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## НАУЧНАЯ ЖИЗНЬ

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«ЖИЗНЬ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ ПОСЛЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ:  
КАК СДЕЛАТЬ РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ ПОНЯТНЫМИ И ПОЛЕЗНЫМИ»

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**SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF CROSS-BORDER  
REGIONAL COOPERATION OF UKRAINE**

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The problems of regional development in Ukraine today is increasingly associated with the intensification of cross-border cooperation. The majority of Ukrainian regions bordering with the border regions of other countries, that making cross-border cooperation by effective lever for regional development of our state under globalization. This primarily refers to those administrative units, whose area is tangent to the outer border of Ukraine with the EU, since in terms of European integration thanks to cross-border cooperation in these regions are improving not only the indicators of foreign trade in goods and services, but there is growth not only in attracting of foreign investment, but in the adaptation of European experience in business, management technologies, business ethics, social culture and standards of the formation of civil society.

For Ukraine the study of the problems of cross-border regions development, formed with the participation of border territories of the states that are members of EU, in particular, with activation of foreign economic activity, is an important factor in the adaptation of best practices and modern mechanisms of international regional integration.

Enhancing of external economic relations of Ukrainian regions with the regions that are partners from the EU in the context of cross-border cooperation development has a significant positive impacts as for these regions such as for the whole Ukraine. However, intensification of foreign economic relations within the cross-border regions

with new opportunities brings new risks for increasing the asymmetry of levels of socio-economic development of the adjacent territories of neighboring countries due to faster growth rates in states that are the new EU members of the European Union, compared with Ukraine.

In order to use the potential of the neighborhood within the cross-border regions, that formed at the border of Ukraine with the EU, and also for neutralization of the possible negative impact of the existing differences in living standards on both sides of the border, there is a need to identify the most effective means of solving the development problems of border and transport infrastructure; protection of common areas of borders; facilitation of border crossing procedures; protection from organized crime and combat with it; development of economic relations and increasing of competitiveness of the territory; environment and health security; development of cultural ties on both sides of the border.

Nowadays, cross-border cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union becomes relevant and important because it plays a significant role in solving the problems of border areas, contributes to the acceleration of economic productivity, social and cultural changes that are essential in establishing good relationships between countries.

A major role in the development of modern cross-border, Euro-regional cooperation should play regional governments, municipalities and administrative units of these countries.

The current development of European integration requires to find new priorities for the development of cross-border cooperation between Ukraine and its neighbors, especially when European Union went east. Moreover, geopolitical changes, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe following the EU enlargement to the east, also require the inter-regional relations formation.

The geopolitical status of cross-border cooperation between Ukraine and Central European countries rose to a higher level. Ukraine can address the problem of strengthening inter-regional relations more effectively not only with each of the Central European countries but also directly with Brussels and Strasbourg.

In its turn, Ukraine can coordinate and carry out joint actions with each state — western neighbor in the EU to obtain financial assistance in the implementation of joint cross-border projects. In spite of better funding from the EU, problems of cross-border cooperation remain the same. Only changes in public policy and management stereotypes of all partners can solve these problems.

Integration of neighbor countries to the EU, NATO and the Shengen area increases the differences between Ukraine and these countries. Indicators of economic and social development are becoming more and more different as well as the level of investment in the border infrastructure. The Ukrainian Law «On cross-border cooperation» [Supreme...] doesn't solve the problems associated with the creation of an effective system of cross-border cooperation in the new environment.

Growing disparities as well as the opportunities to raise funds for regional development stimulate the search for appropriate solutions. Therefore, the focus should be on the «concerted actions» of local communities on both sides of the border, working on common goals and interests, and based on the real possibilities of each

party [Mikula, Tolkovanov, 2012]. From this perspective, the top priorities should become:

- coordinated development of cross-border networks;
- cross-border tourism;
- scientific, educational and cultural activities.

After exploring the theoretical principles, forms and legal regulation of cross-border cooperation between Ukraine and the EU, we can conclude that despite all the challenges and unsolved problems, the best source for the mechanisms of cross-border cooperation with EU are European regions [Shcherba, 2008; Shcherba, 2013].

Implementation of the above will consider the trends of cross-border cooperation of Ukraine and EU. This will give the possibility to Ukraine actively participate in the cooperation. Otherwise, Ukraine as a member of cross-border cooperation will play a passive role and lose a significant share of the positive potential of this process.

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