

FORMATION OF REGULATORY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR REVITALIZATION OF DEGRADED TERRITORIES IN UKRAINE

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Abstract

The article assesses the incidence of regional policy on overcoming the crisis phenomena of territorial development in Ukraine. The evolution of regulatory and legal approaches to revitalization of degraded territories before Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine (2022) are examined for compliance with sustainable development concept. The methodology for identification of depressed territories and the development of state programs to overcome their depressed condition, legally regulated but as yet unimplemented, are discussed. It was found that due to the adoption of a number of laws and the State Strategy for Regional Development for the period of 2021-2027, there has been a move from declaring depressed territories to be policy targets, which de facto were deprived of state support. Attention is focused on the transition to a territorially-oriented state policy of regional development based on the identification of low-capacity areas, and application of special mechanisms and tools of state support. Among the measures of state regional policy in this field, the state support for potential centres of economic growth and integrated projects of developing territories with special developmental challenges is becoming increasingly important. Ways to improve the regulatory and legal framework for the revival

of degraded territories in Ukraine are considered separately. The strategic priorities of the regional policy of territorial development are analysed for their compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals, which are the basic guidelines for the revitalization of territories. It has been established that measures to overcome the crisis phenomena of territorial development, contained in the existing regional strategies, are mostly piecemeal. At the regional level, the policy of revitalization of territories is characterized by the presence of single integrated projects, aimed mostly at the recovery of neglected infrastructure facilities. The experience of integrated planning of territorial development testifies to the attempts to balance spatial, economic, social and environmental goals when forming regional policies. In summation, the prospects for the development of the policy of revitalization of degraded territories with the existing legal regulation are substantiated; conditions, under which the appropriate regulatory and legal framework will contribute to overcoming the threats of territorial decline in Ukraine, are outlined.

Keywords

Degraded territory; revitalization of degraded territories; urban policy; Ukraine.

1. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The subject of ensuring sustainable development of all without exception territories requires proper state intervention. Since the late nineties of the last century, Ukraine attempts to focus its state regional policies on the problems of individual territories. In fact, the disproportions of regional development due to the general degradation (economic, social, spatial, and environmental) experienced by cities and communities are deepening. Thus, the state policies have got to develop measures for overcoming the depressiveness of territories, which is coming to be considered primarily on the subregional level. The approved legislative standards and strategic provisions focused on policies regarding territories with socio-economic problems of a local character. In

accordance with the approved methodology, the state programs should have been developed throughout the depressed industrial or rural areas, and settlements affected by economic restructuring. They had to provide measures and funding for a gradual pulling these areas out of the crisis. However, in practice, public stimulation of the revival of depressed areas has not led to qualitative changes. Designing and funding for overcoming the depressiveness of territories were insufficient (Shults et. al. 2018). This necessitated a revision of the state regional policy in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian regions and cities themselves did not stand by the process of searching for ways to revitalize their degraded territories. Traditional approaches, in particular construction and repair of budget sphere facilities, proved to be unable to overcome crisis phenomena in a systematic manner. And thus, the strategic goals of regional development found a guideline – sustainable development of territories. Its realization requires that social, economic, and environmental interests are balanced in the course of revitalizing territories. On the other hand, a degraded territory's ability to recover is determined by its local potential: there are abandoned infrastructure objects (architectural monuments, industrial zones, parks, public spaces, etc.), but also human and managerial capacities for generating and embodying ideas. This is how the policies of urban revitalization in Ukraine emerge, initiating the relevant local projects.

The article aims to explore the evolution of the regulatory and legal framework for the revitalization of degraded territories in Ukraine. In order to achieve this goal, the following tasks are formulated: to establish state mechanisms for overcoming the depressiveness of territories at different stages of state formation; to define the change in approaches to the state regional policy regarding the support of low-capacity territories; to analyse regional and urban development strategies as to their orientation towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and revitalization of territories. Finally, it is necessary to answer the question whether the experience and the regulatory and legal framework developed at different levels of the Ukrainian public administration allow predicting the progress of city revitalization policy in the near future, as well as the conditions under which it can take place. Taking into account the successful global experience of city revitalization, substantiation of

these fundamental issues is important for public administration at the current stage.

The study combines the qualitative and quantitative methods of document analysis. The basic research method is content analysis which analyses the enshrining of provisions on depressed territories, sustainable development, and revitalization of cities (restoration, revival of degraded territories) in the regulatory documents of Ukraine. These include: The Concept of state regional policy (2001); Laws: "On Stimulating Regional Development" (2005), "On Fundamentals of State Regional Policy" (2015); Draft Law "On the Peculiarities of Stimulating Regional Development" (2021); state strategies for regional development in different periods, and the actual regional development strategies (MinRegion 2020).

The research envisaged a semantic analysis of the content of the key regulatory and legal acts in the field of the state regional policy of Ukraine regarding the principles of overcoming the depressiveness of territories, taking into account the evolution of their approval. Regional development strategies were analysed to better understand planning the Sustainable Development Goals and the measures for revitalization of degraded urban areas. Therefore, using comparative analysis, extrapolation and abstract-logical methods, the findings of the research are generalized, and conclusions are formulated as to the state of the regulatory and legal framework for revitalizing degraded territories in Ukraine.

2. ATTEMPTS TO OVERCOME THE DEPRESSIVENESS OF TERRITORIES IN UKRAINE

At the beginning of the 21st century, the President of Ukraine approved the Concept of State Regional Policy (Decree 2001). Stimulation of the development of regions or their parts, where indicators of economic development and social protection of citizens, established by law, were significantly lower than the corresponding average indicators across the country (depressed territories), was

determined as one of the areas of activity to improve the then state of regional governance. It was planned to achieve the above-mentioned by introducing special mechanisms of budget, tax, price, monetary, innovation and investment policy relating to depressed territories. They had to aim at stimulation of a more efficient use of the territories' natural, economic, scientific, and labour resources. It needed to create the most favourable economic, legal and institutional conditions to speed up the acceleration of socio-economic development, overcoming territorial depressiveness. At the same time, the status of a depressed territory and the forms of state support for the development of such territories were to be determined by law on the basis of a comprehensive scientifically substantiated assessment of their economic, financial, ecological, and social status.

In accordance with the aforementioned Concept, at the first stage (2001-2003), it was envisaged to improve the legislation on regional policies, including state incentives for depressed territories development. The central executive body in charge of regional policy and support for local self-government had to be established.

In practice, the execution of this Decree was carried out quite slowly and practically did not correspond to the timeframe set by the Concept (Natalenko 2021). The formulation of legislation in the field of state regional policy was started belatedly in 2005 with the adoption of the Law "On Stimulating Regional Development", the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine was established in 2007; the while the framework Law "On the Fundamentals of State Regional Policy" was adopted only in 2015.

The Law of Ukraine dated September 8, 2005 No. 2850-IV "On Stimulating Regional Development" (2005) determined the legal, economic and organizational principles of implementing the state regional policy, to provide incentives for the development of regions and overcome the depression of territories. First of all, it defined the term 'depressive territory' as a region or part of it (an area or settlement) recognized as depressed under conditions and in accordance with the procedure specified by this Law. According to the Law, the depressed status is provided to a territory with the aim to create legal, economic and organizational basis for public authorities and local self-

government bodies to use special measures stimulating the development of such territories (Article 6). The Law divides depressed territories into the following groups: a region; an industrial district; a rural district; a city of regional, or republican (in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea) significance (Article 6). In this case, a territory may be recognized as depressed, if the socio-economic indicators of its development correspond to all the conditions established for its group (Article 9), namely:

- 1) The region where, over the past five years, the average volume of gross regional product (before 2004 – volume of gross added value) per person was the lowest;
- 2) The industrial district, in which, over the past three years, the registered unemployment rate and the share of the population employed in industry were significantly higher, while the volume of sold industrial production (works, services) per person and average monthly wages were significantly lower than the relevant average development indicators for the territories of this group;
- 3) The rural district where, over the past three years, the density of rural population, the coefficient of natural population growth, average monthly wages and the volume of sold agricultural products (works, services) per person were significantly lower, while the share of farm workers is significantly higher than the relevant average development rates for territories of this group;
- 4) The city of regional or republican (in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea) significance, in which over the past three years, the rate of registered unemployment, in particular long-term, is much higher, and the average monthly wage level is much lower than the corresponding average rates development for the territories of this group;
- 5) The settlement, in the territory of which coal mines and coal refineries have been liquidated since 1996, but the measures, envisaged by the liquidation projects to resolve socio-economic and environmental issues were not implemented in full.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, based on the monitoring of the relevant indicators of the development of regions, districts and cities of the regional or republican (in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea) significance, is authorized to identify territories to be given the depressed status, and to establish their

boundaries; to determine the term, for which a territory is given the depressed status; to set out state incentive for territorial development in order to overcome the depressiveness, their forms and conditions of use; the ratio of state, regional and other kinds of financial resources allocated to specific measures, etc. (Law 2005).

The Programme for overcoming the depressiveness of territories was to be the main tool of depressed territories' revitalization. The central executive body responsible for state regional policy was to develop the Programme by getting other central executive authorities, local executive authorities, and local governments involved in that process. Yet, unfortunately, this tool was not used. During the years of implementation of the Law of Ukraine "On Stimulating Regional Development", four cities (Tokmak, Zaporizhzhia region; Novyi Rozdil, Lviv region; Iziium, Kharkiv region; and Pervomaisk, Kharkiv region) received the status of a depressed territory (Resolution 2011). However, no program for addressing the depressiveness of these and other territories has ever been adopted (Explanatory note 2021).

The depressed territories were also mentioned in the State Strategy for Regional Development for the period up to 2020, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 6 August, 2014 No. 385. It was determined that a vehicle for implementing the Strategy is the creation of the state programs addressing the depressiveness of individual territories. In order to reconcile these programs with regional development strategies and their implementation plans, it was planned to amend the legislation by extending the list of indicators that characterize the state of depressiveness (to include indicators characterizing local population's social situation) (Resolution 2014). Yet, the list of relevant indicators was not identified during legislative work. Partial solutions to one or another problem of regional policy were continuously proposed without coordination and formation of a holistic view of the development of territories (Kuibida 2017, 13).

Therefore, due to the absence of systematic measures regarding the alleviation of depressiveness, and inadequate substantiation of the criteria for assigning territories the depressed status, the state regional policy was declarative and did not have a real impact on the revitalization of territories.

3. CHANGING APPROACHES TO STATE REGIONAL POLICY

An important step towards the further formation of state regional policy in Ukraine was the adoption of the Law of Ukraine dated 5 February, 2015, No. 156-VIII "On the Fundamentals of State Regional Policy" (2015), which defined the main legal, economic, social, environmental, humanitarian and organizational principles of the state regional policies as an integral part of Ukraine's internal policy. Being a framework law, it outlined possible targets of state regional policy: the territory of regions, macro-regions, and micro-regions (Article 4). In particular, the macro-region is part of the territory of Ukraine comprising several regions or parts thereof, united by common features deriving from common developmental challenges, within which development programs intended specifically for this territory are implemented. Whereas the micro-region is part of the territory of a region, characterized by territorial integrity and certain developmental features, within which regional development projects intended specifically for this territory are implemented. Thus, the subjects of state regional policy were enabled to single out certain territories of various sizes in order to exert a targeted public-administrative impact.

Along with that, one of the state regional policy priorities (Article 6) was defined to be the identification of problematic territories within the regions and implementation of state actions to address their problems. The Law established the basis of a new territorially-oriented state regional policy, which provides for both extension of the general policy rules to all regions, and identification of territories, to which special approaches may be applied when solving their problems and supporting their development (Tkachuk 2021).

Improvement of the approaches to forming and implementing the state regional policy of Ukraine was presented in the State Strategy of Regional Development for the period of 2021-2027, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 5 August, 2020, No. 695. Comparative characteristics of the introduced changes is given in Table no 1.

Table no 1. Comparative characteristics of approaches to forming and implementing the state regional policy of Ukraine within the framework of the implementation of the State Strategy of Regional Development

##	Elements of the policy	Approaches to forming and implementing the state regional policy	
		2014-2020	2021-2027
1.	Targets of the policy	<p>providing financial support to less developed regions</p> <p>declaring depressed territories to be policy targets, which de facto did not receive assistance</p>	<p>determining the type of territories that require the use of special mechanisms and state support tools</p> <p>building competitive regions and a functional territory by attracting all development actors and the use of the key assets of the region / territory as the basis for providing financial support from the state budget</p>
2.	Approach to planning	dominance of a sectoral approach that does not take into account the specifics of different types of the country's territories	identification of territories in need of state support, and planning their development on the basis of an integrated approach (combination of branch-specific and territorial approaches)
3.	Types of projects	directing subsidies and state aid mainly to capital construction facilities (state investment	directing state investments in material and intangible assets in the form of the so-called 'hard' and 'soft'

		exclusively in objects of state or communal property)	development projects based on high-quality diagnostics of the potential and problems of territories in need of state support
4.	Subjects of policy formation and implementation	policy-making and implementation was carried out exclusively by central executive authorities, the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, regional, Kyiv and Sevastopol City State Administrations	policy-making and implementation is carried out at all levels of governance (central, regional, local) with involvement of non-governmental organizations
5.	Financing	lack of targeted financing of the Strategy and programs of regional development, a program of sectoral budget support within the framework of implementing action plans of the Strategy	targeted allocation of the funds of the State Regional Development Fund for the implementation of regional development programs that ensure the fulfilment of specific tasks of the Strategy
6.	Spatial planning	failure to comply with the requirements of urban development documentation (General scheme of planning of the territory of Ukraine, land-planning schemes of the regional level, general	mandatory taking into account the requirements of urban development documentation (General scheme of planning of the territory of Ukraine, land-planning schemes of the regional level, general plans

		plans of settlements) when implementing state investment programs / measures	of settlements) when implementing state investment programs / measures
7.	Inter-ministerial coordination	inter-ministerial coordination is absent due to inefficient work of the Interdepartmental Coordination Commission on Regional Development	ensuring by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of a proper level of coordination, in particular through the Interdepartmental Coordination Commission on Regional Development
8.	Institutional capacity	the institutional capacity of the baseline level of governance is at the initial stage formation of regional development agencies as regional policy subjects	ensuring the capacity of territorial communities to strategically plan development and effectively manage resources for development formation of regional development agencies as real subjects of regional policy

Source: Resolution 2020.

The changes to forming and implementing the state regional policy indicate the attempt to define the object of policy in a different way, planning territorial development on the basis of an integrated approach, improving inter-ministerial coordination and institutional capacity. It assumes regional policy-making at all levels of governance with involvement of non-governmental organizations, ensuring the capacity of territorial communities to strategically plan development and effectively manage resources for development. The new state regional policy provides directing state investments in material and intangible assets in the form of the so-called 'hard' and 'soft' development projects. They

have to be based on high-quality diagnostics of the potential and problems of territories in need of state support. The changes are advisable with a view to open up new opportunities for territorial development.

Consequently, the state territorial development policy has shifted from declarative attempts at the central level to outline depressed territories and implementation programs to overcome their depressiveness. The State Strategy for Regional Development for the period of 2021-2027, defines the following types of territories that need particular attention from the state and the use of special mechanisms and tools to provide incentives for their development: agglomerations; large, middle-size and small towns; mono-functional cities, rural areas in unfavourable conditions; mountainous areas in the Ukrainian Carpathians; the macro-region "Azov-Black Sea"; zones of impact of international transport corridors; border regions; border territories in adverse conditions; temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine; natural conservation areas and objects (Resolution 2020).

The current Strategy proclaims a transition to a territorially-oriented development policy based on stimulating the use of the territories' own potential, providing support to individual territories characterized by special challenges of socio-economic development, high historical and cultural potential, high level of environmental protection and care for environmental needs. It is assumed that the state regional policy measures will be directed, among other things, to support potential centres for economic growth that may have a positive impact on the development of neighbouring territories, affecting positively the development of the region as a whole, as well as to support integrated projects of development of territories with special developmental challenges.

The outlined in the State Regional Development Strategy for the period of 2021-2027 functional territories (centres that have signs of development kernels; centres in need of support; centres that need assistance; centres that are badly in need of assistance) will be in the focus of state regional policy for the nearest future. At the same time, the document does not reflect the methods of identifying these territories, in particular criteria for determining crisis

phenomena concentration, or a list of territories that can be attributed to a particular group, etc. (Storonianska 2020, 4).

Eventually, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in June 2021, registered a draft Law of Ukraine “On the Peculiarities of Stimulating Regional Development”, introduced by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (2021). It defines the special aspects of implementing the state regional policy regarding incentives for the development of regions and certain types of territories that require special attention from the state, as well as the use of special incentives for their development. In this Law, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine proposes: introduction of a new terminology and the procedure for identifying the types of territories that require special attention from the state (taking into account certain features of economic development, geographic location, environmental condition, demographic situation); stimulation of regional development at the national and regional levels; extending the list of instruments for stimulating the development of territories with limited developmental capacities; and declaring the Law of Ukraine “On Stimulating Regional Development” repealed (Explanatory note 2021).

The draft Law (2021) divides territories with limited capacities for development into the following functional types:

- a territory that is subject to economic restructuring (micro-regions or territorial communities, in which the volumes of production and the number of the population employed in production were reduced over the past five years, leading to unemployment, the rate of which is significantly higher than the regional average; their development is connected with a single industrial function, or they are classified as centres of coal-mining, extraction of ore and non-ore raw materials, chemical and oil refining industry, the decline of which results in intense depopulation processes, deterioration of the environment, and a growth of unemployment rates);
- a border territory in adverse conditions;
- a rural territory in unfavourable conditions;
- a territory with development restrictions (territorial communities located in the mountain lands of the Carpathians; territories including nature reserve areas and objects, and their functional and conservation zones, protected areas and

objects of the ecological network, wetlands of international importance, UNESCO World Heritage objects, etc.).

State and regional programs of regional development of territories of low developmental capacity are considered as new instruments for overcoming the depressiveness of territories, which means the need to substantiate methodological principles of this activity. It applies to the procedure for developing, approving, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of such programs. This task is facing the central and regional authorities.

4. ORIENTATION OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

The State Strategy of Regional Development for the period of 2021-2027, developed in compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030, approved by the Decree of the President of Ukraine dated 30 September, 2019 No. 722, determines the general vector of the regions' sustainable development. In accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On the Fundamentals of State Regional Policy" (2015), regional development strategies must comply with the provisions of the State Strategy for Regional Development of Ukraine. Article 10 of this Law says that the devising of regional development strategies is carried out, taking into account the development strategies of cities, towns and villages, the priority development of depressed territories, and strategic priorities of developing these regions' districts.

For the period of validity of the State Strategy for Regional Development of Ukraine, i.e. 2021-2027, each region of Ukraine has approved its own regional development strategy (MinRegion 2020). However, only a few regional strategies (Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Ternopil regions) mention their depressed territories here and there, although without any specific tasks for their development. This lack of mentioning has a negative effect over the further focusing the attention of policy makers on approaches out of the territorial crisis,

implementation of tools for overcoming the depressiveness of territories for a strategic perspective. At the same time, a detailed diagnostics of the crisis phenomena of territorial development (social, economic, spatial, and environmental) is contained in all the regional strategies, which ultimately leads to seeking ways to revitalize individual territories of cities and communities. For the most part, the strategies provide for the development of infrastructure, in the first place the restoration of highways; improving the quality and availability of public services, including in the field of education, medicine, social protection; protection and reproduction of natural resources. The strategic goals specified in these documents reflect the Sustainable Development Goals. It should be noted that there are sustainable development goals that dominate in the regional development strategies of Ukraine, namely:

- ensuring openness, safety, vitality and environmental stability of cities and other settlements (all regions);
- creation of sustainable infrastructure, promotion of comprehensive and steady industrialization and innovation (an overwhelming majority of regions);
- promotion of sustainable economic growth, full productive employment and decent work for all (Donetsk, Zhytomyr, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Rivne, Chernivtsi regions);
- provision of high-quality education (Volyn, Dnipropetrovsk, Transcarpathian, Kyiv region, the city of Kyiv);
- promotion of sustainable development of agriculture (Zhytomyr, Kherson, Cherkasy and Chernihiv regions);
- building of a peaceful society in the interests of sustainable development; creation of effective, accountable and participative institutions (Vinnytsia, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv regions).

According to the strategic priorities Ukrainian regional and local authorities must develop effective measures to address socially significant issues of sustainable development, including for overcoming the degradation of urban areas.

The sustainable development of cities and communities are affected by the measures for revitalizing territories, in particular those taken to revitalize the economy of the territories in the northern part of Kyiv region which suffered as

a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe; support for small mono-functional cities, and revitalization of territories contaminated by explosive objects (Donetsk region); revitalization (restoration) of the central part of the historical cities of Ternopil region; reconstruction of the historical and architectural heritage of Volyn region; revitalization of castles in Cherkasy region; re-arrangement and development of public spaces in Kyiv; protection, restoration and preservation of cultural heritage objects (Zhytomyr, Kherson, Chernivtsi, Chernihiv regions), etc.

Along with this, a new direction in urban policy is developing – strategic planning of integrated development of territories. Within the framework of the Project “Municipal Development and Rehabilitation of the Old Part of Lviv”, which was carried out by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), GmbH, two integrated development concepts were presented: in 2011 – for the central part of Lviv (Lviv City Council 2011); and in 2015 – for downtown Chernivtsi (Chernivtsi City Council 2015). The concepts are based on short-, medium- and long-term projects of revitalizing residential buildings, cultural sites, architectural monuments; development of public spaces; environmental protection and adaptation to climate change; updating of engineering and technical infrastructure; streamlining of the work of public transport; expansion of proposals in tourism and culture; intensifying business activity, in particular in trade and services; modernization of urban governance; stimulating social partnership and public participation, etc. Subsequently, with the support of a GIZ project “Integrated Development of Cities in Ukraine I, II”, the integrated planning measures are realized in Lviv, Chernivtsi, Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Poltava, Melitopol, Kharkiv, and Podilskyi district of Kyiv (GIZ 2019).

The experience of strategic integrated planning of territorial development is important for the formation of policies of urban revitalization in Ukraine, since it addresses spatial, economic, social and environmental goals. Alongside with application of a comprehensive approach to sustainable development of the entire urban territory, attempts to zone the city’s territory in the process of strategic territorial planning have become more prevalent. Thus, preconditions are created for a better understanding of the needs and identification of local capacities of individual urban areas, and if necessary, restoration of their

functions and attractiveness. The integrated measures for revitalizing degraded territories should be consistent with the concept of urban development and innovative (Horbliuk and Dehtiarova 2021). In this process, it is necessary to reconcile the interests of all stakeholders, applying the instruments of public participation and public-private partnership.

It should be noted that strategic planning of regional development based on the Sustainable Development Goals and the integrated approach to territorial development creates an effective basis for the revival of degraded areas. At the same time, as a result of the decentralization reform in Ukraine (2014-2020), the certain powers and financial resources for the implementation of territorial development policy were transferred to local governments. The dominant influence of the central government on the development of territories in the previous period did not lead to significant results. The problems of Ukraine's cohesion were identified and included in the strategic goal of forming a single space on the entire state territory only after the beginning of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine (2014). For a long time, low coordination of actions of public authorities that impacted on regional development had remained a serious challenge. The role of cities in the development of regions and territories has increased sharply in the process of decentralization. Cities can extend their influence to degraded areas, reducing socio-economic disparities between regions. Establishing an effective system of multilevel governance can solve the most of territorial problems in the state.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Summing up the analysis of the formation of the regulatory and legal framework for revitalization of degraded territories in Ukraine, it is necessary to emphasize the basic characteristics of this process.

1. The initiative of public support of territories that are in crisis belongs to the state; it was implemented in the early 2000s. Legislative settlement of issues pertinent to overcoming depressiveness of territories is associated with the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On Stimulating Regional Development".

However, the mechanisms of the policies that were based on the proposed methodology for identification of depressed territories and state programs to overcome their depressiveness have not been put into practice. This is due to the lack of sufficient funding and investment, low level of designing the development of depressed areas. The central level of government was not able to solve all the problems of the territories that were in crisis.

2. In the course of further evolution of state regional policy, primarily as a result of the adoption of the Law of Ukraine “On the Fundamentals of State Regional Policy” and approval of the State Regional Development Strategy for the period of 2021-2027, there was an ultimate shift from declaring depressed territories as policy targets, which de-facto did not receive state assistance, to identification of different types of territories (including centres of economic development that require state support and assistance), with applying to them special mechanisms and state support instruments. However, the methodology for identifying such territories and the relevant policy tools are still insufficiently substantiated. It primarily applies to the criteria for determining the concentration of crisis phenomena of territorial development. Inconsistency of actions at the stage of diagnosing the conditions leads to low motivation of some public authorities in the process of revitalization of degraded territories. At the same time, a set of tools for their overcoming depends on the results of the diagnosis of crisis phenomena.

3. Regional development strategies are largely aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goals, in the first place Goal 11 “Sustainable development of cities and communities”, which can be traced in the strategic provisions of the development of all the regions and the city of Kyiv. At the same time, measures envisaged by regional strategies for overcoming the crisis phenomena in territorial development are mostly piecemeal. The policy of revitalization of territories at the regional level was not expressed clearly, being characterized by single integrated projects that mostly provide for restoration of neglected infrastructure facilities.

The policy of city revitalization, being based on the regulations existing in Ukraine, can develop slowly at the expense of local initiatives. Rapid changes in this field are only possible, in case policies for revitalizing degraded urban

territories are formed at all levels of public governance. To achieve this, the state should pay a close attention to urban politics, announcing revitalization of territories a strategic priority. When considering certain types of territories that require a special attention of the state, it is expedient to add a 'degraded local area' (part of the territory of a city or community). The concept of urban revitalization should be consolidated at the legislative level through establishing a procedure for the development and implementation of programs of degraded territories revitalization. At the same time, financial support instruments for implementing such programs should be developed at the regional level. Under these conditions, the regulatory framework for the introduction of revitalization of degraded territories will become an adequate response to the threat of territorial decline in Ukraine.

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