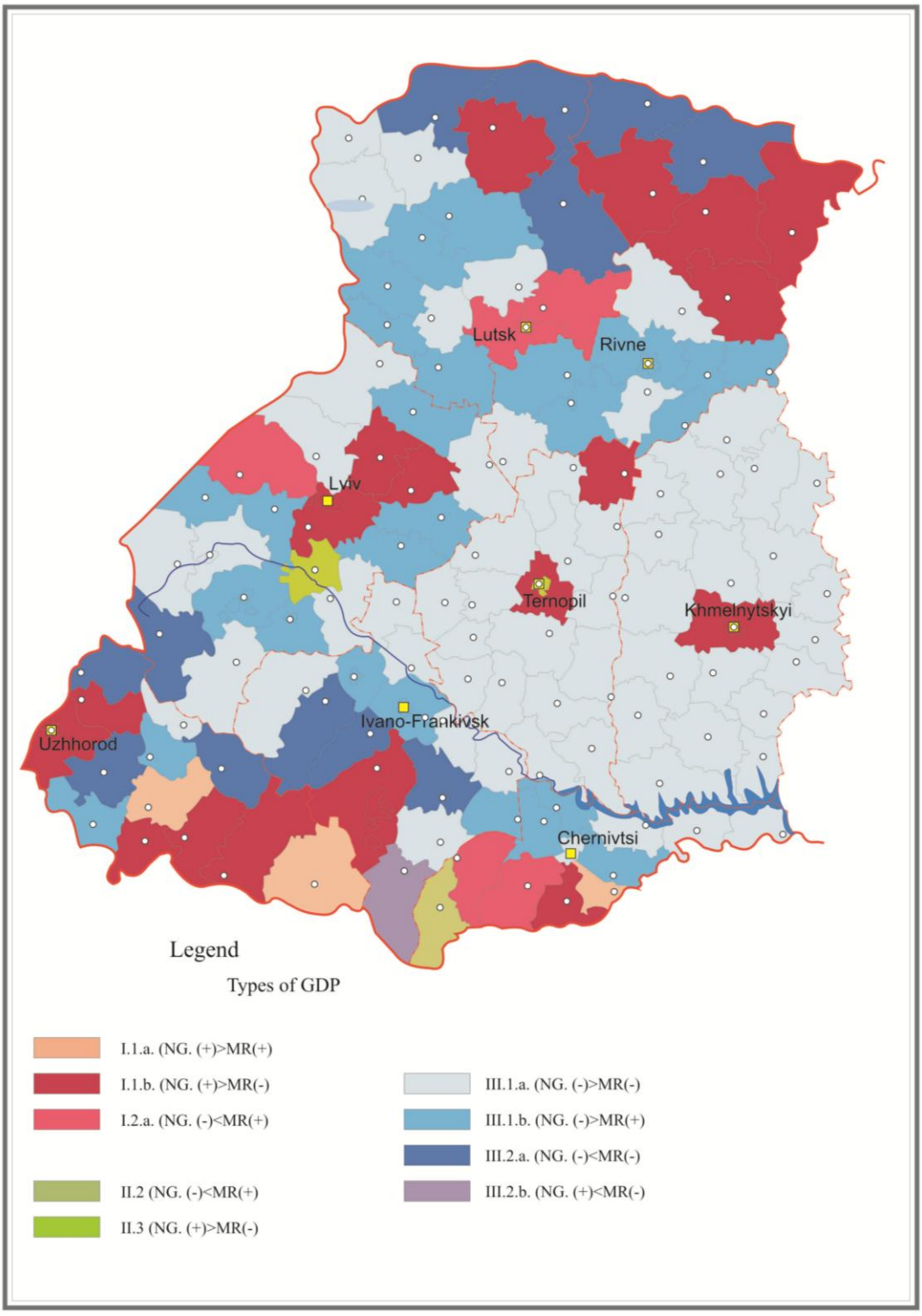

Fig. 3. Types of Demographic Processes in the Western Regions of Ukraine (2020)

Starting from 2010, the type III.2.b (NG(+)<MR(-)) – population decline due to mechanical outflow with slight natural increase, has been observed in Verkhovyna district of Ivano-Frankivsk region.

As. we can see, the studied region is quite diverse in terms of the types of geodemographic processes, especially in the foothill, mountainous, and border regions. There, a positive type of GDP prevails – in the mountainous and foothill areas, regional centers, and border regions where a negative type of GDP – population decline due to mechanical outflow – is clearly observed. Regarding the stagnation situation, we see its presence in

Mykolaiv district of Lviv region and in the city of Ternopil – stagnation of the population with natural growth compensating for mechanical outflow, while in Putyla district of Chernivtsi region, there is population stagnation with natural decline compensated by mechanical inflow.

However, the primary type of geodemographic processes among all the regions of the studied area remains consistently negative – population decline mainly due to natural decrease with slight mechanical outflow – III.1.a.(NG(-)>MR(-)).

Conclusions. Thus, at the beginning of 2020, when statistical observations transitioned to a new stage of data collection and processing (based on new administrative districts), the territories of the western regions of Ukraine, amidst the general negative trends of demographic development, could highlight demographically positive Carpathian, Polissian, and Lviv areas, as well as demographically favorable territories around regional centers.

For further research, it is important to study at least a five-year period of demographic observations at the level of new administrative-territorial units to track the pace and directions of further demographic development, particularly in the areas we have identified. Such studies become especially important against the backdrop of the consequences of the full-scale invasion, both due to migration movements and the deformation of the population's age and gender structure in general.

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ДЕМОГЕОГРАФІЧНІ ПРОЦЕСИ НА ТЕРИТОРІЇ ЗАХІДНИХ РЕГІОНІВ УКРАЇНИ НАПЕРЕДОДНІ РЕФОРМУВАННЯ ТЕРИТОРІАЛЬНОЇ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ ВЛАДИ

Демогеографічні процеси є тим індикатором суспільного розвитку, який найактивніше реагує на будь-які зміни. Географи по-різному трактують демогеографічну термінологію, але однозначно дотримуються думки про доцільність компексного дослідження демогеографічного розвитку території як у часі, так і в просторі. На кінець другого десятиліття XXI століття серед суспільних географів сформувалися декілька напрямів демографічних вишукувань: суто теоретико-методологічного спрямування, дослідження територіальних особливостей перебігу демогеографічних процесів на рівні держави загалом, або ж спроби типізації, однак на локальному рівні. Із провадженням адміністративно-територіальної реформи постала проблема комплексного просторово-часового дослідження на рівні як старих, так і нових адміністративних районів для значної за площею території.

Нами було проведено типізацію демогеографічних процесів в межах адміністративних областей Західної України на рівні адміністративних районів за адміністративно-територіальним устроєм до 2020 року за період 1990 – 2020 роки. Проведене дослідження показало, що стабільні типи демогеографічного процесу в основному зустрічаються у передгірних та гірських та прикордонних районах. А саме в передгір'ї та в горах є переважання позитивного типу, до них приєднуються центри областей. Однак у прикордонних районах ми чітко простежуємо скорочення населення внаслідок механічного відтоку. Однак основний тип геодемографічних процесів у всіх західних областях України є стабільно негативним – зменшення чисельності населення в основному за рахунок природного скорочення із незначним механічним відтоком.

Таким чином, на початок 2020 року, коли статистичні спостереження перейшли на новий етап збору та обробки (за новими адміністративними районами), на території західних областей України при загальних негативних тенденціях демографічного розвитку можна було виділити демографічно позитивні Карпатський, Поліський та Львівський ареали, а також демографічно сприятливі території навколо обласних центрів.

Ключові слова: *демогеографічний розвиток, приріст населення, депопуляція, тип демогеографічного процесу, міграційний рух населення, природний рух населення.*

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