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## CROSS-BORDER SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLARIZATION AS A FACTOR OF MIGRATION OF UKRAINE

## ТРАНСКОРДОННА СОЦІАЛЬНО-ЕКОНОМІЧНА ПОЛЯРИЗАЦІЯ ЯК ФАКТОР МІГРАЦІЇ НАСЕЛЕННЯ УКРАЇНИ

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This paper presents the results of the development of theoretical discussions on the content of polarization, spatial polarization, its types and dimensions of analysis. The socio-economic polarization provides an analysis of indicators that reflect the socio-demographic and economic processes in the relevant areas in the dynamics and have a strong impact on economic growth and welfare. The indicators of population, life expectancy (demographic aspect), GDP per capita, consumer price index (macroeconomic aspect), level of employment and unemployment, minimum and average wages (motivational aspect) were analyzed to clarify the socio-economic polarization in the cross-border area between Ukraine and neighboring EU countries. The results of the analysis became the basis for substantiating the strategy and tactics in regulating socio-economic polarization with the priority of its regionalization.

**Keywords:** spatial socio-economic polarization, migration system, regionalization of polarization regulation, propulsive industries of the economy, propulsive specialization of the economy, cross-border space.

В статье развинуты теоретические дискуссии относительно содержания поляризации, ее видов и измерений анализа. Обосновано, что поляризацию можно исследовать за пространственным, диалектическим, целевым и структурным подходами. Сочетание пространственного и диалектического подходов позволило выделить пространственную социально-экономическую поляризацию. Для выяснения социально-экономической поляризации в трансграничном пространстве между Украиной и соседними государствами ЕС, проанализированы показатели численности населения, средней продолжительности жизни (демографический аспект), ВВП на душу населения, индекса потребительских цен (макроэкономический аспект), уровня занятости и безработицы, минимальной и средней заработной платы (мотивационный аспект). Обосновано стратегию и тактику регулирования социально-экономической поляризации с приоритетом ее регионализации.

**Ключевые слова:** пространственная социально-экономическая поляризация, миграционная система, регионализация регулирования поляризации, пропульсивные области экономики, пропульсивная специализация экономики, трансграничное пространство.

У статті поглиблено теоретичні дискусії щодо змісту поляризації, просторової поляризації, її видів та вимірів аналізу. Теоретичною основою дослідження поляризації стали теорії економічного зростання і розвитку, зокрема полюсів росту з формуванням пропульсивних галузей економіки, а також теорії територіальних міграційних систем. Обґрунтовано, що поляризацію можна досліджувати за просторовим, діалектичним, цільовим і структурним підходами. Поєднання просторового і діалектичного підходів дозволило виділити просторову соціально-економічну поляризацію та визначити показники її аналізу в контексті впливу на міграцію

населення (демографічні, макроекономічні, мотиваційні). Для з'ясування соціально-економічної поляризації у транскордонному просторі між Україною, зокрема її Карпатським регіоном, та сусідніми державами ЄС (Польщею, Угорщиною, Румунією, Словаччиною), проаналізовано показники щодо чисельності населення, середньої тривалості життя (демографічний аспект), ВВП на душу населення, індексу споживчих цін (макроекономічний аспект), рівня зайнятості і безробіття, мінімальної і середньої заробітної плати (мотиваційний аспект). Результати аналізу стали основою для обґрунтування стратегії й тактики в регулюванні соціально-економічної поляризації з пріоритетом її регіоналізації. Стратегія може передбачати вирівнювання, балансування та цільову підтримку, а тактика – стале наслідування, наздоганяння, нівелювання, вирівнювання, прорив, випередження. Це дозволило зробити висновок, що для прикордонних регіонів України необхідним є цільове стимулювання пропульсивних галузей економіки як рушіїв соціально-економічного розвитку і долання просторової поляризації з європейськими державами. У зв'язку з цим виділено пріоритетні сфери економіки для областей Карпатського регіону України. У контексті регулювання міграційних процесів підтримка пропульсивних галузей сприятиме покращенню соціально-економічної ситуації у регіонах та формуватиме привабливі сфери транскордонного співробітництва з залученням іноземних інвестицій та створенням нових робочих місць на місцях.

**Ключові слова:** просторова соціально-економічна поляризація, міграційна система, регіоналізація регулювання поляризації, пропульсивні галузі економіки, пропульсивна спеціалізація економіки, транскордонний простір.

**The problem formulation.** This study is focused on aspects of cross-border socio-economic polarization as a factor of population migration, although the content of the publication covers the definition of polarization in the general sense, its types and dimensions of analysis. The urgency of the cross-border dimension is high for countries that follow the integration paradigm of development, in particular in the whole European socio-economic space. Ukraine aspires to become a full member of the EU. Despite its losing competitive position in comparison with the level and dynamics of development of European countries, the civil society of Ukraine after the events of the Revolution of Dignity proved its value unity with Europe. Bordering with the EU creates a number of problems for the border regions of Ukraine due to socio-economic polarization with neighboring territories. The asymmetric cross-border migration systems is consequence of this, in which the population of Ukraine actively migrates to EU countries, providing their labor markets, education systems and the consumer sphere with additional capitalization resources.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** The development of the analysis methodology of socio-economic polarization as a migration factor was carried out on the basis of the works of the following authors: A. Bermudez [6], M. Bogdanski [1], J. Bone [10], C. Zoledowski [5], T. Lang [9], L. Oso [6] (foreign scientists), T. Vasylytsiv [12], T. Golikova [16], G. Gorina [8], N. Demchenko [7], O. Ivashchenko [11], O. Kozyreva [7], V. Medvid [2], A. Prokopyuk [3], N. Reznikova [11], U. Sadova [4], V. Yevtushenko [7] (Ukrainian scientists). The data sources for comparing the main socio-economic

indicators between Ukraine and the countries bordering the Carpathian region of Ukraine are EUROSTAT [14], ILOSTAT [13] and Worldometer [15].

**Selection of previously unsolved parts of the overall problem.** In contrast to the research, the article focuses on the impact of socio-economic polarization on the migration of the population of Ukraine in the cross-border area. In general are deepened the theoretical approaches to understanding «polarization» in economics. This makes a significant contribution to the methodological study of migration policy on preventive principles.

**The aim of the article** is to deepen the theoretical foundations of the study of socio-economic polarization and analyze the features of its impact on migration processes in cross-border space.

**Results.** The research *methodology of socio-economic polarization* as a factor of population migration is formed at the junction of theories of regional economy, economic growth and migration systems.

The methodology of regional economy research is dominated by the emphasis on the processes of its development with the transition from exogenous to endogenous models. The polarization of a region relative to other regions reflects the efficiency of its endogenous potential [1, p. 38].

The formation of the socio-economic polarization theory occurs in the context of deepening the theoretical provisions of economic growth and development. The scientists distinguish such theories of this content among modern theories at the regional level [2, p. 68]:

– the evolutionary theory of regional development (changes in the essence of regional

development and conceptual models of understanding regions in a global community and crisis economy; justification of the transition from socially to globally oriented regional policy; adequacy of the theory of reduction of interregional differences; search for new paradigms of regional integration);

– the theory of economic stabilization (normative methods of controlling fluctuations in the level of economic activity using political and economic tools);

– the theory of polarized development (patterns of territorial concentration of population and factors of production in the centers of economic space (agglomerations that form the reference points of the territory framework), where the enterprises of propulsive industries are located).

The formation of the theory of polarized development was due to the deepening of the provisions of the growth poles theory by F. Perroux. This theory substantiates the causes and consequences of the concentration of factors of production in certain areas with an impact on the dynamics of individual industries and the spatial organization of the economy («center – periphery») and identifies opportunities to regulate polarization at the state level. The consequences of the concentration of factors of production ensure the localization of propulsive industries within the «growth poles». They cause a cumulative effect, whose influence extends to the periphery of the economic space; thus, the goal is achieved to ensure the overall progressive development of the national economy, technological restructuring of the production complex, human capital development [3, p. 74]. Propulsive industries are dynamic in development, promote the transition of the economy to the next technological mode and ensure the effective involvement of existing factors of production.

The development of «growth poles» in comparison with the nature and dynamics of other spatial areas may acquire risky features in terms of *the impact on migration processes*. This is distortion of demographic space, degradation of social space, disorientation of information space, decomposition of ekistics-settlement space and disintegration of economic space due to migration [4, p. 206].

The influence of polarization on migration processes causes asymmetry of territorial migration systems, the research methodology of which is formed on the basis of the world systems theory with the selection of «centers of attraction» and «migration peripheries» [5]. Modern migration acquires «liquid» features (liquid migration) in mobile-free space (at least until COVID-2019)

in contrast to the impact of powerful migration systems. These «liquid» features reveal its flexible and unpredictable nature when migrants looking for new opportunities to stay in different socio-economic systems, taking into account the benefits of social protection, acquisition of citizenship, etc. [6].

Thus, the research methodology covers the consideration of socio-economic polarization as a factor of population migration at the junction of theories of regional economic development and territorial migration systems. Socio-economic polarization can be determined by spatial and dialectical gaps.

*Polarization* is an interdisciplinary applied concept. It can be analyzed by such basic approaches as: 1) spatial (territorial, geographical), associated with the detection of gaps in various indicators between specific spatial areas (usually the same type), which occurs due to the concentration of resources with their subsequent increased attraction in conditions of high market competition; 2) dialectical, associated with the detection of gaps between dynamic processes; 3) target, associated with the detection of gaps in the object (phenomenon, process) from the reference value; 4) structural, associated with the detection of gaps between the elements of a holistic system.

The most in-depth elaborations of polarization in scientific works are carried out in relation to *spatial polarization*. Spatial polarization together with divergence, convergence, alignment, uniformity, proportionality, homogeneity is considered as one of the components of the study of socio-economic space differentiation [7, p. 379].

The main approaches to the spatial polarization study are resource (the presence of uneven redistribution of resources), factor (the presence of factors that lead to uneven development), resource-factor (the presence of disproportion of resources and factors distribution), innovative (the presence of «growth points (poles)» and the spread of momentum for their development) [8, c. 22].

The types of spatial polarization can be: socio-demographic – according to the processes of the population demographic reproduction; economic – according to the processes of economic development (including between sectors of the economy); technological – according to the processes of innovative change in various spheres of social and economic life; social – according to income, employment status (types and forms of work), educational and professional training, ownership, power and other criteria of social stratification; public – according to differ-

ent views on political, economic, social and other phenomena and processes; political – according to different political ideologies in power structures; cultural – according to different ethnic, religious, linguistic features, values; psychological – individual or group in differences of opinion; factor-progressive – according to the nature of the use of factors of production (for example, excessive financing, which creates global crises [9, p. 171]); discursive (inconsistent) – according to force majeure, differently affecting the territories [10, p. 876].

The combination of spatial and dialectical approaches allows studying the *socio-economic polarization*. It provides an analysis of indicators that reflect the socio-demographic and economic processes in the relevant areas in the dynamics and have a strong impact on economic growth and welfare.

The spatial socio-economic polarization can be analyzed in the dimensions: external (international) – global, transcontinental, interstate and cross-border polarization; internal (within the state) – between the capital and regions, interregional, intra-regional, local (within the settlement) polarization; combined – between urban and rural settlements, between urban settlements of different types (large, medium, small or with metropolitan, agglomeration functions or without), between regions with specific conditions (border, with the presence of powerful mineral deposits, etc.) and «traditional» regions, etc.

The problem plane of study changes depending on the measurement of polarization. For example, the global dimension highlights the problem of the negative impact of polarizing globalization with the separation of countries «globalized periphery» with cheap natural, industrial, human resources [11, p. 9]. The interstate dimension of polarization creates an asymmetry in the resources redistribution (human, investment, information, etc.) in a mobile space.

*Cross-border socio-economic polarization* is a relevant research object for border regions with a developed cross-border infrastructure of resource mobility (human, commodity, money). Polarization acquires problematic features if the border regions are characterized by different dynamics of development in the main socio-demographic and economic indicators.

The issue of interstate and cross-border socio-economic polarization in Ukraine is becoming an acute problem for *the Carpathian region*. It unites 4 border areas: Transcarpathian region – borders with Poland, Slovakia (5 checkpoints), Hungary (7) and Romania (4); Lviv region – bor-

ders with Poland (8); Ivano-Frankivsk region – borders with Romania (0); Chernivtsi region – borders with Romania (2) and Moldova (8). The geographical location of the region and the simplified border crossing procedures explain the intensity and short-term (1-3 months) of working trips to neighboring countries, as well as the rapidly growing educational migrations (for 2000–2019 its volumes increased more than 4 times and the share of people under 35 years among migrants reached 40 %), the growing asymmetry of crossing the state border (for 2008–2018 the negative balance was 1350 thousand people) [12, p. 13, 115].

The reasons for the excessive asymmetry of migration processes between Ukraine and the EU neighboring countries should be determined on the basis of calculations of cross-border polarization. Data of table 1 show that the countries neighboring the Carpathian region have a stable macroeconomic environment. If in Ukraine for 2010-2019 the consumer price index increased by 208,0 %, then in Romania – by 30,8 %, Hungary – 28,0 %, Slovakia – 16,8 %, Poland – 16,0 %. The main factor of asymmetric migration is wages: the level of the minimum wage in Poland and Slovakia is 4,0 times higher than in Ukraine and in Romania and Hungary – 3,5 times.

Analysis of spatial socio-economic polarization should be the basis for choosing the *strategy and tactics of its regulation* (Figure 1). The development of the State Strategy for Spatial and Economic Development is relevant for Ukraine. This Strategy should aim to ensure polarized development and the entry of reference regions and «points» of regional growth in global competition [16, c. 105]. The Carpathian region as a border region with the risks of migration losses needs targeted state support in the strategic regulation of spatial socio-economic polarization in relation to EU countries and giving it the functions of a «leading region» in certain areas.

The role of regions in overcoming cross-border socio-economic asymmetry is growing in the conditions of inefficient state policy in the spheres of employment, wages, ensuring price stability. 2021 is the beginning of the implementation of new regional development strategies in Ukraine for the next 7 years. They should identify and provide measures to support the propulsive industries of the regional economy.

*The propulsive specialization of the economy* must be justified for the Carpathian region. Various forms of cross-border and international cooperation in priority areas can be developed on its basis:

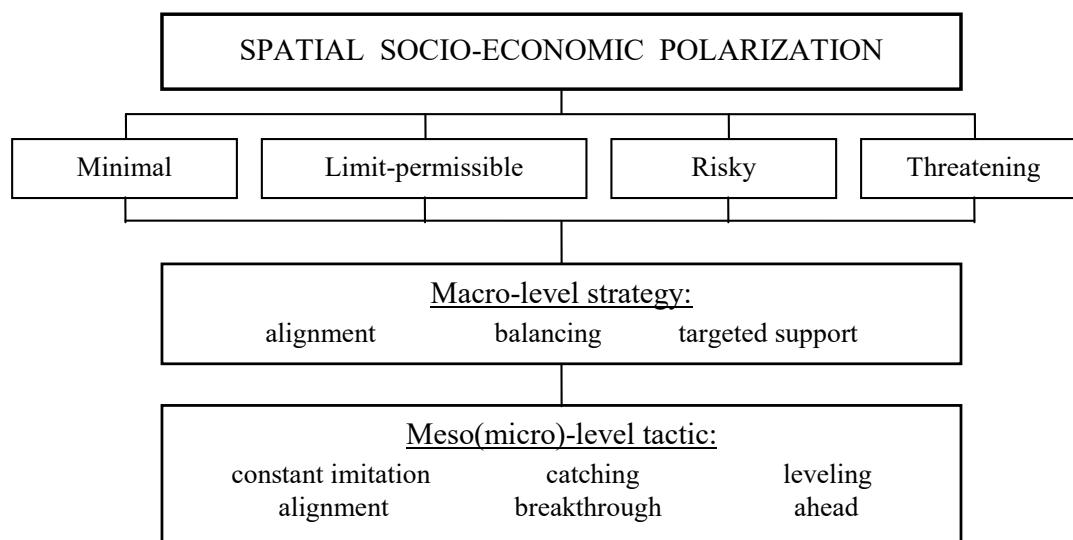


Table 1

**Socio-economic trends in Ukraine and neighboring EU countries: focus on migration**

№	Country	Absolute value, 2019	Average value, 2010-2019	Absolute deviation, 2019/2010	The rate of change, 2019/2010
1	<i>Population, thousand people</i>				
1.1	Poland	37887,8	38138,1	-442,0	0,99
1.2	Romania	19364,6	19899,6	-1107,3	0,95
1.3	Slovakia	5457,0	5451,2	52,7	1,01
1.4	Hungary	9684,7	9833,8	-242,7	0,98
1.5	Ukraine	43993,6	45058,1	-1798,4	0,96
2	<i>Average life expectancy, years</i>				
2.1	Poland	77,9	77,4	1,5	1,02
2.2	Romania	75,3	74,9	1,6	1,02
2.3	Slovakia	77,4	76,8	1,8	1,02
2.4	Hungary	76,3	75,7	1,6	1,02
2.5	Ukraine	72,0	71,4	1,6	1,02
3	<i>GDP per capita, euro</i>				
3.1	Poland	13780	11147	4990	1,47
3.2	Romania	11500	8245	5310	1,86
3.3	Slovakia	17210	14603	4650	1,37
3.4	Hungary	14950	11643	4990	1,50
3.5	Ukraine	3267	2536	1026	1,46
4	<i>Consumer price index to previous year, %</i>				
4.1	Poland	2,1	1,5	-0,5	0,81
4.2	Romania	3,9	2,7	-2,2	0,64
4.3	Slovakia	2,8	1,6	2,1	4,0
4.4	Hungary	3,4	2,5	-1,3	0,72
4.5	Ukraine	7,9	12,6	-1,5	0,84
5	<i>Employment rate at the age group 15-64, %</i>				
5.1	Poland	68,2	62,9	9,3	1,16
5.2	Romania	65,8	61,8	5,6	1,09
5.3	Slovakia	68,4	62,9	9,6	1,16
5.4	Hungary	70,1	62,5	15,2	1,28
5.5	Ukraine	58,2	57,8	-0,2	0,10
6	<i>Unemployment rate at the age group 15-74 years, %</i>				
6.1	Poland	3,3	7,5	-6,4	0,34
6.2	Romania	3,9	6,1	-3,1	0,56
6.3	Slovakia	5,8	11,1	-8,6	0,40
6.4	Hungary	3,4	7,4	-7,8	0,30
6.5	Ukraine	8,2	8,5	0,1	1,01
7	<i>Unemployment rate at the age group 15-24 years, %</i>				
7.1	Poland	9,9	20,2	-13,8	0,42
7.2	Romania	16,8	21,0	-5,3	0,76
7.3	Slovakia	16,1	26,3	-17,5	0,48
7.4	Hungary	11,4	19,0	-15,0	0,43
7.5	Ukraine	15,4	19,1	-2,0	0,89
8	<i>Minimum wage, U.S. dollars</i>				
8.1	Poland	586,0	503,4	149,2	1,34
8.2	Romania	490,8	302,0	302,0	2,60
8.3	Slovakia	582,1	469,6	174,2	1,43
8.4	Hungary	512,6	428,7	159,1	1,45
8.5	Ukraine	142,1	116,4	25,9	1,22
9	<i>Average monthly salary, U.S. dollars</i>				
9.1	Poland	1106,8	1106,7	37,5	1,03
9.2	Romania	1116,7	757,5	518,2	1,87
9.3	Slovakia	1350,2	1217,5	243,2	1,22
9.4	Hungary	1197,4	1094,7	118,6	1,11
9.5	Ukraine	406,1	308,7	124,0	1,44

Source: [13–15]



**Figure 1. Strategy and tactics of spatial socio-economic polarization regulation at different management levels**

Source: authors

– for the Transcarpathian region – automotive industry (car collection), production of computers, electronic and optical products, printing industry, organic agricultural production, viticulture and winemaking, green (agro-, ecological) tourism (currently the leading in region are chemical, textile industry, timber industry complex with dominant extensive approaches);

– for Ivano-Frankivsk region – production of electric motors, generators and transformers, production of organic and mineral fertilizers, fish farming, green (agro-, ecological) and recreational tourism (currently the leading in region are oil and gas, chemical industry, production of building materials with sometimes dominant extensive approaches);

– for Lviv region – production of eco-transport, radio-electronic industry, light industry, information technologies, printing industry, pharmaceuticals, cultural-cognitive and recreational tourism (currently the leading in region are machine building, chemical, food, woodworking industry, services with sometimes dominant extensive approaches);

– for Chernivtsi region – automotive industry (cable and wire products), electrical equipment production, alternative energy, organic farming, horticulture, meat and dairy farming, sheep breeding (currently the leading in region are woodworking, textile and food industries with dominant extensive approaches).

The propulsiveness of these sectors of the economy means the preservation and creation of jobs in various sectors – industrial, agricultural,

services. In the context of *regulating migration processes*, the support of propulsive industries will help improve the socio-economic situation in the regions and create attractive areas of cross-border cooperation with foreign investment and job creation on the ground.

Support for propulsive industries of the economy is necessary for the formation of financial reserves of the regions, which is relevant in the context of growing socio-economic polarization due to the Corona crisis.

**Conclusions.** Polarization is an interdisciplinary concept that allows determining the gaps between the studied objects by spatial and dialectical approaches. Spatial socio-economic polarization involves the analysis of indicators that reflect the socio-demographic and economic processes in the relevant areas in the dynamics and have a strong impact on economic growth and welfare. The analysis of socio-economic polarization is relevant for the territories that form territorial migration systems. Their asymmetry confirms the negative impact of polarization on the development of one of the territories associated with the risks of the demographic, ekistics-settlement, social, economic, information space deformation. The regions of Ukraine, bordering EU countries, suffer particularly from socio-economic polarization. This is the Carpathian region of Ukraine (Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Chernivtsi region), bordering with Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania. The comparison of the main socio-economic indicators of these countries shows the prob-

lematic motivational environment of the labor market in Ukraine and the severity of poverty in conditions of currency instability. The inefficiency of public policy forces the implementation of the principles of regionalization in the migration processes regulation and the improvement of the internal socio-economic environment. Regional authorities through strategic planning should identify propulsive industries of economy that are able to form the «growth poles» with the reorientation of outbound migration to domes-

tic. The state strategy of spatial and economic development should depart from the principles of balancing and equalization of regions, and introduce the priority of targeted support for sectors of the economy with propulsive properties.

The method of analysis of spatial socio-economic polarization needs to be improved with the selection of those indicators that have the greatest impact on migration processes. Therefore, this issue will be given special attention in further research.

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