

Транскордонне співробітництво

UDC [332.122:339.9]
JEL O18, F15, R22

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Peculiarities of social and economic development of bordering oblasts under EU-Ukraine Association Agreement: according to the experts' assessments

The results of experts' survey of local authorities' representatives regarding the issues of social and economic development of border oblasts under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement are outlined. The Agreement influence on the development of regions (cities) of border oblasts is evaluated. The spheres most influenced by the Agreement according to experts are examined. Respondents' evaluation of the Agreement advantages is studied. The types of economic activities that are believed by experts to obtain the most advantages due to DCFTA introduction are defined. Structural changes in exports and imports of goods and services under the Agreement as well as exports geographic structure are evaluated according to experts' opinions. The list of countries, cooperation with which is seen as most perspective for the development of respective regions (cities), is formed. Assessment of the instruments of social and economic development promotion is outlined.

Keywords: European integration processes, border oblasts, social and economic development, EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, experts' assessment, Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area.

Social and economic development of border regions is extremely important taking into account modern tendencies of society development and activation of globalization phenomena. European integration processes and EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in action (hereafter Agreement) confirm the necessity to conduct research of border regions' development tendencies, especially for making decisions under uncertain conditions. Statistical data aren't always able to show real situation, in the first place regarding understanding of problems and development perspectives. Any important strategic decision can't be made without taking the communities', residents' or experts' opinions into account, because they are the ones, who possess the best information on the phenomena under research. Such research shows the movement directions and ways of certain problems' solution. Expert surveys contribute to deeper understanding of certain phenomena or problem situation.

Different aspects of border regions' development are examined by the following Ukrainian scientists: T. Bozhydarnik, V. Borshchevskiy, Ye. Kish, N. Mikula, O. Milashovska, S. Mitryayeva, A. Mokiy, V. Chuzhykov, I. Studennikov, etc. At the same time the Agreement influences the transformation of economic environment of border territories' development and therefore it defines to a large extent their further development. Due to significant lag between the receiving of official statistical data and the necessity to perform the evaluation of current situation on the spot and to the lack of available data on development tendencies, in particular foreign economic activity at the level of regions and cities of oblast significance, conducting of expert survey allows obtaining of up-to-date and reliable enough data on the subject under research. It confirms urgency and necessity to conduct relevant research.

The article aims to examine the expert opinion on EU-Ukraine Association Agreement influence on socio-economic development of border regions.

During the IV quarter of 2016 – I quarter of 2017 the employees of Cross-Border Cooperation Problems Sector at the SI «Institute of Regional Research named after M. I. Dolishniy of the NAS of Ukraine» conducted the expert survey of local authorities' representatives on socio-economic development of border oblasts under the action

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of the Agreement. The survey covered the representatives of the cities of republican and oblast significance (city councils' officials) and regional state administrations' employees of six border oblasts: Volynska, Lvivska, Zakarpatska, Ivano-Frankivska, Chernivetska and Odeska oblasts. Overall 288 experts – representatives of 113 local authorities took part in the survey.

Expert evaluation included three blocks: current condition of border territories' development, Agreement influence on the development of border territories and perspective directions of territorial development. Analysis of survey results was conducted in three fields: overall by all oblasts, by separate oblasts, by city councils and regional state administrations, by the distance to the border, etc.

One of the questionnaire blocks concerned the peculiarities and directions of the Agreement influence on border territories' development. Answering the question about the *influence of Agreement (including the impact of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) creation) on the development of relevant region (city)* 19.4 % of respondents stated that the influence is significant; 50.7 % of them observed the insignificant influence; and 29.9 % experts didn't spot any influence. Representatives of local authorities in their majority (almost 70% of respondents) mentioned the Agreement influence on the development of their territories. However, the fact that the majority of respondents chose the option of insignificant influence testifies to poor use of opportunities opened by the Agreement. Partially such opinion of respondents can be generated by lack of awareness on the Agreement nature and advantages.

In terms of oblasts the expert's views over the existence of Agreement influence on the development of their territories are somewhat different. Specifically the maximum percentage of those, who think that there isn't any influence, is observed in Odeska oblast. Other oblasts indicate the insignificant influence (Fig. 1). If to consider the answers to this question in terms of regional state administrations and city councils, at the level of regional state administrations the third part of respondents mentioned the absence of the Agreement influence (31%), while at the level of city councils the experts chose the option «the influence is significant» (27%).

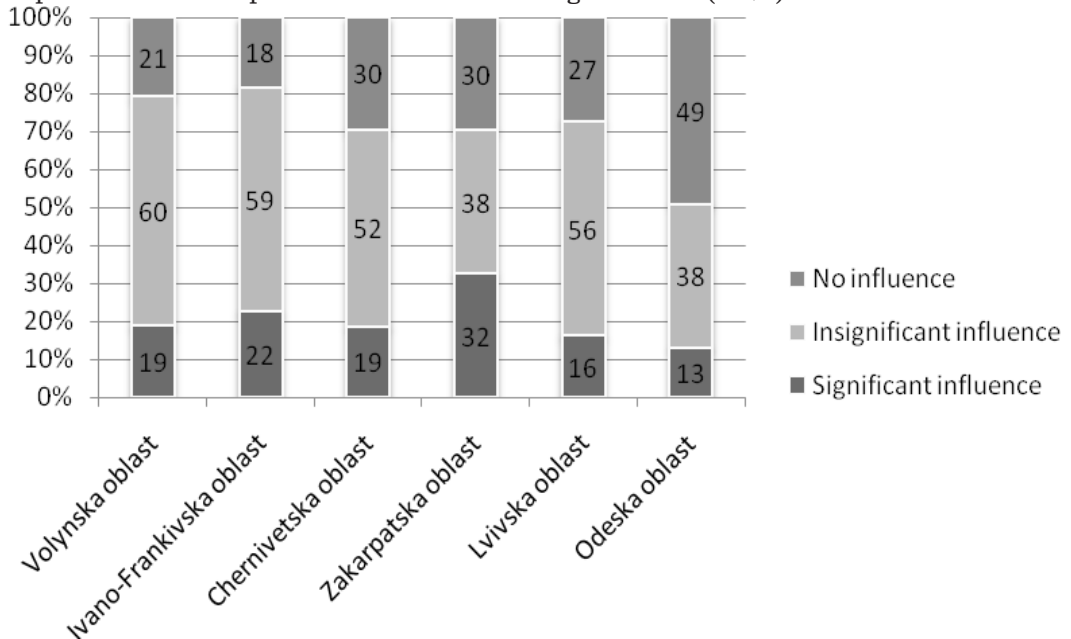


Fig. 1. Experts' assessment of the Agreement influence on the development of the relevant region (city) by oblasts, %

In particular, in Lvivska oblast the largest number of answers regarding the absence of influence was mentioned by experts-representatives of city councils and in Odeska oblast – by experts-representatives of regional state administrations. In Ivano-Frankivska oblast experts-representatives of city councils indicated the insignificant Agreement influence and in Volynska and Chernivetska oblast the experts-representatives of regional state administrations deem the influence to be insufficient. In Zakarpatska oblast experts-representatives of city councils mentioned the considerable influence of this strategic international legal document on the development of their territories.

Among the spheres most influenced by the strengthening of European integration processes under the Agreement in action, the experts indicated investment, foreign economy and economy spheres. At the same time, the development of scientific and technical cooperation with EU member states hasn't faced the considerable progress, which is a serious problem due to annual reduction of scientific and technical research funding from national funding sources. Only experts-representatives of Lvivska oblast consider that scientific-technical sphere has undergone significant positive influence after the Agreement was signed.

It is worth mentioning that the share of information (so called «quaternary» sector) and human services («quinary» sector) in the overall services structure are the important indicators of social and economic development of global economy. In particular, the share of information and telecommunication services in the structure of services of Ukrainian border regions grew in 2012-2014 from 2.8% to 4.04%. At the same time in Lvivska oblast, which positions itself as the core of information technologies' development in the country, it amounts to 8-9%. Information and technologies in Ukraine account for 3.8%.

Economy competitive ability is nowadays defined by its innovativeness. In 2016 Ukraine was positioned 56 among 128 countries by Global Innovation Index. The share of expenditures on scientific and research works amounted to 0.66% of the GDP share in our country. In the well-developed economies this share ranges within 2-4%.

Among the advantages of Agreement the experts of six border regions indicated primarily the growth of goods and services exports – 15.6%, improvement of region (city) residents' activity level under Local Border Movement – 15%, growth of revenues to local budgets – 13.9%, growth of foreign investment – 13.3% (Fig. 2).

The results of expert survey by oblasts show that Lvivska oblast respondents indicated creation of new job places and growth of region (city) residents' activity level under the Local Border Movement as the major advantages of Agreement. Experts in Zakarpatska oblast mentioned the growth of foreign investment and creation of new job places, in Volynska oblast – growth of region (city) residents' activity level under the Local Border Movement, in Ivano-Frankivska oblast – growth of goods and services exports, in Odeska oblast – growth of revenues to local budgets, in Chernivetska oblast – growth of goods and services exports.

Analysis of research results taking into account the distance to the border showed that experts-representatives of regions in Volynska, Lvivska, Ivano-Frankivska and Odeska oblasts, classified as the first category (0-50 km) see the growth of region (city) residents' activity level under the Local Border Movement as considerable advantage. At the same time the growth of goods and services exports was mentioned by the experts-representatives of the territories of Volynska and Chernivetska oblast, classified as the second category (50-100 km).

Agreement implementation stipulates strengthening of cooperation in different spheres of country's social and economic and political development, therefore its final beneficiaries are residents, business, region (area, city), etc. Almost 29% of respondents consider that small and medium business that operates at their territory got most opportunities for its development. At the same time 27.7% of respondents indicated that large business also received significant impuls for further development due to liberalization of markets with EU member states. Lviv City Council representatives mentioned that this is a possibility for IT companies and large

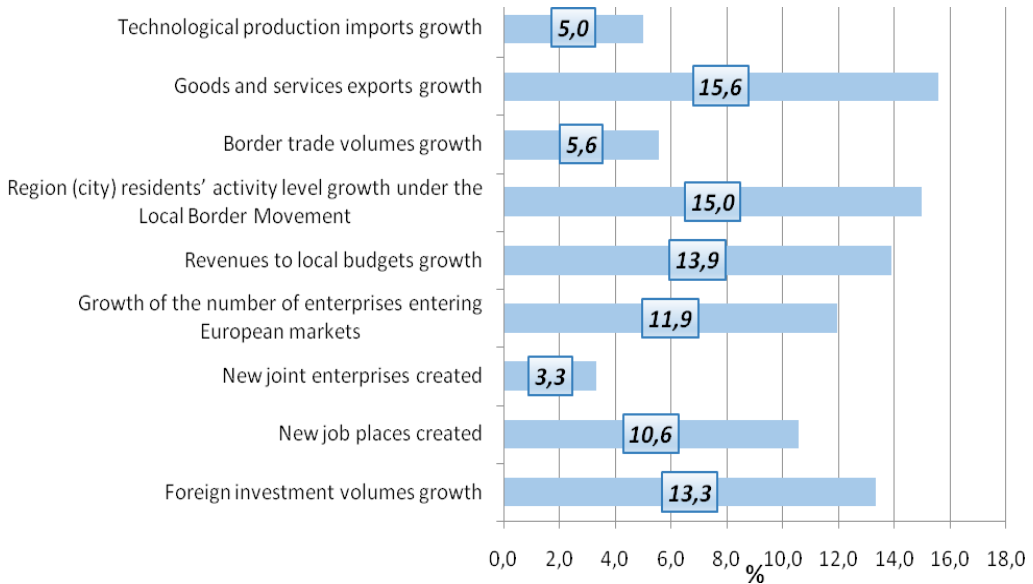


Fig. 2. Respondents' views over the advantages obtained by their regions under the Agreement, %

business of Lviv to develop. Respondents from Bilhorod-Dnistrovska State Regional Administration consider that the Agreement will «enable the development of action plan on sustainable energy development». The third part of respondents (31%), who indicated the other option, think that their region and its entities haven't got any advantages from the Agreement yet. Relatively short period of Agreement in effect and poor awareness of all interested parties on opportunities and advantages that emerged in the course of implementation of this international legal document don't allow the Agreement to operate sufficiently.

According to experts' opinion the following types of economic activity have gained the best advantages from introduction of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA): agriculture, forestry and fishery – 19.3%; wholesale and retail trade – 16.5%; woodwork and paper production and polygraphy – 11%; consumer industry – 8.2%; art, sports, entertainment and leisure (tourism sphere) – 7.9%; food, beverages and tobacco production – 7.5%.

Analysis of respondents' answers on economic activity types that receive the most benefits from DCFTA implementation by oblasts showed the following results:

- Lvivska oblast experts gave the most points to wholesale and retail trade (16%), agriculture, forestry and fishery (14%); their opinion corresponds to the views of Volynska oblast experts – 30% and 18% respectively;
- Ivano-Frankivska oblast experts indicated woodwork and paper production and polygraphy (19%) and wholesale and retail trade (17%);
- Chernivetska oblast experts pointed out agriculture, forestry and fishery (24%), woodwork and paper production and polygraphy (16%);
- Zakarpatska oblast experts mentioned light industry (15%) and wholesale and retail trade (15%);
- Odeska oblast experts indicated the strongest Agreement influence on agriculture, forestry and fishery (28%), wholesale and retail trade (20%).

Survey participants were suggested to assess possible positive Agreement influence on social and economic development of the relevant territory according to 5-points scale (from 0 (no influence) to 5 (significant influence)). Respondents believe that Agreement will influence the expansion of opportunities for goods and services exports, investment growth, improvement of quality and range of production and services at domestic market (Table 1).

Table 1

Respondents' views on evaluation of possible positive Agreement influence on territories' social and economic development, %

Possible positive consequences	Evaluation					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
Expansion of goods and services exports possibilities	1,2	6,9	14,6	29,6	30,4	17,3
Creation of new enterprises engaged in foreign economic activity	5,3	14,3	25,4	24,6	19,7	10,7
Stimulation of region (city) enterprises' technological upgrade	7,9	11,3	25,8	29,2	16,7	9,2
Investment growth	3,8	8,4	14,1	29,8	30,5	13,4
Creation of new job places	2,7	10,5	21,5	28,5	21,9	14,8
Activation of economic activity in the region (city)	4,6	7,9	24,5	35,3	21,2	6,6
Improvement of border, transport and technical infrastructure	8,9	9,8	15,7	27,2	23,4	14,9
Improvement of social infrastructure	6,2	8,6	22,6	32,5	20,6	9,5
Improvement of quality and range of production and services at domestic market	2,9	7,9	16,7	29,7	31,0	11,7
Return of persons, who left abroad for work	27,5	23,0	25,8	11,5	5,7	6,6
Other	–	–	–	1,0	–	–

Respondents' answers analysis by oblasts testifies to overall similar assessment of possible positive consequences of Agreement. In particular according to experts' opinion in Chernivetska oblast mutual opening of markets will contribute primarily to increase of goods and services exports volumes and growth of investment in the region. Volynska oblast representatives believe that improvement of quality and range of production and services at domestic market will become the main result of DCFTA implementation. Almost 60% of respondents in Ivano-Frankivska, Lvivska, Odeska and Zakarpatska oblasts also indicate that they expect investment growth in their regions.

Third part of respondents in Odeska, Zakarpatska and Lvivska oblasts note that Agreement won't impact the return of persons, who left abroad for work.

Respondents were also suggested to *point out possible negative Agreement consequences for social and economic development of the relevant region (city)*. The most negative effect evaluated in the course of survey by 3.2 points¹ (out of 5 possible) was the growth of raw materials exports volumes to EU member states. The Agreement provides that Ukraine and the EU are bound not to impose any duties, taxes or other equivalent measures on goods imports. Most of exports duties imposed in Ukraine are subject to gradual elimination during 10 years from the moment the Agreement came into force. Such experts' point of view is supported in particular by latest statistical data on external trade in goods in Ukraine. The statistics for January-September of 2017 shows the increase of Ukrainian agricultural and food goods exports to EU member states by 39.8% and its total amount of \$ 4.177 billions². Meanwhile growth of exports volumes with EU member states took

¹ Average points are calculated as the share of answers by each evaluation point separately to the total of answers.

² Bilateral agricultural trade between Ukraine and the EU is showing significant growth. Retrieved from <http://www.minagro.gov.ua/uk/node/24868>

place predominantly due to the increase of supply volumes of the following products: corn – by 57.4%, rape seeds – by 72.9%, sunflower-seed oil – by 23%.

The threat of activation of migration processes to the EU countries among the working-age and entrepreneurial persons evaluated by 3.1 points is a serious challenge for border territories, according to experts. At the same time unemployment growth is evaluated only by 2 points, which can be explained by still high expectations regarding emergence of new enterprises and investment activity development at their territory. Respondents believe that the least possible risks of Agreement negative influence exist in social sphere: collapse of social infrastructure was estimated by almost 75 % of respondents only by 1.7 points.

The most risks of raw materials exports volumes growth to EU member states are indicated by experts-representatives of Zakarpatska and Lvivska oblasts. They have the well-developed network of border crossing points and international transport corridors cross their territory. Majority of experts mentioned uncontrolled forest devastation and its further exports as the serious threat for border territories.

Respondents were suggested to express their opinion on the major problems of adaptation of economic systems in border regions to new conditions and rules stipulated by the Agreement. Almost every fifth expert (21.59%) emphasized the impact of legislative differences between EU member states and Ukraine in the process of bringing closer the economic systems of participating countries and forming of single EU-Ukraine economic space. Differences in the levels of social and economic development of adjacent territories and different values remain to be not less important problems, according to experts. Lack of qualified staff and low level of awareness (of residents and business, in particular regarding the possibilities opened for a region (city) due to Agreement) aren't nowadays the decisive factors of regions' development under activation of European integration processes and implementation of strategic social and economic reforms provided by the Agreement. Respondents' views by city councils and state regional administrations are almost identical.

Survey results analysis by regions showed that in all oblasts covered by the research more than 50% of respondents believe that legal differences between EU member states and Ukraine are the major problem of Ukrainian border regions' economic systems adaptation to new conditions and rules provided by the Agreement. At the same time, only 18.9% of respondents – representatives of Zakarpatska oblast see different values of neighbouring countries' border regions as the problem of region's economic system adaptation to new development conditions. The oblast borders four EU member states and numerous ethnical minorities of Romanians, Magyars and somewhat smaller ones of Slovaks and Poles densely live at its territory. In other oblasts survey results range from 37.9% (Odeska oblast) to 65.3% (Ivano-Frankivska oblast).

Opening of European markets for domestic producers creates new opportunities for the development of entrepreneurship activity at border territories. However, most experts agree that nowadays the Agreement doesn't influence significantly the *number of entrepreneurship activity entities* (43%). It is worth mentioning that the considerable amount of respondents was not able to give unequivocal answer to this question (33%). Only 13% indicated the growth of entrepreneurship entities' amount, and 11% – its reduction. It can be explained by the fact that the Agreement hasn't operated to the fullest extent until recently and in the short-term period its influence wasn't very essential for business³.

Respondents' answers by oblasts shows that in Zakarpatska oblast the majority of experts (among the rest of regions) pointed out the Agreement impact on the number of economic entities (42.57%). However, in Zakarpatska oblast positive tendencies

³ Authors' note. On November 1, 2014 began the temporary application of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, and only starting from January 1, 2017 the Agreement came into force to the fullest extent.

towards the growth of economic entities' number can be explained by the extension of region's export capacities under the Agreement (in January-July 2017 exports grew by 13.8 % compared to the same period in 2016 and approximately by 23 % compared to 2015) and by advantageous geographic location, i.e. border with four EU member states.

Experts, who mention entrepreneurship entities' number reduction, also indicate that the biggest reduction takes place in wholesale and retail trade (57.7%), agriculture, forestry and fishery (31.7%), and construction and forestry (17.3%), the smallest reduction – in metallurgy (1%), chemicals production (1%) and energy and gas supplies (1.9%).

Experts, who indicate economic entities' number growth under Association Agreement, emphasize that the number of micro entrepreneurship entities grows the most (58%), and the number of large entrepreneurship entities increases the least – only 2%.

Current political and economic situation in Ukraine and impact of Agreement became the preconditions of gradual reorientation of domestic enterprises' export activity towards the EU markets and also of insignificant but still existing diversification of goods exports towards other markets in the world. It makes positive influence on economic safety of Ukrainian border regions. Moreover, it also contributes to establishment of closer economic links in cross-border space.

Experts mention that goods produced by enterprises of six regions that border the EU are exported predominantly to the EU countries (52.55%). Twice smaller is the share of respondents, who indicated production exports to CIS countries (26.79%), and six times smaller – to the countries of Asia (8.67%). The share of respondents, who mentioned African (1.79%), American (1.02%) and other countries (1.02%), is insignificant. The survey showed (8.16%) that some enterprises located in the mentioned border regions don't undertake exports activities.

Almost all experts pointed out the more or less similar geographic structure of goods exports in all border regions. Odeska oblast is the only exception, which exports the largest share of production to the CIS countries (23%), according to experts. At the same time, the largest share of experts-representatives of Odeska oblast (21%) (among the rest of regions) indicated the absence of enterprises that export their production to external markets. Chernivetska oblast takes the second place by this parameter (11%). It exports the smallest volume of goods and services of all Ukrainian regions starting from 2000. The smallest share of such enterprises, according to experts, operates in Zakarpatska oblast (less than 1%). Survey results provide that the most diversified structure of goods exports by geographic feature is observed in Volynska, Ivano-Frankivska and Odeska oblasts, contributing to strengthening of these regions' economic security.

51.8% of all respondents weren't able to decide upon the *structural changes in exports and imports of goods and services of their region (city) under the Agreement*. 35.8% believe that no changes in exports and imports of goods and services had taken place. Only 12.4% of respondents, who answered this question, noticed some changes in the matter.

In order to examine the experts' views over future development of border territories, they were suggested to outline the perspective directions of their regions' (cities') development. Agriculture, forestry and fishery (21.0%) is deemed by local authorities' representatives as the most attractive economic activity type for investments (Fig. 3). This parameter exceeds 70% of respondents' answers in all oblasts covered by the research, except for Lvivska oblast, although it is essential here as well.

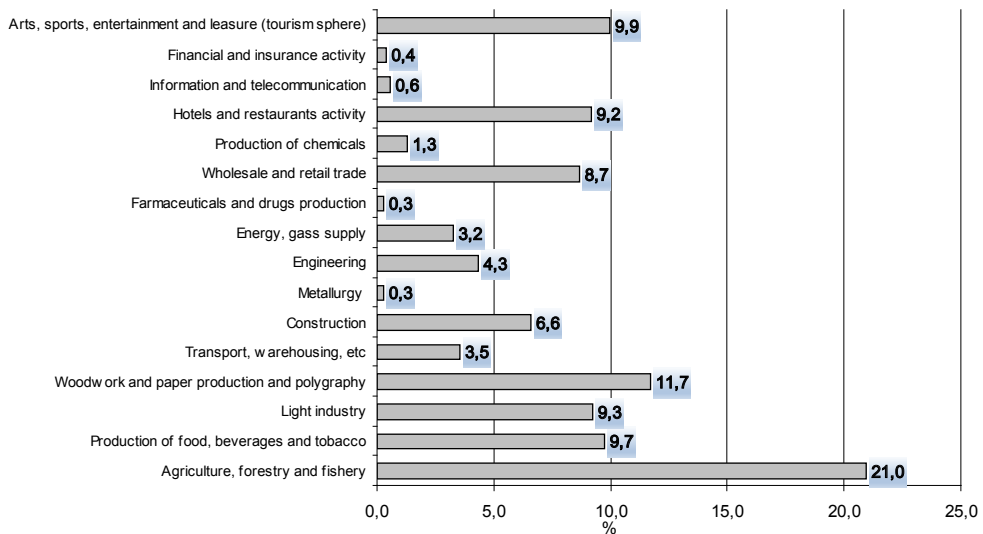


Fig. 3. Respondents' views over the most attractive types of economic activity for foreign direct investment,

The results of survey by oblasts are almost identical. Volynska oblast local authorities' representatives also add construction (31.3%) to the abovementioned economic activity types, Chernivetska oblast – wholesale and retail trade (37%), and Ivano-Frankivska, Zakarpatska and Odeska oblasts – hotels and restaurants activity (47.1%, 51.4% and 33.3% correspondingly).

City councils' representatives defined light industry (67.3%), engineering (50%), woodwork and paper production and polygraphy (48.1%) and production of food, beverages and tobacco (40.4%) as the most perspective. However, representatives of regional state administrations named only woodwork and paper production and polygraphy (40.3%) among the abovementioned economic activity types. Instead, they indicated agriculture, forestry and fishery (88.4%), arts, sports, entertainment and leisure (36.5%) and hotels and restaurants activity (34.8%).

Experts were also suggested to *indicate the country (administrative units of relevant countries) they see as most perspective for establishment of cooperation*. Majority of respondents mentioned European countries (94.9%). This parameter is under 90% only in Odeska oblast (86%). It is worth mentioning that respondents predominantly named the countries that are geographic neighbours of their territories. Asian and CIS countries were mentioned only by 11.8% and 16.9% of the overall number of respondents respectively.

According to experts, among the European countries cooperation with Poland (63.1%) and Germany (27.5%) is most perspective. Only in Zakarpatska oblast cooperation with Poland was suggested as less perspective (21.2%), which can be partly explained by the absence of joint border crossing points. Experts see Hungary (66.7%) as the leader in the region. Survey results testified to the fact that Volynska, Ivano-Frankivska and Lvivska oblasts see Poland as the most perspective partner (exceeds the percent of those, who want to cooperate with Germany as the second most desired partner 2-3 times). Chernivetska oblast local authorities' representatives also mentioned Romania (65.4%) along with Poland.

Among Asian countries the respondents pointed out Turkey and China most often, although the percent of experts, who emphasized activation of cooperation with them, is significant only in Ivano-Frankivska (Turkey – 14%) and Odeska oblasts (Turkey –

16%, China – 10%). CIS countries were chosen by experts from the territories that are geographically close to them. In particular, experts-representatives of Volynska oblast indicated Belarus (22.7%), and of Chernivetska and Odeska oblasts – Moldova (23.1% and 18% respectively).

The factor of national minorities can be observed in the respondents' answers; in particular experts of Bolhrad in Odeska oblast emphasize cooperation with communities General Toshevo and Kalayanovo (Bulgaria). Local authorities' representatives also emphasize the necessity to activate cooperation within various instruments of cooperation with the EU, for example CBC Program Poland-Belarus-Ukraine (Brodivska Regional State Administration of Lvivska Oblast) and joint project UNDP/EU «Local Community-Oriented Development» (Ivanivskyi region of Odeska oblast).

The surveyed experts believe that *social and economic development of territories will be boosted* due to establishing or promoting of functioning of free economic zones (29.1%) and trade and logistic centers (34.9%) (Table 2). These instruments of

Table 2
Respondents' assessment of the instruments of territories' social and economic development promotion, %*

Instruments of social and economic development promotion	Border regions covered by the survey						Total
	Volynska oblast	Ivano-Frankivska oblast	Chernivetska oblast	Zakarpatska oblast	Lvivska oblast	Odeska oblast	
Border crossing points	35,4	32,0	40,7	32,4	20,6	22,6	29,1
Innovation and technological center (technopark)	27,1	34,0	11,1	18,9	17,5	28,3	23,7
Industrial park	20,8	20,0	25,9	37,8	36,5	28,3	28,4
Trade and logistics center	31,3	36,0	37,0	13,5	39,7	45,3	34,9
Cluster (including cross-border one)	29,2	6,0	33,3	27,0	23,8	15,1	21,2
Business-incubator	16,7	32,0	7,4	5,4	12,7	24,5	17,6
Free economic zone	41,7	32,0	55,6	67,6	42,9	34,0	43,5
Other	0,0	10,0	0,0	13,5	0,0	1,9	4,0

* total amount doesn't account for 100%, because the respondents could choose several options

economic development promotion are the leaders among the respondents' answers by oblasts as well. Representatives of local authorities in Volynska, Ivano-Frankivska, Chernivetska and Zakarpatska oblasts also mentioned the necessity of opening the additional border crossing points at Ukrainian state border. Such survey results are explained by large distance between border crossing points, which doesn't correspond to the EU standards. In particular, average distance between them at Ukrainian border with Poland or Romania exceeds requirements 2 and 3 times respectively. Representatives of some regions in Ivano-Frankivska and Zakarpatska oblasts also emphasized that their territories will improve social and economic development by opening the touristic and information centers.

In general the survey results are identical by representatives of city councils and regional state administrations: trade and logistic centers and free economic zones are indicated as the most perspective instruments of territories' development. Industrial parks are also important for cities (46.2% of respondents). The smallest number of city councils' representatives chose the border crossing points (11.5%). Instead, experts from regional

administrations defined border infrastructure as the priority sphere (33.2% of respondents emphasized the importance of border crossing points).

Influence of regions' location in relation to the border can be distinctively observed in the answers to this question. Most of the representatives of regions' local authorities within the 50-km zone from the border in the first place indicated the necessity to open additional border crossing points.

Summing up the results of experts' assessments it is necessary to point out the importance of investment attraction and forming of territories' favourable investment environment. In particular, it is important to develop innovation and investment projects, to fund them and to form positive investment image of territories. Imposing of zero tax rates, reestablishment of special regimen for free economic zones, tax holidays and ownership guaranties and reduction of administrative procedures will contribute to the growth of territories' investment capacity.

In terms of SMEs it is important to deregulate entrepreneurship environment, search for the ways to reduce the value of borrowed resources, to develop the strategy of SMEs development on the principles of European Charter for Small Enterprises, to inform business on the opportunities to enter foreign markets and the EU requirements to the standards of production and to promote the exchange of best practices and experience.

Improvement of social standards and salaries, legalization of workforce in the EU and the need to retrain and employ the workforce are the priorities of state social policy that require the primary attention of public officials at all levels, according to experts.

The problems of border movement regulation require solution in terms of prevention of smuggling, elimination of permission for Ukrainian residents to use the cars registered in other countries, opening of new border crossing points, review of current Customs Code towards simplification of duty procedures and reduction of duties for some commodity groups.

Experts also pay attention to the issues of national and European legislations harmonization, application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, maintenance of quality and safety of food products according to EU regulations, joining the existing cooperation platforms and establishment of new ones and improvement of business confidence in state, etc.

Respondents also emphasize the importance of complex strategies and programs of territories' social and economic development; promotion of regions' (cities') resources capacities for perspective investors and of local production at EU markets. It is necessary to activate participation in the projects of international technical assistance. The steps that can be taken in this direction are the development of the network of production international certification and standardization centers, increase of quotas for agricultural producers, reduction of exporters' income tax, application of new technologies, introduction of changes to current legislation in terms of concessional taxation for new and existing enterprises-exporters, etc.

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Пруга Х. М., Пастернак О. І., Калат Я. Я., Цісінська О. Б., Демедюк О. П. Особливості соціально-економічного розвитку прикордонних областей в умовах дії Угоди про асоціацію між Україною та ЄС: за результатами експертних оцінок.

Наведено результати експертного опитування представників органів місцевої влади з питань соціально-економічного розвитку прикордонних областей в умовах дії Угоди про асоціацію між Україною та Європейським Союзом (ЄС) (далі Угода). У ролі респондентів опитано представників міст республіканського та обласного значення (працівників міських рад), працівників районних державних адміністрацій шести прикордонних областей: Волинської, Львівської, Закарпатської, Івано-Франківської, Чернівецької та Одеської. Проведене дослідження дозволяє показати реальну ситуацію, а особливо бачення експертами проблем чи перспектив розвитку прикордонних областей для прийняття ефективних рішень в умовах невизначеності.

Оцінено вплив підписання Угоди (у тому числі створення поглибленої та всеосяжної зони вільної торгівлі (ПВЗВТ)) на розвиток районів (міст) прикордонних областей. Досліджено сфери, на які найбільше вплинуло поглиблення процесів євроінтеграції в контексті підписання Угоди. Визначено оцінку респондентами переваг від підписання Угоди. Окреслено види економічної діяльності, які отримують найбільші переваги від впровадження ПВЗВТ. Сформовано перелік суб'єктів, для яких насамперед відкрилися нові можливості в контексті дії Угоди. Виявлено можливі позитивні та негативні наслідки впливу дії Угоди за п'ятибальною шкалою, а також основні проблеми адаптації економічних систем прикордонних регіонів до нових умов і правил, передбачених Угодою. Окреслено вплив Угоди на розвиток суб'єктів підприємницької діяльності на прикордонних територіях. Оцінено структурні зміни в експорті та імпорті товарів і послуг районів (міст) після вступу в дію Угоди, а також географічну структуру експорту. Виявлено найпривабливіші види економічної діяльності для прикордонних регіонів з точки зору здійснення прямих іноземних інвестицій. Сформовано перелік країн, налагодження і розвитку співпраці з партнерами з яких є перспективними з точки зору розвитку району (міста) респондентів. Наведено оцінку інструментів сприяння соціально-економічному розвитку прикордонних територій.

Ключові слова: євроінтеграційні процеси, прикордонні області, соціально-економічний розвиток, Угода про асоціацію між Україною та ЄС, експертна оцінка, поглиблена та всеосяжна зона вільної торгівлі.

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Надійшло 15.11.2017 р.