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## TRANSFORMATION OF REGIONAL SYSTEM OF RURAL SETTLEMENT OF ZAPORIZHIA REGION IN THE POST-SOVIET PERIOD

As a result of strengthening of globalization and transition of Ukraine to the market economy the regional settlement system have changed. Considerable changes were tested by the network of rural settlements of industrial regions, such as the Zaporizhia region. Therefore determination of modern tendencies and problems of functioning of the regional systems of rural settlement of this area became a necessity.

For the Zaporizhia area characteristic middle level density of settlement network. It is predefined by the late settling of territory, the development of industrial centers, the lack of drinking-water and relatively arid climatic conditions in the region. As a result of the outflow rural population to urban areas, in the last 25 years, the amount and density of rural population in the districts of region significantly decreased. Since 1945 in the Zaporizhia region from an account 260 rural settlements were removed from the register. Most of them were eliminated in the period from 1960 to 1970 – period of intensive industrialization of the region. One of the reasons of removal of rural settlements from the register is their unification (205 settlements). Compensative processes in relation to formation of new rural settlements were insignificant (14 settlements).

On quantitative parameters the network of rural settlements in the Zaporizhia region in a post-soviet period did not almost change. However on this time there is a process of reduction to the amount of population in these settlements. This situation demonstrates the continuing depopulation of rural settlements. The amount of small villages with a population of less than 100 persons is increasing and the amount of rural settlements of between 100 to 1,000 persons is reducing. The amount of "endangered" villages (less than 50 persons) in the overall share of rural settlements of the region is 12.8%. There is polarization in development of network of rural settlements in the region.

Thus, to solve the above mentioned problems is necessary to conduct the socio-economic and administrative-territorial reform in rural areas. It is needed to improve the classification of rural settlements on the quantity of population, to develop ways of revival of small forms of territorial organization of rural settlements in the region.

***Keywords:*** transformation, region, rural settlement, depopulation, «endangered» villages.

***Ксенія Неліпа. ТРАНСФОРМАЦІЯ РЕГІОНАЛЬНОЇ СИСТЕМИ СІЛЬСЬКОГО РОЗСЕЛЕННЯ ЗАПОРІЗЬКОЇ ОБЛАСТІ У ПОСТРАДЯНСЬКИЙ ПЕРІОД***

В статті розглянуто трансформацію регіональної системи сільського розселення Запорізької області у пострадянський період. В роботі наведено результати аналізу динаміки чисельності, частки, природного руху сільського населення та структури сільських поселень Запорізької області. Проведено порівняльний аналіз кількості сільських поселень, які зникли та утворилися в Запорізькій області у радянський та пострадянський періоди. Ідентифіковано «вимираючі» села в регіоні та визначено сучасні проблеми функціонування регіональної системи сільського розселення Запорізької області.

***Ключові слова*:** трансформація, регіон, сільське розселення, депопуляція, «вимираючі» села.

***Ксения Нелипа. ТРАНСФОРМАЦИЯ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЙ СИСТЕМЫ СЕЛЬСКОГО РАССЕЛЕНИЯ ЗАПОРОЖСКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ В ПОСТСОВЕТСКИЙ ПЕРИОД***

В статье рассмотрена трансформация региональной системы сельского расселения Запорожской области в постсоветский период. В работе приведены результаты анализа динамики численности, доли, естественного движения сельского населения и структуры сельских поселений Запорожской области. Проведен сравнительный анализ количества сельских поселений, которые исчезли и образовались в Запорожской области в советский и постсоветский периоды. Идентифицировано «вымирающие» села в регионе и определены современные проблемы функционирования региональной системы сельского расселения Запорожской области.

***Ключевые слова*:** трансформация, регион, сельское расселение, депопуляция, «вымирающие» села.

**Introduction**. In the post-Soviet period as a result of the transition to the market economy and intensification of influence of globalization, regional systems have undergone significant changes. This was primarily due to economic instability, deterioration of demographic situation, high level of unemployment, migration behavior and the influence of urbanization. As a result, the amount of rural and small urban settlements is decreasing and sizes are changed. Despite the appearing of new challenges of post-industrial changes, special focus is deserved by the investigation of the network of rural settlements of industrial regions, such as the Zaporizhia region.

**Scientific background.** Theoretical and methodological basis of the study is composed by works about the study of rural settlement of national and foreign scientists, in particular, M. Baranovskiy, I. Gukalova, V. Dzhaman, A. Dotsenko, L. Zastavetska, D. Krisanov, V. Krul, Ya. Oliynik, M. Pistun, Yu. Pityurenko, O. Topchiev, O. Shabliy and others.

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**Isolation of unsolved before parts of the global problem.** This article describes the changes of the system of rural settlement of industrial region in terms of economic reform and the transformation in the post-industrial society.

**Main aims.** The main objective of the investigation is to identify the trends and issues of functioning of the regional system of rural settlement of Zaporizhia region in the post-Soviet period.

**Key research findings.** Despite the predominance of the urban population in Ukraine, rural settlement network has an essential role in the regional settlement system. As A. Dotsenko notes, dense rural settlement network creates favorable conditions for the effective usage of agricultural land and natural resources in arrangements of underdeveloped transport network [2, p.190]. In the post-Soviet period, the network of rural settlements in Ukraine considerably transformed as a result of demographic and socio-economic changes.

Urban population prevails in the structure of Zaporizhia regional settlement system. Its main characteristic is average density level of the settlement network, due to the late settling of the territory (from the XIX century), the development of industrial centers, the lack of drinking water and relatively arid climatic conditions in the region.

Comparing the amount of the rural population in 2015 according to the 1990, given by E. Blagova [1, p. 119], we can make a conclusion that the current system of rural settlement of Zaporizhia region over the past 25 years has transformed significantly. Comparing the ratio of urban and rural population in the context of the administrative districts, in the post-Soviet period the amount of urban population has increased significantly due to the outflow of rural residents to cities and townships. This process is the most expressed in the Chernigovskiy district (45,4% of the rural population comparing to 68% in 1990), Vasilievskiy district (42% vs. 56%), Kamenka-Dnieprovskiy district (with Velykobelozerskiy district, since it was established in 1993 from a part of Kamenka-Dnieperovskiy district [6]: 34.3% vs. 48%) [5] (Fig. 1). The amount of rural population has increased only in Berdyansk district, due to the seaside location of the territory, an extensive transport network.

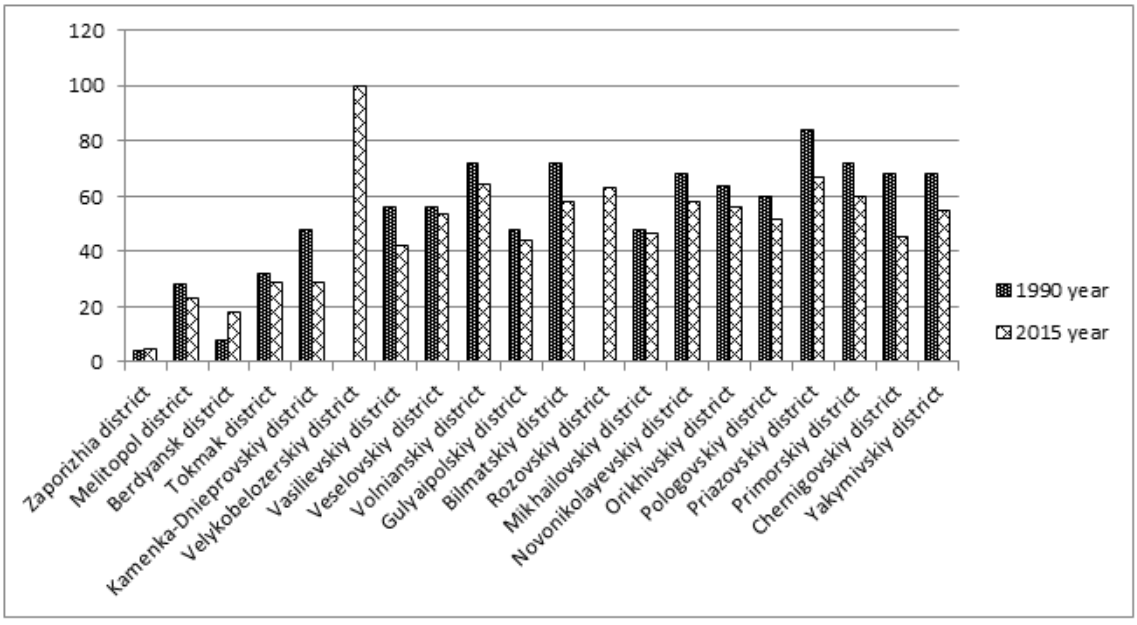


***Fig. 1. The amount of rural population in districts of Zaporizhia region (%)*** *(composed from materials [5])*

The density of the rural population has also declined in all districts of Zaporizhia region. This is the most expressed in Chernigovskiy (9,4 persons/km$^2$ in 2015, compared to the 16-20 persons/km$^2$ in 1990), Vasilievskiy (16,6 persons/km$^2$ against 26-30 persons/km$^2$), Gulyaipolskiy (9,2 persons/km$^2$ against 16-20 persons/km$^2$), Pologovskiy (15,7 persons/km$^2$ against 21-25 persons/km$^2$), Kamenka-Dnieprovskiy (with Velykobelozerkiy district: 19 persons/km$^2$ against 26-30 persons/km$^2$) and Bilmatskiy (with Rozovskiy district formed in 1992 [7]: 9,7 persons/km$^2$ against 16-20 persons/km$^2$) districts. Stability remained the density of the rural population in Yakimovskiy and Priazovskiy districts. Melitopol district, both in 1990 and in 2015, in comparison with other districts of the region, is a leader in the density of the rural population (25,5 persons/km$^2$ in 2015 compared to 30 persons/km$^2$ in 1990).

Since 1945, the network of rural settlements in the region has significantly decreased: 260 rural settlements were removed from the register. However, the dynamics of changes has a different intensity: from the middle 1940s until 1960, the amount of removed villages was 54 settlements; in the period of 1961-1970 - 86 settlements; in the period of 1971-1980 – 81 settlements; in the period of 1981-1991 – 22 settlements [3], in the post-Soviet period – 18 settlements (Fig. 2.) [4]. It means that the highest amount of removed settlements accounts for 1960-70 years – period of intensive industrialization of the region, realization of the strategy of enlargement of rural settlements and their integration into the urban settlements, as well as the destruction of small forms of territorial settlement organization.

The most fundamental reason for removing of rural settlements from the register is their unification – 205

settlements. This process was very active in the post-war period up to 1960 (135 villages – 65,9%), and then gradually slowed down: in the period 1961-1970 – 34 villages (16,9%), in the period 1971-1980 – 29 villages ( 14,1%), in the period 1981-1991 – 3 villages (1,5%) [3], in the post-Soviet period – only 3 villages (2%) (Fig. 2) [4].

Compensative processes in relation to formation of new rural settlements in Ukraine were insignificant. In Zaporizhia region the amount of such settlements accounted for 14 villages, of which only one village was formed during the years of independence of Ukraine [3, 4].

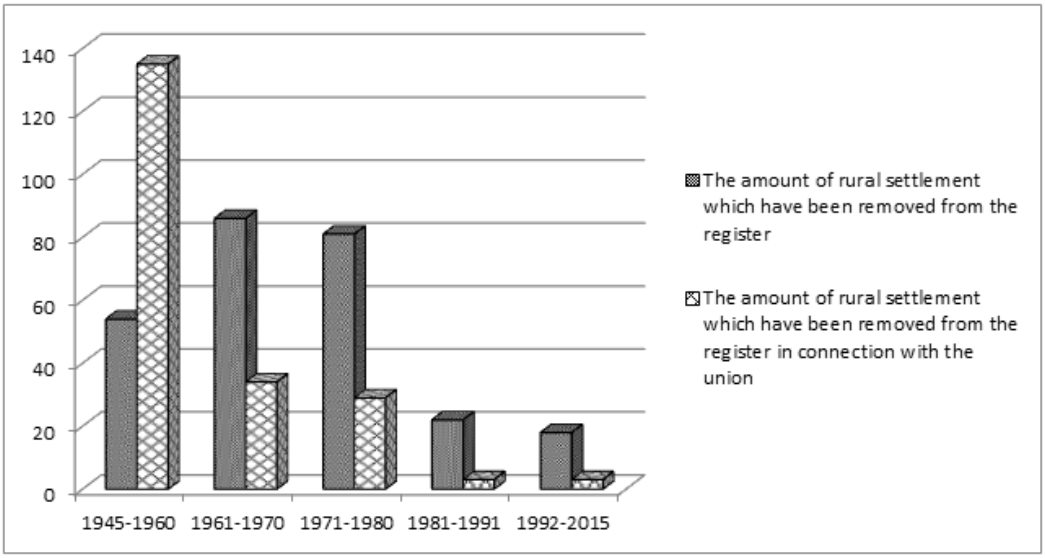


***Fig. 2. The amount of rural settlements in Zaporizhia region which have been removed from the register***
*(composed from materials [3, 4])*

The aforementioned facts show that there is a tendency of reducing the depopulation of rural settlements in the Zaporizhia region in the post-Soviet period. However, according to the quantitative parameters the network of rural settlements almost does not change in recent years, there is the process of reducing of population in the settlements. This situation demonstrates the continuing depopulation of rural settlements. In such a way, the amount of small villages with a population of less than 100 persons is increasing and the amount of rural settlements of between 100 to 1,000 persons is reducing.

In the Zaporizhia region the proportion of villages with a population of more than 1,000 persons is 13% (120 villages). This index has increased in the post-Soviet period in most parts of the region. This is especially observed in Kamenka-Dnieprovskiy (47%), Berdyansk (33,3%), Pologovskiy (27%), Primorskiy (26,6%), Velykobelozerskiy districts (20%). Exceptions are Tokmak (3,6%) and Volnianskiy districts (7,5%), where the index in 2015 were lower than in 1990. In Novonikolayevskiy and Rozovskiy districts there are no villages with a population of more than 1,000 people. Administrative districts of the region, in which the amount of villages with a population of more than 1,000 persons increases, tend to have a favorable geographical position and a high level of resources.

In 2015, in the Zaporizhia region the amount of rural settlements, where the population is less than 50 persons, was 117 (12,8%), of which 18 villages (2%) with a population of less than 10 persons; 33 villages (3,6% ) with a population of 11-25 persons; 66 villages (7,2%) with the population of 26-50 persons. Spreading of "endangered" villages is unequal on the territory. The largest amount of "endangered" villages is concentrated in Volnyanskiy (21 villages), Gulyaipolskiy (16) and Novonikolayevskiy (15) districts, the lowest is concentrated in Chernihivskiy (1 village), Vasilevskiy, Tokmak, Veselovskiy, Velikobelozerskiy and Kamensko-Dnieprovskiy districts (2 villages). In the Primorskiy district there are no villages with a population less than 50 persons. This trend brings to the disappearance of villages and causing the necessity for socio-economic reforms in the countryside, overlooking of the administrative and territorial structure of the country. A. Dotsenko notes, in this context underlines the necessity for returning to historical forms of territorial organization of rural settlements, such as hamlets and suburbs.

In the post-Soviet period active changes of administrative and territorial structure of rural settlements of Zaporizhia region were carried out mainly in the early 1990s. In the future, the issue was almost never given due attention. In 2015, with the acceptance of the Law of Ukraine "About the voluntary association of territorial communities", a new wave of changes began in the administrative-territorial structure of the Zaporizhia region, specifically in the formation of local communities by bringing together rural and village councils.

**Conclusions.** The aggravation of the problems of the rural depopulation of the industrial region in the post-Soviet period are caused by both economic transformations associated with the transition to a market economy, and the long process of soviet industrialization. The increasing of urban population has led to the

reduction of rural settlement network and reducing of the rural population in the region. The amount of villages with a population of more than 1,000 persons has increased, which was due to the advantages of their geographical location and high level of resources. The amount of villages with a population of 100-1000 persons has decreased and the amount of villages with a population less than 50 persons has increased, which led to their gradual "endangered". There is polarization in the development of rural settlement network in the region.

Taking into account the transformational changes, the classification of rural settlements in terms of population needs to be improved. It is necessary to work up the ways of revival of the Ukrainian village, the small forms of territorial organization of rural settlements in the region, and other activities focused on the development of rural settlement network.

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