

DECENTRALIZATION AS ONE OF THE ELEMENTS OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT OF A STATE

Ukraine, as a European state, requires a great deal of change, and above all reforms and transformations in almost all spheres of life, including decentralization. Improving the quality of life of its citizens, changing the quality of its territorial management, etc. is the basis for significant institutional change. Administrative-territorial reform in Ukraine is necessary to optimize the system of territorial governance, streamline the relations of authorities at different hierarchical levels, and ultimately to promote the improvement of the standards of living of citizens in every city or village.

Decentralization of power is one of the important steps in the reform agenda in Ukraine, and it is also one of the elements of the state policy of regional spatial development. The spatial development concept is the sphere of realization of the main priorities of national and regional policy. It stood out, on the one hand, against the backdrop of the immensely popular "global thinking" of the second half of the twentieth century, of all kinds of "developments" (with definitions of "sustainable", "environmental", "balanced", etc.), and on the other hand, within the framework of industry terminology, generalizing and politically transforming concepts such as spatial or regional planning. In today's European context, this concept refers to a set of organized actions for managing elements and links of territories, a system of actions and policies aimed at optimizing spatial change (development) [1].

Taking into account the concept of "decentralization", it can be concluded that in theoretical and practical studies it is multidimensional and is interpreted as a system of distribution of functions and powers between state and local levels of government with the empowerment of the latter. It is a specific system of government under which part of the functions of central government goes to local governments.

Successful implementation of decentralization processes, as one of the directions of the "Ukraine 2020" Sustainable Development Strategy, requires real interaction of equal partners in the format of "Ukrainian State - Officials of Local Self-Government Bodies - Territorial Community - Citizen". According to the Law of Ukraine dated 05.02.2015 No. 157-VIII "On voluntary association of territorial communities", united territorial communities (UTCs) were created. They were

given wider powers and somewhat increased resources, but there were problems that threaten the success of the reform. The lack of consideration of the methodological foundations of building a system of administrative and territorial structure of the state is a weak point, while the other is the organizational and institutional shortcomings of the process of practical implementation of the reform.

The process of power decentralization and local self-government reform is rapidly developing in the Zaporizhzhia region. So after a few years after the implementation of the reform, the communities of Zaporizhzhia region have reason to be proud of. Based on the results of the research on the implementation of the reform objectives, it is necessary to highlight the positive (strong) factors: first of all, under the parameter "Area of capable communities" (united territorial communities, cities of regional importance) (65.3%) the region occupies the 1st place, according to "Number of districts in the region where no UTC are formed and there are no territorial communities that have not joined the UTCs (0%)" - 1st place, according to the indicator "Prospective Plans of the Territory of the Region" (100%) - 1st place, according to "Number of territorial communities which did not unite or were not joined» (35.8%) - 2nd place [2]. Four areas are completely covered by communities. Two of them are in the form of "district format - one community". In total, 52 united territorial communities were created in the region, which is why Zaporizhzhia region has been and still is the leader in implementing decentralization reform in Ukraine.

According to the monitoring of the decentralization process and the reform of local self-government, which is conducted monthly by the Ministry of Regional Development, as of February 10, 2019, five regions - leaders in forming capable communities - have changed. According to the new parameters, Zhytomyr region has returned to the first place, Dnipropetrovsk region, which was only eighth last month, has become second. Zaporizhzhia region remains in the "green" zone of leaders of decentralization and ranks third. Khmelnytskyi region closes the first five. According to the updated monitoring criteria, Zaporizhzhia region ranks first in several positions [2].

Thus, the processes of decentralization of power and the creation of united territorial communities aim primarily at increasing the quality of life of the population. The main purpose of the reform is to create a system of government with the greatest involvement of the local population in solving their problems, as well as using their own resources. Therefore, the transformation of spatial development should be based on three main approaches that are implemented through economic and legal mechanisms (decentralization of power), economic - strategy, organizational - the formation of UTC, which are implemented as a result of changes in the spatial development of the region.

REFERENCES

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