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CONCEPT OF «BORDER AREA» IN THE CONDITIONS OF INTERREGIONAL ACTIVATION AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN UKRAINE

Key words: area, boundary, region, administrative and territorial unit, border area

In the article the directions of border regions are defined. The essence of the concept of «border area» in terms of geographical approach is used. Determined that the border regions are those administrative units of the state adjacent to the state border and have a number of specific characteristics due to the proximity of foreign countries (in the economic, social and cultural levels) and perform the specific functions associated with cross-border activities. It was found that the main criterion for identifying the border area can be considered as the distance from the state border it usually is 30–50 km. from the border. It was also found you can not ignore the economic, social, cultural and historical characteristics of the territory that may significantly expand the boundaries of the border area.

Ukraine has considerable experience in organizing international relations for most regions of its territory are border and common borders with EU countries in the West and with Russia and Belarus in the East. Therefore the question of border areas which due to geographical and socio-economic characteristics are specific administrative-territorial units, it is very important to study because the potential of border areas in Ukraine is being implemented partially .

Analysis of recent researches and publications is indicative of the wide interest in the study of borders, border and cross-border regions. Related topics reflected in the works of many Russian scientists: P.O. Maslyak, V.M. Litvin, E.B. Alaev etc. [2, 7, 10]. Despite of presence a significant amount of literature and publication works from this topic there is no consensus about the status and definition of «boundary territory».

The aim of this article is to clarify the definition of «boundary territory» by summarizing the different approaches.

The government is making steps towards the development of border areas and strengthening their role in the economy evidenced by that the State strategy of regional development of Ukraine for the period until 2015 which noted that government support should be focused on the development of cross-border cooperation in the field of infrastructure development mainly transport and environment, territorial planning, enhance tourism [1].

In this Strategy identify the following areas of border regions activity development:

- the development of cross-border cooperation;

- the development of cross-border cooperation between regions.

Before talking about the analysis of socio-economic policy in border areas and development of these territories, it is necessary to understand what «border area» means.

For greater clarity and understanding of the set out material in figure shows a map of Ukraine regions.

In this case the term «boundary territory» would be appropriate to consider through the lens of geography, law and economics.

From the position of geography «territory» is part of the earth's surface with defined borders that separate it from other parcels of land. Also distinguish the notion of «territory of a state» which are defined on the basis of international law part of the earth's surface (land, internal waters and the airspace above them) on which extend the exclusive sovereignty of that state. This means that a certain separated from others earth's surface guided only by the laws of a particular state which has the exclusive right to use the land (territory) at their own discretion. Within the territory of the state inevitably comprehensive combination of the most diverse objects is happening which begin to act as a single organism [2].

The law of Ukraine «State border of Ukraine» defines the state border as a line and the vertical surface passing on this line that defines the boundaries of the territory of Ukraine — land, water, subsoil, airspace [3]. It is logical that the cross-boundary — it is close to the border, is next to it. That is a frontier area of state space (land, air, wa-

ter) located close to the border. As a criterion which divides the territory in such close to the border, i. e. is cross- border and those do not belong to the cross-boundaries the vast majority of scholars considers the distance to the border.

Including that all relations in Ukraine are regulated by normative-legal acts let us consider the notion of a «boundary territory» from the position of law. The basic normative-legal acts on the status of administrative-territorial units are the Constitution of Ukraine, Law of Ukraine «Foreign economic activity», «State border», «Transborder cooperation». In addition there are a number of Decrees of the President of Ukraine and international agreements of borders cooperation, overall economic development and so on.

In article 133 of the Constitution of Ukraine it is stipulates that the system of administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine consists of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, oblasts, districts, cities, districts in cities, towns and villages [4].

Based on the above judgments we can conclude that formally Ukraine has no such administrative-territorial unit as a border territory.

Consider the nature of «administrative unit» and find out whether the border area with thoughtful features can belong to the administrative-territorial units of Ukraine.

In the draft Law of Ukraine «Ukraine's territorial arrangement» under the administrative-territorial unit understand integral part of the state territory as prescribed by law with appropriate geographic, demographic and socio-economic con-



Map of the Ukrainian regions

ditions is the territorial basis for the organization and activities of state power bodies and bodies of local self-government [5, 6].

Ideally the administrative-territorial structure should reflect the specifics of the internal «territorial tectonics» — dimensions controlled by this society of the territory, population density, the optimality system of communications, the historical features of the settlement, the role of cities as centers of attraction. In our case a consequence of prolonged period without power and territorial imbalances become noticeable the current «needs» of the States metropolitan areas; in the administrative-territorial unit they are reflecting mostly strangers dynastic interests, the consequences of wars and diplomatic [7].

As we can see it is clearly defined the territory with a number of properties (geographic, demographic, socio-economic) in its essence it can be administrative-territorial unit. Define if a border area has defined geographical boundaries and specific properties that would distinguish it as an administrative and territorial unit.

The law of Ukraine «State border» does not give a clear definition of «frontier territory» but it does highlight the concept of «borderline» and «controlled border areas». In accordance with article 22 of the law a border strip is mounted directly along the state border of Ukraine on its land plots or along the banks of border rivers, lakes and other water bodies taking into account terrain features and conditions that are determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Border strip does not include towns and places of mass rest of the population [8].

The above arguments are solely based on geographical approach to the definition of the border area ignores the economic, social, cultural and other features that would give reason to classify and other areas that may be not directly adjacent to the state border however on all the above options can be a borderline territory. Therefore this definition is getting narrow the scope of the term «frontier territory» and does not allow unambiguous identification of cross-border territory as an administrative-territorial unit.

The law of Ukraine «Transborder cooperation» logically should be the basic legal act in regard to the legal aspects of socio-economic relations in border areas. However the term «border area» in it is absent. In other legislative acts of Ukraine the definition of the border area is absent too.

The interpretation of the term «border area» only is in the concept of National strategy of formation and development of cross-border clusters according to which the border region (border area) is the administrative unit at various levels located near the state border [9].

However this definition is still vague since there are no criteria that clearly define the level of administrative-territorial units (region, district or city) and which could expose the essence of the term «directly at the border».

Since there are divergent in the views on the number of administrative units that comprise the border region and also does not determine by their level (village, district, region, etc) it is necessary to clarify this question.

By socio-economic approach the border regions can be seen as the unification of the frontier areas that form the transboundary interregional Association «Carpathian Euroregion», «Bug», «The lower Danube» and «Upper Prut», «Dnipro», «Slobozhanshyna»).

Ukrainian part of the Carpathian Euroregion is presented by the national office of 4 regions: Zakarpattya, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Chernivtsi. It is due to the similarity of their socio-economic development, territorial belonging to the border with European Union.

In economics geography and regional economics the term «economic region» is used in the context of territorially integral part of the national economy which has such features as specialization; complexity; controllability [10].

Border region also is define by the economists-scientists as an administrative-territorial unit which is after the next state level and located directly along the state border. This definition is based on the definition of «region» which was proposed by the Assembly of European Regions. Region is a territorial unit, subject of the public law formed at a level below after state and endowed with the right of political self-governance. The region will be recognized in the national Constitution or law which guarantees its autonomy, identity, powers and organizational structure [11].

Despite the fact that this definition is not official it's included in the terminological tools of the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Thus based on the definition of «region» proposed by AER, «The Concept of State Regional Policy» as the regions of Ukraine recognizes the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, oblasts,

cities Kyiv and Sevastopol [12]. Administrative-territorial unit is recognized as a border region (border area) for Ukraine would be appropriate to choose an oblast because it is holistic group, has a clear geographical boundaries and specific geographical, socio-cultural and economic features which is associated with the historical development and the current administrative-territorial device of Ukraine. The benefit of the region as the optimal level of administrative-territorial units is evidenced by the European approach, and the statements of scientists in particular V.M. Litvin analyze. In addition the budget planning is a strong argument in support of this idea which is carried out at the regional level and allows you more accurately take into account the peculiarities of the border area development.

Conclusion. The concept of «frontier territory» with using geographic, legal, economic approaches have come to the conclusion that the border area is a territorial unit of the state (for Ukraine) that adjacent to the state border have a number of specific features due to the neighboring foreign countries (in economic, social and cultural levels) as well as perform the specific functions related to cross-border activities (export/import of goods, services, labor and so on).

Any «border territory» has a number of specific features which include the presence of a boundary, the presence of certain natural and geographical environment and the territory belonging to holistic ecosystem that objectively is formed and operated independently from the state border, joint (with neighboring countries) the use of natural resources and consequently the joint solution of ecological safety problems, the sustainability of historical, cultural, ethnic, socio-economic relations with neighboring states, the broader mutual communication of the neighboring states population and the personal relationship of people, a significant level of involvement of local communities in transboundary cooperation, significantly higher load on the infrastructure (roads, communications, service, roadside infrastructure), a saturation boundary space that is characterized by the density and intensity of the processes and phenomena that occur in it, the awareness of their belonging to border areas, particularly associated with the national composition of cross-border areas (the presence of national minorities, representatives of several ethnic groups), the peripheral

atmosphere of the border territory as to the administrative centers of their countries.

The distance from the border (typically 30—50 km from the border) is the main criterion that defines the border region. At the same time it is necessary to consider the economic and socio-cultural and historical features of the territory which can greatly extend the limits of particular border territory.

One of the border areas features is the implementation of cross-border (transboundary) cooperation. In Ukraine the most common form of this cooperation are the euroregions.

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ДЕФИНИЦИЯ ПОНЯТИЯ «ПОГРАНИЧНАЯ ТЕРРИТОРИЯ» В УСЛОВИЯХ АКТИВИЗАЦИИ МЕЖРЕГИОНАЛЬНОГО И ТРАНСГРАНИЧНОГО СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА В УКРАИНЕ

В статье определены направления развития приграничных регионов. Используются научные подходы к толкованию понятия «пограничная территория»: географический, правовой, социально-экономический. Установлено, что пограничные территории — это такие административно-территориальные единицы страны, прилегающие к государственной границе, которые имеют ряд специфических особенностей, обусловленных соседством других государств (в экономическом, социальном и культурном уровнях), а также выполняющие специфические функции, связанные с трансграничной деятельностью. Установлено, что основным критерием, который идентифицирует пограничную территорию, можно считать расстояние от государственной границы, как правило это 30—50 км от границы. Наряду с этим установлено, что нельзя игнорировать экономические, социальные, культурные, исторические особенности территории, которые могут значительно расширить границы приграничной территории.

Ключевые слова: территория, граница, регион, административно-территориальная единица, пограничная территория.

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ДЕФІНІЦІЯ ПОНЯТТЯ «ПРИКОРДОННА ТЕРИТОРІЯ» В УМОВАХ АКТИВІЗАЦІЇ МІЖРЕГІОНАЛЬНОГО ТА ТРАНСКОРДОННОГО СПІВРОБІТНИЦТВА В УКРАЇНІ

У статті визначено напрями розвитку прикордонних регіонів. Використано наукові підходи щодо тлумачення поняття «прикордонна територія»: географічний, правовий, соціально-економічний. Встановлено, що прикордонні території — такі адміністративно-територіальні одиниці країни, прилеглі до державного кордону, які мають ряд специфічних особливостей, обумовлених сусідством інших держав (на економічному, соціальному і культурному рівнях), а також які виконують специфічні функції, пов'язані з транскордонною діяльністю. З'ясовано, що основним критерієм, який ідентифікує прикордонну територію, можна вважати відстань від державного кордону, як правило це 30—50 км. Разом з цим встановлено, що не можна ігнорувати економічні, соціальні, культурні, історичні особливості території, які можуть значно розширити межі прикордонної території.

Ключові слова: територія, кордон, регіон, адміністративно-територіальна одиниця, прикордонна територія.