

Internal Migration Flows in Ukraine In the Context of Decentralization: Opportunities and Threats

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Abstract

The article discusses possible options for changing intraregional migration flows in Ukraine, associated with the processes of decentralization – reforms to consolidate and unite settlements (cities, villages, townships) into enlarged territorial units – the so-called *united territorial communities (UTCs)* in order to transfer significant powers and budgets from government agencies to local governments. Undoubtedly, the successful implementation of this reform will lead to the emergence of new migration directions and the redistribution of the population within the country. The purpose of this article is to analyze the redistribution of migration flows in Ukraine, caused by the processes of decentralization and to identify the impact of migration flows on the development of united territorial communities. The main directions of migration flows associated with the processes of decentralization, in our opinion, will be the following directions: 1) united territorial communities – large cities; 2) migration to UTCs located near large cities and centers of economic development, as an intermediate point for further migration to cities; 3) territorial movements of the population between several UTCs; 4) territorial movements of the population within the UTC from the peripheral regions to the center of the UTC. The main characteristics of UTCs that operate in the regions of Ukraine are considered – their number, the area occupied by UTCs from the area of the region and the share of the region's population living in UTCs. The Western Ukrainian regions and the Dnieper region, where the implementation of this reform is much ahead of the overall Ukrainian

pace, are already experiencing new directions of migration flows. The opportunities and threats of population migration for the united territorial communities are analyzed.

Keywords: Internal Migration, Decentralization, Migration Flow, Migration Gain, United Territorial Communities, Ukraine.

Introduction

In terms of volumes, internal migration in Ukraine significantly exceeds international migration. Internal migration does not affect the size and composition of the country's population as a whole, but it causes changes in its distribution in certain regions and communities, and is a consequence and an important factor of regional differences. It is directly related to the processes of industrialization and urbanization, depopulation of the countryside, socio-economic and political transformations, in particular with the processes of decentralization. It is caused in general by the same reasons as international migration, has a similar motivation, that is, the need to improve living and working conditions, therefore it is directed mainly from depressed regions and communities to those that are dynamically developing, usually from peripheral rural areas to large industrial cities or centers of communities. In connection with the processes of decentralization, which are actively implemented in Ukraine, there is a redistribution of migration flows and population in most regions of the country. The emergence of new poorly managed migration flows, the low efficiency of state management and local self-government have complicated the solution of other, no less important for society, problems in the field of education, employment, health care development and modernization of the social protection system. At the same time, migrants make up a significant share of the population of developed cities, and more recently, the centers of united territorial communities, acting as an indicator of socio-economic development, possessing high intellectual, industrial, social, and financial potential. Therefore, it becomes relevant to study new migration flows in Ukraine caused by the processes of decentralization, to identify the threats that migrants pose to the united territorial communities (UTCs) and the opportunities that communities receive due to the human potential of migrants.

The purpose of the study is to analyze the redistribution of migration flows in Ukraine, caused by the processes of decentralization and to identify the impact of migration flows on the development of united territorial communities. The authors set themselves the following main research questions: How have the main directions of migration flows in Ukraine changed in connection with the processes of decentralization? Do migrants influence UTCs? Is it possible the emergence of threats to UTCs in connection with the migration activity of the population?

Research Methodology

This research cannot be performed without using a complex of interdisciplinary approaches and methods. The research relies on both philosophical and general scientific methods and special methods and techniques.

To achieve the goal and search for answers to key research questions, the team of authors used the following methods: analytical (including the method of analysis and synthesis, abstraction), problem-search (to identify the impact of migration on UTCs), systematization (to systematize data on migration flows with the aim of a comprehensive study of their impact on UTCs), classification (to highlight the main migration flows in the context of decentralization), statistical (statistical data for analysis), SWOT analysis (to identify the strengths and weaknesses of migration processes in the context of decentralization, as well as opportunities and threats of their influence for communities), graphic (to visualize research results in the form of graphs, diagrams, schematic images).

The study used data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the Internet portal "Decentralization gives opportunities" (Ofitsiyni sait portalu "Detsentralizatsiia daie mozhlyvosti"), the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine (Informatsiia pro monitorynh rozvytku silskykh terytorii), which provides reports on monitoring the socio-economic development of UTCs

in each region of Ukraine. Other analytical reviews and reports, scientific articles and publications of foreign and Ukrainian authors were also studied.

Analysis of Previous Studies

Many publications of foreign scientists are devoted to the influence of decentralization processes, since in developed countries this reform has long been completed, and the direction of migration flows that arose in the context of decentralization are almost completely studied. However, there are practically no such publications among Ukrainian scientists.

Studying the impact of decentralization on migration processes, George W. Hammond, Mehmet S. Tosun note that the positive impact depends on the area of the administrative-territorial unit and its economic indicators. Positive migration growth is observed in metropolises, where per capita income and general employment are increasing. On the contrary, peripheral areas experience significant population outflow (Hammond, Tosun, 2009). A supporter of decentralization C. Tiebout noted that in the presence of a large number of territorial units and intensive migration of the population, decentralization creates conditions for the production of public goods, since migrants directly affect the production of public goods and the payment of taxes (Tiebout, 1961).

D. Satterthwaite, C. Tacoli note the uneven socio-economic development of territories as a result of the decentralization process, large enterprises are concentrated in large cities and economic centers, while the periphery remains as a rule rural, which leads to a difference in income between the center and the periphery of the communities and thus generates migration flows in the direction from the periphery to the center of the communities (Satterthwaite, Tacoli, 2003).

M. Klupt, studying the center-peripheral relations in modern Europe, notes that intensive migration, combined with a rapid increase in life expectancy, also pushes the problem of aging in the recipient regions of migrants into the background, but causes aging in the periphery, as well as in depressed regions. Migration flows, increasing the structural and institutional heterogeneity of the European center, do not eliminate the differences between it, the semi-periphery and the periphery, but, on the contrary, contribute to their reproduction. Streams of highly skilled migrants move to the central regions, which concentrate high-tech and knowledge-intensive activities, the semi-periphery absorbs unskilled migrants, and the periphery becomes a source of labor resources for the center and semi-periphery (Klupt, 2015).

Poorly managed flows of migrants to cities and centers of united territorial communities lead to negative consequences for sustainable development – gentrification, which can lead to a sharp rise in housing prices and, consequently, an increase in inequality, which can also seriously hinder sustainable development. The pressure on finances and city budgets to serve a growing number of different population groups with different needs is a serious problem for public administration (Migrants and cities..., 2017).

J. von Braun also talked about increasingly strong links between urban and rural areas due to the migration activity of the population, which is a problem for the sustainable development of territories. This is confirmed by the fact that the poorer (peripheral, agricultural) communities do not benefit as much from decentralization as the wealthier, and in some cases decentralization even aggravates their situation (Braun, 2014).

J. Jütting, C. Kauffmann, I. Mc Donnell, H. Osterrieder, Ni. Pinaud and L. Wegner examined the impact of decentralization on poverty in peripheral regions in 19 countries around the world. They argue that in those countries where the central government does not fulfill its main functions, decentralization can be counterproductive, it can be a powerful tool for reducing poverty in the country as a whole, but it can lead to imbalances in territorial development and population migration within its regions (Jütting, Kauffmann, Mc Donnell and etc., 2004).

R. Bird, E. R. Rodriguez also note the importance of migration in the process of decentralization. In the absence of major economic changes in communities, there is an outflow of the population. Scientists note how migrants can cause external negative effects to the regions they leave, and similar negative effects and costs on the regions to which they are sent (Bird, Rodriguez, 1999).

Staff members Ptoukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine agree with foreign scientists. The national report "Ukrainian Society: the Migration Dimension" (Ukrainske suspilstvo: mihratsiinyi vymir: nats. dopovid, 2018) analyzes the reform of the initial stage of the decentralization reform in Ukraine, as well as analyzes the impact of decentralization on migration flows in the country with an optimistic, pessimistic and realistic version of the implementation of the administrative-territorial reform in Ukraine. The links between the central and peripheral regions of the Kharkiv region, which are manifested, as a rule, in labor and educational migration, were studied by L. Niemets, O. Suptelo, M. Lohvynova, L. Kliuchko, I. Telebienieva. Cities become "points of growth" due to migration attraction, provide ample opportunities for obtaining a higher income, therefore, they attract migrants from peripheral areas, which also confirms the subsequent uneven socio-economic development of regions due to migration losses of the periphery and opportunities due to migrants in cities (Niemets, Suptelo, Lohvynova and etc., 2020).

Since the main consumer of human potential in Ukraine is the capital region, M. Chaikovskiy, A. Kovtun talk about the transformation of Ukraine's regions into the inner periphery. The main mechanism of internal peripheralization, according to the authors, is labor migration from the periphery to the center and industrialized regions, educational migration, which contributes to the loss of peripheral regions of intellectual potential and its greatest concentration in the center, which thereby strengthens its competitive offers relative to other territories (Chaikovskiy, Kovtun, 2019). In the context of these publications, the study of new flows of internal migration in Ukraine associated with the processes of decentralization is an important scientific task, since migration is an important resource for the development of communities, but at the same time it is a threat to the socio-economic prosperity of territories with low migration activity and outflow of the population.

Presentation of The Main Research Material

Decentralization reform is the key reform in Ukraine today. The reform is being carried out through the unification of basic territorial communities (cities, villages, townships) into enlarged territorial units – the so-called united territorial communities (UTCs) with the transfer of significant powers and budgets from state bodies to local governments. The merger takes place on a voluntary basis (up to 2020 inclusive). Among the main goals of decentralization in Ukraine are the prevention migration from rural areas, the fight against poverty, the expansion of employment, ensuring equal opportunities and meeting the needs of the population, improving the quality of life, providing opportunities for personal development and improving the state of social development (Detsentralizatsiia v Ukraini..., 2018). The unevenness of the socio-economic development of urban and rural areas is associated, first of all, with unequal opportunities in financing, which directly affects the socio-demographic processes in the peripheral regions, contributes to the outflow of the working-age population from the periphery to the center, from the village to the city. Decentralization implies that a more equitable balance of budget expenditures, investments in infrastructure, and an increase in funding for programs for the economic development of rural areas should be achieved between urban and rural areas (Detsentralizatsiia: korotko pro holovne, 2019). The introduction of this reform in Ukraine will undoubtedly affect the migration processes within the state.

The formation of UTC is carried out taking into account:

- the ability and capacity of local self-government bodies to solve public issues related to their competence to meet the needs of the population;
- historical, geographic, socio-economic, cultural development of settlements;
- state of infrastructure development;
- financial support of the corresponding administrative-territorial units;
- features of labor migration of the population;

- the availability of services in the relevant areas (Monitorynh protsesu detsentralizatsii vldy, 2020).

As of January 2020, 1,029 united territorial communities have been created in Ukraine, in 980 of which local elections have already taken place. The largest number of communities in Ukraine was created in the West of the country (in Volyn, Zhytomyr, Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi regions), as well as in the Dnieper region (Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhia regions). It is planned that after the local elections in October 2020, the sub-regional level will change, in which 130 districts will remain (instead of 490). At the basic level, 1470 UTCs will remain, which include cities, towns and villages (Fig. 1) (Monitorynh protsesu detsentralizatsii vldy, 2020; Ofitsiyni sait portalu "Detsentralizatsiia daie mozhlyvosti"). Geographically, UTCs occupy more than a third of the territory of Ukraine, where a quarter of its population lives.

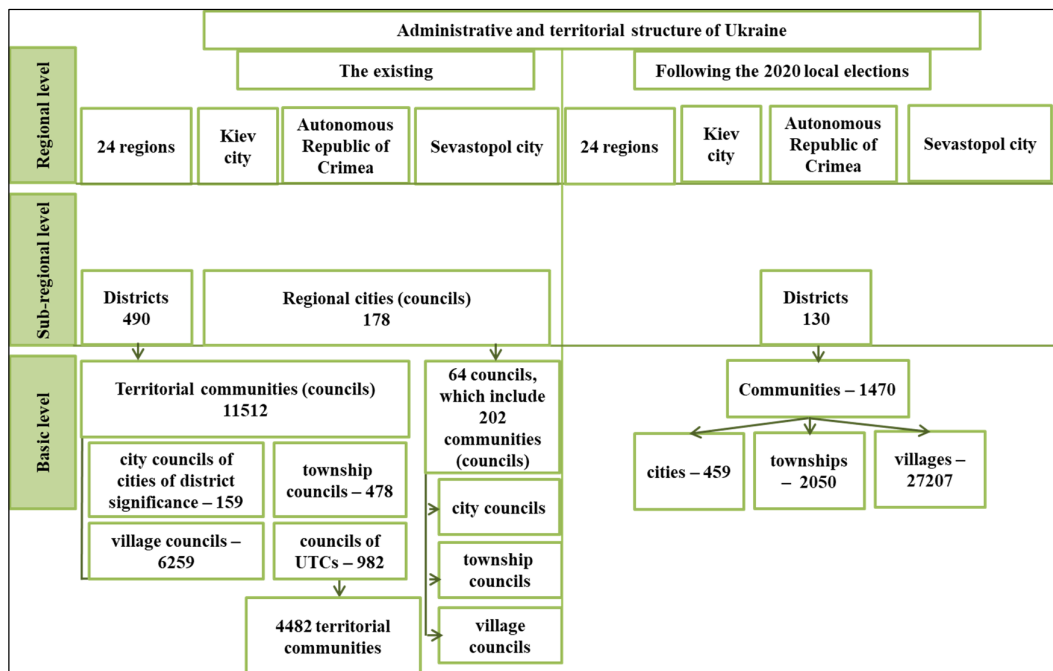


Fig. 1: Current and prospective (after the local elections in 2020) administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine (built by the authors according to (Ofitsiyni sait portalu "Detsentralizatsiia daie mozhlyvosti"))

Changes in the administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine can lead to the formation of new intra-regional migration flows, as well as to the formation of new centers of attraction for migrants. Migration flows in Ukraine in the context of the successful implementation of the administrative-territorial reform can be formed in the following directions (Fig. 2):

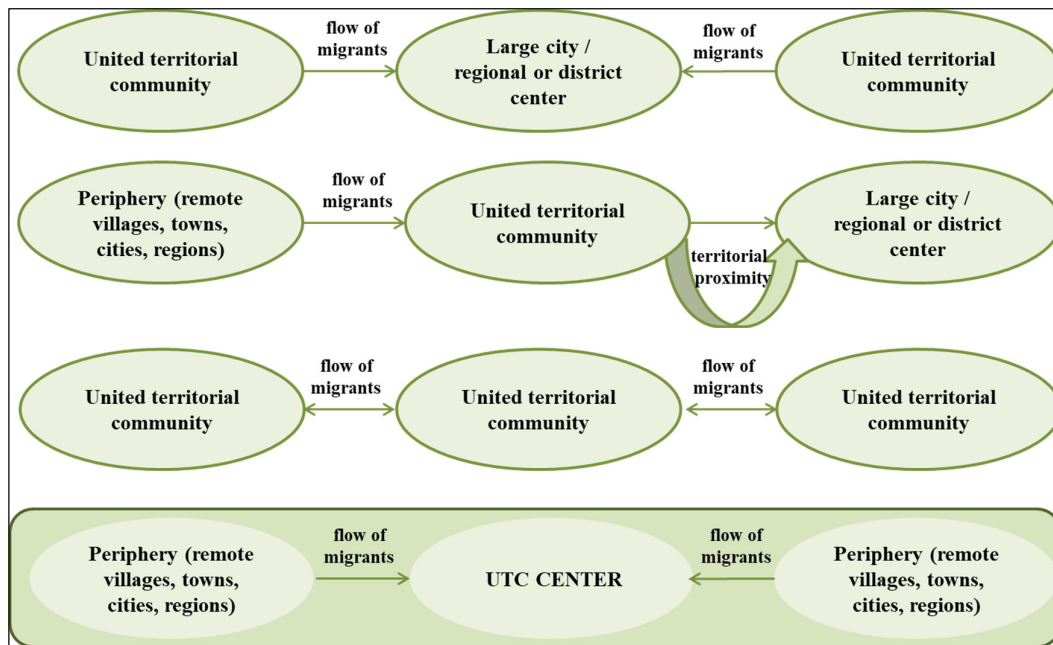


Fig. 2: Directions of migration flows in Ukraine associated with the processes of decentralization (built by the authors according to (Ukrainske suspilstvo: mihratsiyni vymir: nats. dopovid, 2018; Tilikina, 2019)

Migration direction "united territorial communities – large cities". Large cities, which are centers of concentration of production, investment, intellectual, information, educational and other resources, have long attracted the working-age population, since they give higher chances of employment, increase their own income and provide quality services (Niemets, Suptelo, Lohvynova and etc., 2020). Migration flows in this direction can be either constant or periodic (pendulum).

Migration to UTCs located in close proximity to large cities. Such migration is directly related to the process of suburbanization. The united territorial communities have a more favorable socio-geographical position, good transport accessibility, are considered as a bridge between the city and the periphery, have a higher business activity and a favorable market environment compared to the peripheral zone, developed infrastructure and services. In addition, the high cost of housing in large cities and the ability to search for affordable housing in the nearest UTCs strengthens UTCs ties with large cities, regional administrative centers and centers of socio-economic development due to periodic flows of pendulum migration. As a rule, the positive migration balance of such UTCs is due to the process of reurbanization – a stable population of UTCs, their renewal, including due to urban planning reconstruction.

Territorial displacement between UTCs. Such movements include labor migration, educational migrations from outsider UTCs to better-off UTCs with high labor opportunities; labor migration between UTCs partners; territorial movements between residents of neighboring UTCs, caused by family ties and personal factors. The prospect of this direction of migration flows is due to the need to combine the efforts of neighboring UTCs or UTC-partners to attract investments, build enterprises, arrange infrastructure and social facilities.

Territorial movements within the UTCs in the direction "periphery – UTCs center". Often the administrative and economic center of the UTCs is a powerful focus of concentration of local migration flows. Under the influence of the implementation of financial decentralization (an increase in their own financial revenues of local budgets and the possibility of obtaining additional funds due to the expansion of sources for the formation of a revenue base), communities will have the

opportunity to increase their financial potential for the proper maintenance of infrastructure facilities, communal property institutions, and the provision of public and utility services. This will revive migration contacts between the community's population and activate the migration movement (Ukrainske suspilstvo: mihratsiinyi vymir: nats. dopovid, 2018).

Since the planned UTCs have not yet been fully formed in Ukraine, and also taking into account the experience of European countries, it can be noted that the influence of decentralization processes on intramigration processes in the country will only increase (Milbradt, 2018). Therefore, we can assert that first direction of migration – movement in the direction of "united territorial communities – large cities" will include the most large-scale migration flows. This is due to the fact that it is in the cities where the necessary social infrastructure is concentrated (housing and communal services, educational institutions, medical institutions and recreational facilities, social security institutions, cultural and leisure institutions) and most enterprises. In rural areas all this is absent or underdeveloped. However, in our opinion, the dynamics and directions of the migration movement will largely depend on the difference in the living conditions of the inhabitants of the united territorial communities – more successful UTCs will attract a larger number of migrants due to a higher level of economic development, local budget income, wages, the possibilities of social infrastructure (Niemets, Lohvynova, Sehida and etc., 2019).

Therefore, in the near future, one should expect an increase in the positive balance of migration in communities with high financial solvency, which are distinguished by high indicators of their own income and capital expenditures per capita, with a powerful business sector, developed infrastructure and social sphere, that is, in which the basic prerequisites for the preservation and enhancement of human potential within the territorial community are formed (Mihratsiia yak chynnyk rozvytku v Ukraini).

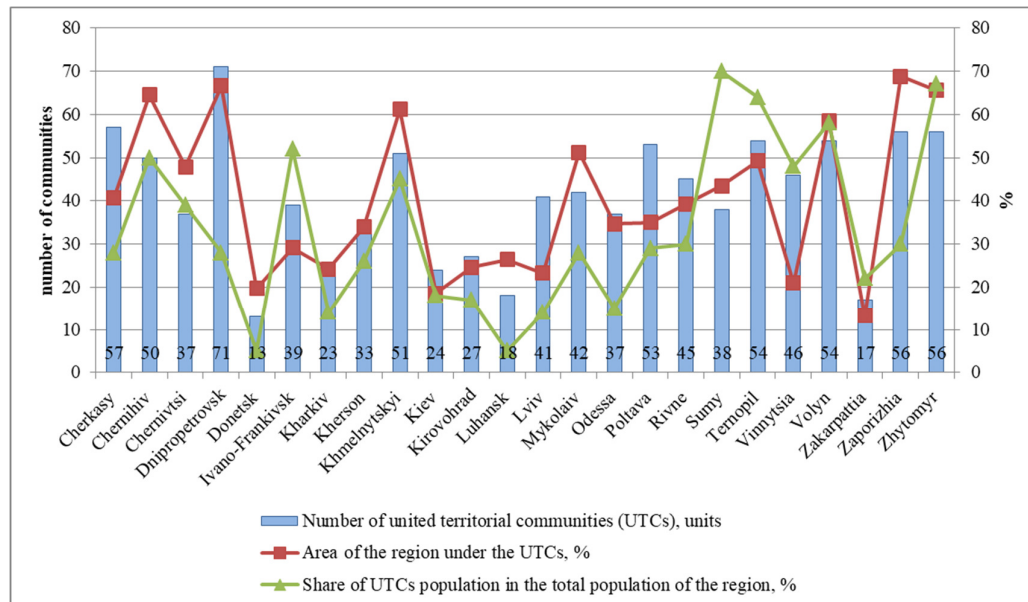


Fig. 3: The main characteristics of UTCs that operate in Ukraine (built by the authors according to (Ofitsiyni sait portalu "Detsentralizatsiia daie mozhlyvosti")

In the future, the greatest impact of the decentralization process on migration flows will be noticeable in those regions where communities occupy a significant area of the region's territory and also concentrate a significant proportion of the population (Fig. 3). We can assume that large-scale active movements within a community from the center to the periphery and between neighboring communities will be observed in Sumy (where 70% of the region's population lives in the UTCs), Zhytomyr (67%), Ternopil (64%), Volyn (58%), Ivano-Frankivsk (52%), Chernihiv (50%) regions. It should be noted that it is the Zaporizhia and Dnipropetrovsk regions that have the largest area

occupied by UTCs – 66.6% and 68.8%, respectively. However, taking into account the proportion of the population that lives in UTCs (28% and 30%, respectively), it can be assumed that in these regions flows will prevail in the direction of "united territorial communities – large cities" and "migration to UTCs located in close proximity to large cities". The same directions of migration flows will increase in those regions where the center of the region is metropolises – Kiev, Kharkiv, Odessa regions. This is confirmed by the low proportion of the population living in the UTCs (Fig. 3).

Let's analyze the indicators of internal migration within the settlements of the united territorial communities of the regions of Ukraine. Based on fig. 4 we can see the tendency of active migration inflow in the communities of the Luhansk region (55.6% of communities with a positive migration balance), Zakarpattia (50%), Ivano-Frankivsk (47%), Kirovohrad (46.2%), Mykolaiv (41.4%), Khmelnytskyi (41.2%), Ternopil (41.0%) regions, that is, in those regions where there is no large city that performs the functions of a metropolis of regional significance (Fig. 4) (Ofitsiyni sait Ministerstva rozvytku hromad ta terytorii Ukrainy). In this case, the centers of attraction for migrants are those communities that have high financial security, good transport accessibility, a wide labor market, developed infrastructure, etc. In those regions where metropolises are present - Kiev, Kharkiv, Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk, Lviv regions, those communities that are in close proximity to the metropolises, are part of their agglomerations and communities that are most developed in the socio-economic aspect will have a positive migration balance. In such regions, metropolises will create an asymmetry of migration flows, attracting to themselves most of the migrants (Korniienko, 2018).

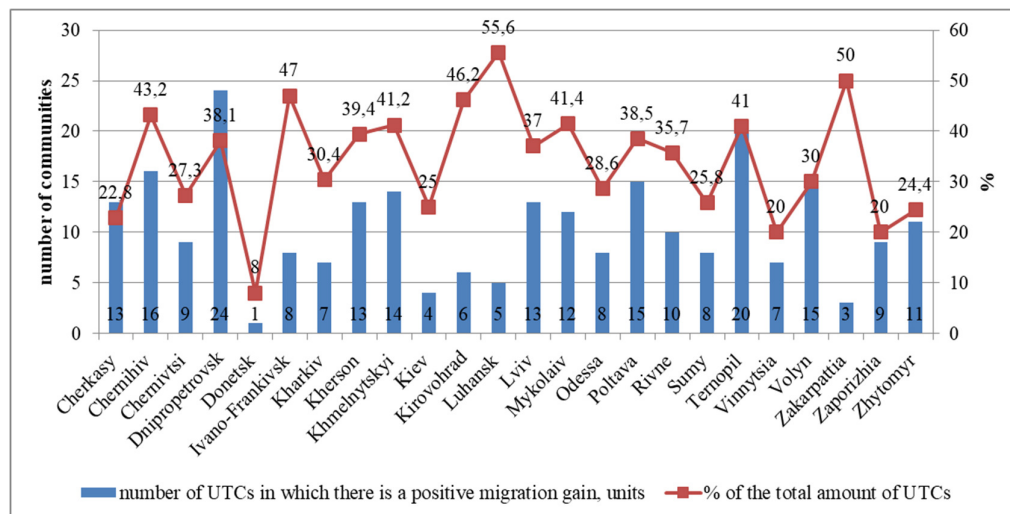


Fig. 4: Indicators of the migration increase in internal migration of the population within the settlements of the UTCs for 2019 (built by the authors according to (Ofitsiyni sait Ministerstva rozvytku hromad ta terytorii Ukrainy))

The largest population decline due to migration is observed in the communities of the Rivne region (a decrease in 50% of communities), Poltava (41.0%), Chernihiv (40.5%), Dnipropetrovsk (39.7%), Sumy (38.7%), Donetsk (38.0%), Mykolaiv (37.9%), Ivano-Frankivsk (35.9%) regions (Fig. 5). Migration losses are observed in communities with low resource potential, insufficient financial solvency and passivity of civil position. Financially secured UTCs, as a rule, maintain a positive migration balance in the exchange of population with UTCs outsiders (Ofitsiyni sait Ministerstva rozvytku hromad ta terytorii Ukrainy).

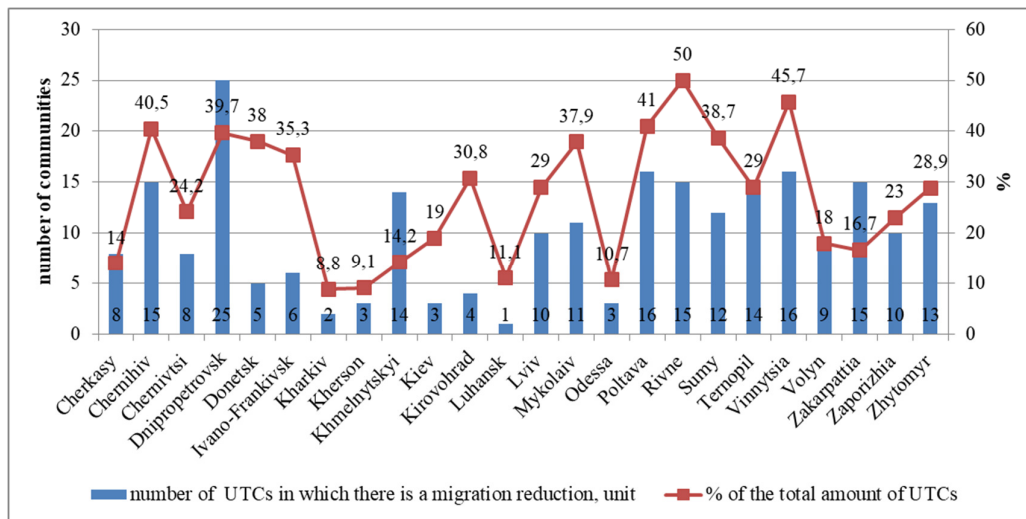


Fig. 5: Indicators of the reduction in internal migration of the population within the localities of the UTCs for 2019 (built by the authors according to (Ofitsiyni sait Ministerstva rozvytku hromad ta terytorii Ukrainy))

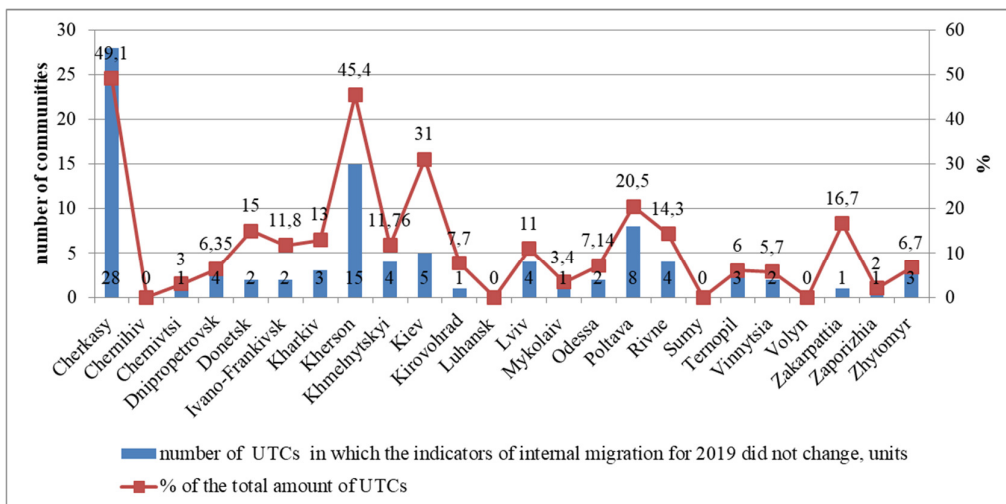


Fig. 6: Communities in which the indicators of internal migration of the population in 2019 did not change compared to the previous year (built by the authors according to (Ofitsiyni sait Ministerstva rozvytku hromad ta terytorii Ukrainy))

Migration flows in Ukraine associated with decentralization processes can have a positive impact on UTCs, since migrants of working age, as a rule, have a high educational and qualification level. This indicates a significant accumulated human capital, which can act as an important factor in the development of high-tech industries and services with intensive use of knowledge in communities with high migration activity (Lohvynova, 2019). In the socio-economic sphere, migration activity leads to an increase in the number of enterprises and organizations due to a surplus of labor. In addition, thanks to migrants, the least popular vacancies for the local population in the labor market are being filled, which leads to cheaper production of goods, increased requirements for the range and quality of goods and services. Thanks to migrants in communities, the social activity of the population is increasing and the number of social initiatives that the local population actively supports and develops together with the migrants is increasing. At the same time, the activation of migration flows and changes in the structure and composition of the population can have many threats for the further development of the territory (Table 1).

Table 1: Influence of migration flows on united territorial communities (compiled by the authors for (Lohvynova, 2019; Khymynets, Tsimbolynets, 2019; Niemets, Husieva, Pohrebskyi and etc., 2020; Ukrainske suspilstvo: mihratsiinyi vymir: nats. dopovid, 2018)

<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Threats</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * increase in the population of UTCs due to the influx of migrants; * development of communities at the expense of migration capital, which saturates the economy of communities; * opening new enterprises, providing jobs for residents of UTCs due to the entrepreneurial activity of migrants; * filling unclaimed vacancies in the labor market, easing tension on labor market, as a consequence of the decrease in the unemployment rate of the UTCs; * the creation of high-tech jobs and the attraction of productive investment (including foreign direct investment); * increasing the professional and qualification level of labor resources due to the intellectual potential of migrants; * promoting the development and diversification of business and the formation of clusters; * development of infrastructure, introduction of energy efficient technologies; * growth of social activity of the population due to new social initiatives; * replenishment of the local budget of the UTCs at the expense of taxes paid by migrants; * development of the consumer market, improving the range and quality of products; * improvement of the state of social infrastructure, construction of new social infrastructure facilities and reconstruction of existing ones; * consolidation of efforts of migrants, society, government, business on the basis of partnership; * improving the image of the community at the local and regional levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * a decrease in the population size in UTCs outsiders and communities with low financial activity; * uneven socio-economic development of individual communities, uneven development within the community, depressiveness of the periphery of the community; * deepening of regional identities among the population within the UTCs; * possible conflicts between migrants and the permanent population of UTCs, which leads to an increase in social tension in society, a possible increase in the level of crime; * the load on the housing stock, the need to provide housing for migrants, the rise in prices in the real estate market; * increased depression in rural areas due to the outflow of a part of the highly qualified population; * increasing the load on institutions of preschool, general secondary and higher education, medical institutions; * growing load on social welfare departments, pension fund departments, city employment centers; * increased competition in the labor market; * increasing social inequality; * an increase in the socio-cultural difference (in traditions, values, lifestyle, etc.).

Migration redistribution of the population on the territory of Ukraine can lead to serious threats to the united territorial communities. These threats consist in the increasing demographic burden on the population of the working-age population of the centers of the UTCs, the unevenness and asymmetry of the socio-economic development of the territories of individual UTCs due to competition for capital, including human, production, financial, cultural (Ukrainske suspilstvo: mihratsiinyi vymir: nats. dopovid, 2018). Large migration losses of the population will be experienced by communities with low resource potential, insufficient financial solvency and passive social position of residents. The loss of population due to migration outflow can lead to the loss of the economically active labor force, as a result, to the prevalence of the number of elderly people and depopulation. However, in the communities-recipients of migrants, an influx of population can fill unclaimed vacancies in the labor market, but on the other hand, lead to a shortage of housing, a worsening crime situation, destruction of local cultural and spiritual wealth, transformation of the mental characteristics of the population, lead to conflicts between communities, which poses a direct threat even to the integrity of the country.

Conclusions

The implementation of the decentralization reform in Ukraine should reduce territorial disparities in the socio-economic development of regions. The reform is aimed at increasing the employment of the population by opening new enterprises and organizations, increasing the income and well-being of the population of the united territorial communities, preventing large-scale migration of the population from the countryside and the depressiveness of the Ukrainian countryside. Of course, the unification of settlements into communities affects the direction of migration flows. In our opinion, the main directions of migration flows associated with the processes of decentralization will be the following directions: migration from united territorial communities to large cities, regional and district centers, centers of high socio-economic development; migration to UTCs located near large cities and centers of economic development, as an intermediate point for further migration to cities; territorial displacement of the population between several UTCs, UTCs outsiders to UTCs leaders; territorial movements of the population within the UTCs from the peripheral regions to the center of the UTCs.

To date, the reform of decentralization in Ukraine is at the stage of active implementation, 1029 UTCs have been created out of 1470 planned. In the Western Ukrainian regions and in the Dnieper region, UTCs occupy more than half of the region's area. In regions such as Sumy, Zhytomyr, Ternopil, Volyn, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernihiv regions, more than half of the region's population lives in UTCs. This may indicate active population movements between UTCs or within one UTC from peripheral areas to the center.

Migration flows can positively influence UTCs. But if communities will have a population less than the minimum permissible norm (5 thousand people), their chances of keeping the population from migrating, and even more so creating a positive migration growth, are very small. Higher financial incomes, the possibility of attracting investments, smart management can lead to the socio-economic well-being of some communities and the presence of socio-economic problems in others. And the migration of the population from outsider communities to community leaders will increase the disproportions in the social and economic development of communities. However, given a developed transport infrastructure, such migrations can be of a pendulum character.

The positive impact of migration flows for communities consists in an increase in the population of the community, its qualitative composition, since, as a rule, migrants are people of working age with high intellectual potential and labor qualifications. Due to the migration capital, it is possible to attract investments, open new enterprises and create new jobs, thereby reducing the unemployment rate in the community, developing infrastructure facilities, etc.

Thus, the prospects for the transformation of internal migration flows in the country as a whole and in its regions depend on the conditions for the implementation of the administrative-territorial reform and the success of decentralization changes in terms of improving the quality of life in territorial communities. Therefore, at the end of the implementation of the decentralization reform in Ukraine, a comprehensive analysis of migration redistribution should be carried out, taking into account the financial and other socio-economic indicators of the UTCs.

Because the reform of decentralization in Ukraine is completely incomplete, 441 UTCs that are still planning to create will obviously be quite problematic. This process requires additional research. In particular, what factors hinder the creation of these UTCs (qualitative characteristics of the population of these territories, income, labor and intellectual potential). The authors intend to further study these problems. After that, it is possible to solve the issues of optimization of intramigration processes, to propose models for their comprehensive improvement in order to ensure the sustainable development of territorial communities

The issues of completing decentralization in Ukraine require special attention and interdisciplinary study. As a result, the schemes of socio-economic zoning of Ukraine should be adjusted. All this will

help to ensure the development of the socio-economic, demographic foundations of Ukraine for enhanced integration into the EU and the world community of developed countries.

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