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SPATIAL PLANNING OF COMMUNITY TERRITORIES IN THE CONTEXT OF REFORMS AND MARTIAL LAW IN UKRAINE (USING THE EXAMPLE OF THE ODESA REGION)

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Abstract

The article highlights the problematic issues of developing strategic spatial planning documents in Ukraine using the example of territorial communities (Strategies for territorial development, Comprehensive spatial development plans, etc.). The importance of geographical conditions for the development of the potential of the territory in planning is revealed. The theoretical and methodological basis and applied aspects of the application of planning solutions in the development of strategic documents for regional and local development are considered, in particular with an emphasis on the Odesa region and its

geographical features. The need to improve the regulatory and legal framework for spatial planning related to the legal regime of martial law and the post-war reconstruction of the country, including its individual territories of various hierarchical levels, is confirmed.

Comprehensive community development plans should take into account the geographical location, landscape basis and population settlement system. The current task of planning at the community level should be to optimize land use by land for their intended purpose on the basis of sustainable development in order to preserve the environment. The materials of the proposed study can be used in management at the regional and local levels in Ukraine.

Keywords: territorial community; spatial planning; geographical location; natural resource potential; decentralization; regional development; strategic planning; sustainable development; martial law; Odesa region (Ukraine).

ПРОСТОРОВЕ ПЛАНУВАННЯ ТЕРИТОРІЙ ГРОМАД У КОНТЕКСТІ РЕФОРМ ТА ВОЄННОГО СТАНУ В УКРАЇНІ (НА ПРИКЛАДІ ОДЕСЬКОЇ ОБЛАСТІ)

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Анотація

У статті висвітлено проблемні питання розробки стратегічних документів прострового планування в Україні на прикладі територіальних громад (Стратегії розвитку територій, Комплексні плани просторового розвитку, тощо). Розкрито значення географічної обумовленості розвитку потенціалу території при плануванні. Розглянуто теоретико-методологічну основу і прикладні аспекти застосування планувальних рішень при розробці стратегічних документів регіонального та місцевого розвитку, зокрема з акцентом на Одеський регіон та його географічні особливості. Підтверджується потреба в удосконаленні нормативно-правової бази прострового планування, пов'язаної з правовим режимом воєнного стану та повоєнним відновленням країни, зокрема і окремих її територій різного ієрархічного рівня.

Комплексні плани розвитку громад мають враховувати географічне положення, ландшафтну основу та систему розселення населення. Поточним завданням планування на рівні громади має стати оптимізація землекористування землями за їх цільовим призначенням на засадах сталого розвитку з метою збереження довкілля. Матеріали пропонованого дослідження можуть бути використані при управлінні на регіональному та локальному рівнях в Україні.

Ключові слова: територіальна громада; просторове планування; географічне положення; природно-ресурсний потенціал; децентралізація; регіональний розвиток; стратегічне планування; сталий розвиток; воєнний стан; Одеська область (Україна).

Problem Statement

Spatial planning remains a highly relevant field of scientific inquiry, as future steps toward sustainable land restoration and community development in post-war Ukraine will largely depend on it. As a result of Ukraine's administrative-territorial reform, spatial restructuring was carried out at the lowest local level, leading to the formation of territorial communities with varying levels of financial capacity. Although geographical considerations should have played a central role in the reform process, inconsistencies in several decisions have shaped the current configuration of districts and communities within administrative regions.

By signing the Association Agreement with the European Union, Ukraine undertook to align its domestic policies with European approaches to territorial development planning, aimed at promoting polycentric spatial development, strengthening urban-rural linkages, ensuring equal access to social infrastructure, and supporting balanced management of natural and cultural heritage. A key priority in EU spatial development policy is ecological sustainability, whose significance has increased substantially in recent decades.

Climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of soil and land resources, landscape management, improvement of living environments, reduction of morbidity, and enhancement of public health represent only part of the issues currently on the policy agenda. Addressing these challenges is framed within the national and global Sustainable Development Goals 2030 [21].

Scientifically sound organization of the territory, its rational and balanced sustainable use determines the practical side of this issue. Achieving this goal in general, both in Ukraine and directly in our Odessa region (including at the level of planning of community territories),

requires systematic and systematic work with proper scientific and practical justification. This determines the relevance of the proposed study.

The scientifically grounded organization of territory, along with its rational and sustainable use, constitutes the practical dimension of this issue. Achieving this objective both nationally and specifically in the Odesa region, including at the level of community territorial planning, requires consistent and systematic efforts supported by robust scientific and practical justification. This determines the relevance of the proposed research.

Research methodology

This study employs general scientific and discipline-specific (geographical) research approaches and methods, as well as interdisciplinary perspectives drawn from related fields, including urban planning, land management, ecology, Earth sciences, and law.

The research is based on archival materials from the Department of Geography of Ukraine, Soil Science and Land Cadastre, and the Problem Research Laboratory of Soil Geography and Protection of the Chernozem Soil Cover (PNDL-4, Odesa National University), as well as information sources and official websites of governmental authorities, higher education institutions, research organizations, and civil society institutions directly engaged in spatial planning issues in Ukraine.

Main content

The implementation of environmentally balanced European policy in Ukraine has become particularly urgent, as this objective cannot be achieved without strategically oriented spatial (territorial) planning. These challenges have become especially acute during wartime, as the legal regime of martial law imposes specific decision-making priorities focused on security, while territorial planning decisions are characterized by long implementation periods, institutional inertia, and lasting effects.

Equally important is the issue of land resource management within communities in the context of land and administrative reforms, since sustainable land management determines spatial development trajectories and forms the foundation for the sustainable development of communities, regions, and the country as a whole.

The planning system for regional and local development in Ukraine includes two closely related but conceptually distinct notions: strategy and planning. A similar distinction applies to related concepts such as spatial planning, territorial planning, planning of territories, and geoplanning.

In this study, strategy is understood as a generalized long-term framework for achieving a defined objective, based on available resource potential. It is further

operationalized through tactical actions and implementation plans corresponding to strategic priorities. From a governance perspective, strategy constitutes an overarching framework for hierarchically interconnected system components. An action plan, in turn, serves to organize social processes, groups, or individuals in spatial and temporal dimensions.

Note also that the definitions of "region," "regional policy," and "regional studies" are already quite widespread in geographical scientific terminology [17]. In this study, the term "local level" is deliberately understood as a level lower than the regional level (district, community, or part thereof).

At present, the foundation of regional development planning is the State Strategy for Regional Development for 2021–2027 [16], which, within the framework of developing multilevel governance, provides for the creation of a coordinated system of strategic, spatial, and budget planning for regional development at the national, regional, and local levels. The Strategy is implemented in two stages: Stage I (2021–2023) and Stage II (2024–2027). Within each stage, the development and implementation of action plans for the respective period, as well as regional development programs and projects, are envisaged to achieve each strategic objective and corresponding tasks. In accordance with the Regional Development Strategy, "State regional policy until 2027 is based on considering, during strategic planning, key challenges affecting people, infrastructure, the security environment, the economy, and the natural environment, and will also include building a culture of partnership and cooperation oriented toward interaction among state authorities, local self-government bodies, and citizens for development" [16].

Thus, the development strategy incorporates planning-related time management and spatial planning, both of which depend on the natural resource potential of a territory [4, 12].

The existing system of territorial planning in Ukraine has its own historical trajectory and is "inherited" from the now extremely outdated Soviet planning system of centralized sectoral-administrative governance. As early as the late nineteenth century, two directions of the functional-planning organization of developed, predominantly industrial, lands began to take shape: master planning and district planning [13].

By the late twentieth century, modern European planning policy frameworks had emerged, framing spatial planning as an instrument for reconciling multilevel interests through subsidiarity and decentralization. The European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter contributed significantly to shaping a new understanding of planning as spatial planning. In Ukrainian geographical scholarship, two related concepts have long been distinguished—territorial planning and spatial planning [13]. While territorial planning primarily concerns the

allocation of economic resources—material, human, and financial—within administrative-territorial structures and systems of governance, spatial planning is understood as the rational territorial organization of society at all levels of governance. From a geographical perspective, the concept of spatial planning is preferable, as it accounts for territorial capacity, complexity, adaptation to landscape conditions, and the geospatial distribution of resources aimed at improving quality of life.

Since independence, Ukraine's territorial organization has evolved largely through institutional inertia as a legacy of the Soviet centralized planning system, in which state interests were prioritized over private interests in regulating urban development and managing land resources, while preserving settlement structures and economic specialization. However, the clarification of property rights and the emergence of private ownership, as expressions of sustainable economic development and resource-efficient approaches to the "nature–population–economy" nexus, have generated a continuing need to transform the planning system in both spatial (chorological) and temporal (chronological) dimensions. In response to these challenges, Ukraine adopted the General Scheme for Territorial Planning in 2002, approved by the relevant law, which became a foundation for regional planning policy.

At the same time, legal inconsistencies in the regulation of land relations have continually constrained sustainable territorial development. The implementation of a series of reforms in Ukraine—including decentralization, administrative-territorial, land, agrarian, tax, and related reforms—reflects the urgent need for Ukraine's institutional integration, through its regions and territorial communities, into the broader European economic and political space. In this context, the principles of spatial planning should be implemented through comprehensive spatial development plans for communities, which provide an integrated framework combining contemporary urban-planning solutions with sustainable approaches to land and soil resource management.

Issues of strategic spatial planning at state and regional levels have been widely addressed in the scholarly literature [13]. Depending on the evolution of the regulatory framework, scientific concepts, and implementation practices at different stages of territorial planning, one may identify generally successful methodological approaches to planning decisions aimed at the rational and optimal use of natural-resource and human potential. However, contemporary technological, informational, climatic, and socio-economic transformations, resulting from global and regional processes and further complicated by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine and its consequences, require the incorporation

of international best practices in sustainable landscape-based spatial organization into territorial planning.

In the early stages of developing ideas for reforming the administrative-territorial structure (ATS), active research and discussions were conducted with the aim of elaborating the concept of the new reform in as much detail as possible, aligning it with global practices, and incorporating these approaches to the fullest extent. Over a prolonged period, the features of state approaches to the development of spatial development plans for territories worldwide were analyzed [5, 8]. To ensure the comprehensive implementation of global experience in the spatial planning of community territories in Ukraine, the program "Integrated Spatial Planning for United Territorial Communities" has been functioning since 2018, and methodological guidelines for scientifically grounded spatial planning have been developed at the Institute of Geography of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine [11].

Current legislative features of spatial planning under martial law have been examined by S. Khrustovskyi and Yu. Slobodianiuk, who also highlight the incomplete legislative transition toward modern integrated and strategic planning approaches due to new challenges associated with Russia's military aggression [22]. They emphasize that environmental principles in territorial planning and adherence to sustainable development concepts have become a cornerstone issue in regional development, alongside economic priorities, and interpret spatial planning of community territories as an instrument for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals [22].

Ideas of spatial planning have also been coordinated by specialists in demogeography. In particular, the regional settlement system has been examined in detail in the context of changes in the administrative-territorial structure, emphasizing the inseparability of contemporary spatial planning from geographical research [3, 6, 7, 9, 18].

The identification of components emphasizing the importance of a geographical foundation in the spatial planning of communities and territories was carried out based on an analysis of scientific works devoted to spatial planning, as well as on the study of Comprehensive Spatial Development Plans, Strategic Plans of Odesa Oblast for 2021–2027, an analysis of the socio-economic condition of Odesa Oblast, and materials from the official website of the Odesa Regional Military Administration [19].

Current spatial planning of communities in Ukraine is defined through the development of Comprehensive Plans for Spatial Development (CPSD) of community territories, which combine urban planning and land management documentation. This CPSD

determines the sustainable development strategy, regulates the prospects for utilizing the territory's resource potential and infrastructure, and ensures sustainable nature and land use.

At the same time, geographers have always participated in territorial planning through the development of city master plans, district planning projects, and territorial planning schemes for the country and its individual regions (oblasts). The quintessence of territorial planning can be considered the formation of a separate branch of geographical science—geoplanning—which combines the organization of the natural environment, the spatial organization of the population, and economic-production activities determined by the potential of relevant resources. However, the modern regulatory and legal framework for geoplanning is almost undefined in Ukraine, with the exception of the national spatial planning concept, which contains only certain elements of the comprehensive geoplanning approach to territorial development.

The implementation of geoplanning decisions in traditional approaches focused on forming the natural framework for the ecological security of a territory, the spatial organization of the population with guaranteed environmental safety and opportunities for active economic activity, and ensuring the efficient use of natural resource potential, human labor resources, and minimization of environmental pollution, among other aspects [10, 13].

The ultimate objective of spatial planning at any level is to improve the quality of life of the population through harmonizing relationships within the triad "nature (natural resources) – population – economy," which, depending on the hierarchical level, differs somewhat in content (Table 1).

As shown in the table, regional geoplanning based on the formation of an ecological safety framework for a territory (primarily through the development of an ecological network) and its natural resource potential involves multi-level, component-based planning with mandatory consideration of spatial organization patterns and dynamic indicators of population change. At the same time, geoplanning at the level of administrative districts and territorial communities established in 2020 has not yet received either methodological or practical implementation.

Currently, a legal framework has been established for communities to develop and apply local-level urban planning documentation until January 1, 2028, pending approval of comprehensive spatial development plans for community territories. Corresponding amendments are being introduced to the Land Code of Ukraine and the Laws of Ukraine "On Regulation of Urban Planning Activities," "On the State Land Cadastre," "On Land Management," and "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Regarding Land

Use Planning." A developed spatial development plan will serve as a key advantage when seeking funding for community recovery and infrastructure development from state budget resources or international financial assistance.

Table 1 – Geoplanning of territories at regional and local levels

Elements of geoplanning					
Regional level			**Local level (territorial communities or parts thereof)**		
Environment	Society (as a set of communities in the region)	Economy	Environment	Community	Economy
Directions of planning decisions					
Formation of the framework of ecological security of the territory	Territorial organization of the population	Rational use of natural resource potential and human capital	Adaptation to the existing framework of ecological security of the territory, formation of individual local objects	Improvement of the existing settlement system, taking into account migration phenomena in connection with martial law	Taking into account the existing land use structure, adaptation of economic activity to climate change and the legal regime of martial law
Planning principles					
Multi-level component-based planning			Single-level component-based planning		
Target key result (in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals)					
Improving the quality of life of the population					

Therefore, under conditions of uncertainty associated with martial law, there is an urgent need to improve the regional geoplanning system and to develop territorial planning frameworks for district and local levels.

Based on the developed methodology of regional-level geoplanning [20], we propose a theoretical and methodological framework (scheme) for local-level (territorial community) geoplanning:

I. Analysis of the current territorial planning framework, including:

- Existing land use, land cadastre, and other sectoral cadastres (subsoil, water, forest resources, urban planning cadastre, etc.);
- Population characteristics (settlement systems, migration flows, geodemographic conditions and potential);
- Main economic specialization and economic indicators (types of economic activity, forms of ownership, financial capacity, tax base, etc.);

- Social and production infrastructure.

II. Development scenarios and forecasts:

- Strategies for socio-economic development, including long-term planning for 15–20 years;
- Strategies and forecasts of natural resource use;
- Forecasts and scenarios of demographic potential.

III. Formation of basic spatial units for geoplanning:

- Identification of zones of environmental pressure and development (arising from economic facilities, existing infrastructure, and the network of protected areas, etc.);
- Formation of growth poles and planning for infrastructure development, public development, and an inclusive and ecologically secure environment.

IV. Development of geoplanning schemes (cartographic models):

- Formation of an ecological network;
- Assessment of anthropogenic impacts;
- Development of an integrated multicomponent ecologically secure geoplanning scheme for community territory.

Obviously, contemporary geoplanning at the community level should take into account the landscape framework, which determines patterns of natural resource use and land use across all land categories represented (inventoried) within the community. Analysis of land use at regional and local levels demonstrates the need to optimize land structure, reduce the share of agricultural land (primarily arable land), withdraw low-productivity and degraded lands from cultivation, and increase the proportion of ecologically stabilizing lands, among other measures.

Under the special legal regime of martial law and in the context of post-war recovery of the country and its individual regions, it is recommended to consider demographic conditions, migration flows, and other dynamic indicators of territorial demographic potential in geoplanning processes [3].

A defining feature of viable territorial communities, in line with the decentralization reform concept, is their autonomy in governance, socio-economic development, and the capacity to utilize their human, financial, and natural resources to support human development. The activities of local self-government bodies are guided by a set of forecasting and program documents that ensure the socio-economic development of communities [14]. Among these, particular importance should be attached to the community development

strategy and socio-economic development program, which define the goals, priorities, and measures necessary for their implementation [15].

This also highlights another dimension of the role of geographical factors in community development planning. In analyzing the socio-economic development of a territory, the first stage involves assessing its geographical position through a comprehensive evaluation of geostrategic, transport-geographical, and physical-geographical characteristics within the broader geopolitical context. Research based on the relevant analytical report of the Odesa Regional Military Administration indicates that, despite adverse geostrategic conditions—such as proximity to the quasi-state entity of Transnistria, persistent shelling from the Black Sea, and proximity to the Mykolaiv and Kherson regions located in areas of active Russian attacks—access to the Black Sea and neighborhood relations with Romania and Moldova create opportunities for participation in international cooperation projects. The advantages of cross-border location and proximity to the maritime coast have been effectively incorporated into community development strategies across the region [19].

The transport-geographical position of the region is also favorable in the context of the reconfiguration of international transport corridors. The region is traversed by one operating and one projected Trans-European Transport Corridor (No. 7 along the Danube and No. 9), which constitutes a positive factor for further socio-economic development. The seaports of the Odesa region are considered in the National Transport Strategy as a future component of the maritime "Blue Belt" surrounding Europe. In addition, under wartime conditions, Odesa region is emerging as a strategic platform for the development of the Southern Logistics Hub, integrating maritime, river, rail, and road transport. Together with the coastal location of communities, these factors create favorable conditions for both domestic and international economic activity. It is also noteworthy that 95 percent of communities identify advantageous geographical location as a significant development asset. In the State Strategy for Regional Development for 2021–2027, Odesa region is recognized as a key area for the development of coastal regions and the realization of Ukraine's maritime potential [1].

Another equally important factor in territorial development, and consequently in supporting socio-economic development from a geographical perspective, is recreational resource and natural resource potential. These combine the economic and environmental foundations of strategic community planning and are closely linked to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The importance of proper assessment of community natural resource potential for development has repeatedly been emphasized by both geographers and economists [2,23]. Available natural conditions and resources constitute the natural wealth

that determines both the economic specialization of a community and the living conditions of its population. This may be regarded as one of the most inherently geographical components of strategic community development planning, while scientifically grounded and efficient use of natural resource potential can strengthen a community's competitive position in the regional economy.

Despite the fact that Odesa region's share of Ukraine's GRP is only 3.7%, this has contributed to the formation of many branches of the region's economy. According to the materials of the Odesa Regional Military Administration, the natural and recreational potential has led to a recreational and tourist specialization in 28% of the region's communities, although in 70% of cases they recognize the tourist attractiveness of the region. However, the importance of natural resource potential is recognized in almost 94% of communities. Natural conditions have led to the formation of a highly intensive agricultural microregion with grain specialization in the region, and 64% of communities indicate this economic direction as a priority [19].

In the State Strategy for Regional Development 2021–2027, Odesa region is positioned as a key region in the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as a platform for inter-community cooperation in the protection and preservation of the natural environment in southern Ukraine. Although the share of protected areas in the region is only 4.4%, which is a rather insignificant indicator. At the same time, the region does not have a significant range of minerals – the main share consists of raw materials for the production of building materials (sand, loam, limestone, cement raw materials, gravel, pebbles, etc.). There are also deposits of iron ore, non-ferrous metal ores, phosphorites, and therapeutic mud. Of particular interest, against the background of constant shelling and destruction by the Russian Federation of Ukraine's fuel and energy infrastructure, are the prospects for active development of oil and gas deposits in the Black Sea-Crimean oil and gas basin [19]. The use of therapeutic mud in recreational activities has special prospects in view of the needs of population recovery in the post-war period.

Land resources are represented predominantly by soils of moderate quality, although their areas are quite significant – more than 80% are arable land, which, as already noted, together with favorable climatic conditions, have become the main factor in the formation of agricultural specialization. Their use is accompanied by significant (48%) land erosion and the need for irrigation. It is also worth noting the prospects for the use of climatic resources in the electric power industry, which again is a promising direction in the post-war

reconstruction of Ukraine and the region in particular. The forest cover in the region is quite low (6%), which is further worsened by constant shelling and fires [19].

Today, we clearly understand that after the end of martial law, there is a need to review the structure of the economic complex and the main areas of specialization of regions as a whole. In this case, the development of the tourism and recreational sector, taking into account the consequences of military actions on the Black Sea coast, opens up prospects for expanding and updating the range of tourism and recreational services for the communities of Odesa region. The unique recreational potential, biological resources of the sea, valuable biosphere resources, ecosystems and biocenoses, combined with the cross-border location, have prospects for attracting investment and development [19].

An important aspect of community development, and accordingly one that is taken into account in its comprehensive plan, is its environmental safety, as a reflection of one of the Sustainable Development Goals. The development of environmental principles in spatial planning is also an important factor. After all, compliance with environmental standards and ensuring environmental safety are the main conditions for spatial planning [19]. In the case of environmental factors of spatial planning, it is worth pointing out their contradictory nature with respect to strategic plans, which requires complex interaction between specialists from different fields. For example, the prospects for transport and logistics development highlight the problem of atmospheric pollution by means of transportation; the communities of Odesa region have formed their own agricultural specialization; at the same time, problems of soil and groundwater pollution are recorded; the tourism and recreational sphere is identified as a promising direction; and for communities in the region, a catastrophic problem is spontaneous landfills and environmental pollution from their decomposition products, as well as coastal waters polluted by oil and gas extraction products in addition to the aforementioned household and industrial waste [1].

If the mentioned problems can be foreseen when developing a spatial plan for the community territory – by taking a landscape approach as a basis and coordinating it with existing architectural solutions – then the consequences of war are an unpredictable factor that will lead to an immediate revision of spatial planning after the end of the war. It is worth emphasizing separately the consequences of environmental damage to the environment from the destructive activities of the occupiers. Constant rocket attacks and drone strikes are an additional source of pollution with heavy metals, lubricants, and combustion products. In addition, explosive objects pose a potential threat to the destruction of the ecosystem. An additional burden on the ecological sustainability of the region's communities was created by

the destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant dam. And most importantly, this type of impact cannot be predicted when developing a long-term spatial plan for the region and individual communities.

Also indispensable for territories with a relatively secure situation will be a rapid planning approach in relation to the placement of IDPs or a rapid response to the need for relocation. It is the implementation of rapid planning that will make it possible – albeit not ideally – but quickly, clearly, and most importantly effectively to resolve issues of recovery, reconstruction, and changes to the development plan without unnecessary bureaucratic delays. Especially when time is a determining factor. In this case, it is worth mentioning again the Comprehensive Recovery Program, which should be recommended not only for communities that have already suffered and need recovery, but also that basic elements should be ready in every community for emergency use. These ideas are implemented in the State Strategy for Regional Development for 2021–2027. According to the aforementioned document, Recovery Plans should be developed for communities or territories that meet one of four criteria: hostilities took place or the territory was under occupation; destruction due to hostilities was recorded; a sharp decline in socio-economic development was recorded during martial law; significant forced population displacements occurred, etc. It should be noted that Odesa region meets the specified requirements. Currently, most communities do not have a developed package of programs, plans, and strategies, which hinders development, the preparation of documentation, and recovery.

Special attention should be paid to the expansion of the territories of nature reserve objects and the classification of basic spatial units of geoplanning through the development of nomenclature and taxonomic ranks, due to the need to implement European environmental policy. First of all, we consider the imperfection of the system of accounting and monitoring of the state of the environment to be a weakness, and therefore the lack of objectivity in establishing the levels of anthropogenic and technogenic loads for various types of natural resource use and their territorial combinations, which makes optimization at the district and local levels impossible.

Finally, we note that in the context of educational reform and the transformation of the subject area of geography, the demand for higher geographical education is significantly decreasing. Therefore, in the context of developing new higher education standards, it is worth considering the possibility of opening interdisciplinary educational programs for training specialists that combine constructive-geographical approaches to spatial planning (geoplanning) within a number of specialties (in particular, C6 "Geography and Regional

Studies", E4 "Earth Sciences", G18 "Geodesy and Land Management", etc.). After all, the training of highly qualified specialists who will have theoretical and practical training in geoplanning and strategizing will bring our country closer to the European single planning space.

Conclusions

As a result of examining the theoretical and methodological foundations and applied aspects of planning solutions used in the development of strategic documents for regional and local development, with particular emphasis on the Odesa region and its geographical characteristics, the need to improve the regulatory framework for geoplanning in the context of martial law and post-war recovery of the country and its territories at different hierarchical levels has been identified.

Comprehensive community development plans, as an integral component of sustainable development, should be developed on a landscape basis, taking into account existing and prospective settlement systems, the optimization of land use according to designated functions, and the preservation of an ecologically balanced environment. Under the special legal regime of martial law and in the context of post-war recovery of the country and its individual regions, migration flows and other dynamic indicators of territorial demographic potential should also be incorporated into geoplanning processes.

The district level currently remains the most problematic in geoplanning, as it lacks the necessary information base for effective planning. This confirms the incompleteness of several reforms in Ukraine, including decentralization, administrative reform, fiscal reform, land reform, agrarian reform, reclamation reform, and forestry reform.

Ecologically unbalanced use of soil and land resources has contributed to the development of destructive degradation processes within ecosystems. Under wartime conditions, unresolved issues remain at all levels of land use management (national, regional, and local), including environmental and agrochemical certification, land degradation assessment and monitoring, and sustainable management of water and soil resources. Addressing these issues, together with demographic and broader socio-economic challenges, will define the main directions of community territorial planning during the post-war development period and already require the training of appropriately qualified managerial and implementation personnel.

For the further development and reconstruction of territorial communities and regions, a key condition for integrated and evidence-based governance is the existence of adopted Territorial Development Strategies, Comprehensive Spatial Development Plans, and, for

communities affected by military actions or shelling, Comprehensive Territorial Recovery Programs. Our findings demonstrate the importance of detailed consideration of the geographical component in the preparation of these documents. They also have practical governance implications, highlighting the importance of specialists in regional development and spatial planning who possess geographical knowledge and relevant professional competencies in the contemporary labor market.

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