

Transformation of Lithuania and Ukraine Regional Policy

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After analyzing the transformations in Lithuanian and Ukrainian economy, the integrated regional policies effect to regional differences development evaluation methodology was prepared, which is designed to link regional developments with regional policies. The purpose of the article is to present a common Lithuanian – Ukrainian assessment methodology developed in the scientific study, which ensures the objectivity and applicability to solve regional development issues. Summarizing the variety of development level indicators in the scientific literature and experience of Lithuania and Ukraine, four main groups of indicators are identified in this paper that accurately describe the socio - economic situation: demographic, social and economic development and labor market, assessed region's transportation systems and social and tourism availability, compared public infrastructure and services development indicators. Analysis of scientific literature, Lithuanian and Ukrainian experience, statistical data analysis, and expert evaluations carried out in both countries created a joint region competitiveness evaluation system. Performed evaluation of expert opinion consensus enabled to select the indicators of region's development level evaluation and their combinations, which are necessary to carry out inter-regional comparisons. The article also contains structure graph, dedicated to indicate the consistency in the execution of the evaluation process and opportunities of use of research data analysis methods to implemented regional policies development impact to region development deficiencies calculation. The findings of the article show that the effects of implemented measures of regional policy can be evaluated only in a few years by adding investment in business, human resources, infrastructure development, but it must be done periodically to monitor regional social - economic development processes and the effectiveness of regional policy changes.

Keywords: *regional development, methodology, regional policy, Lithuania, Ukraine.*

Introduction

Becoming a member of the European Union (EU), Lithuania participates in the implementation of the EU regional policy. Lithuania maintains friendly relations with many countries. One of them is Ukraine. As the EU member, Lithuania in international level pursues to promote sustainable development not only in our country, but also to move it to the other countries. However, the effect of implementation of regional policy influence, in a particular state should be adjusted individually by developing an integrated approach, involving the development of regional-level analysis indicators system for differentiation of regions by social and economic development level, to identify regional strengths and weaknesses as well as reflecting the impact of regional

policy on regional development. Comprehensive evaluation of region's social and economic results is a weak regional management point. Therefore, this topic is so important for all countries and their economic and social development. Without a unified assessment methodology based on objective information sources, in evaluating results there are a lot of subjectivity. These results are unsuitable for interregional comparisons. Therefore, the purpose of the article is to present a common Lithuanian – Ukrainian assessment methodology developed in the scientific study, which ensures the objectivity and applicability to solve regional development issues.

In the scientific literature, two main approaches to regional differences development and the need of regional policies are found: the regional economic convergence theorists Tiebout (1956a, 1956b), North (1955, 1956),

Borts and Stein (Borts & Stein, 1964; Williamson, 1965), who argued that economic policy is unnecessary, because the free market alone evens out differences in development, and the main representatives of regional economic divergence theories (Myrdal, 1957; Kaldor, 1970; Dixon & Thirlwall, 1975; Perroux, 1950; Hirschman, 1958; Boudeville, 1966; Friedmann, 1966), claiming the growth of regional differences, augmenting the need of regional policy.

Regional policy impact assessment methods found in the scientific literature are based primarily on analysis of the economic impact and are suitable for investigation of the effect of both national and regional policies. Major authors are Leontief (1986), Weiss and Gooding (Weiss & Gooding, 1968; Bradley *et al.*, 2007) and others. However, in order to assess the regional structure and patterns of economic development and features of regional policy forming process, it is important to adapt the regional policies impact for a regional development model for a particular territory.

Lithuanian scientists began to examine the region as a social - economic system, balanced regional development and its impact on the national economy and regional policy problems, relatively recently, after regaining its independence. Regional policy issues and aspects are analyzed by Lithuanian scientists Bagdzeviciene, 2001; Dumcius & Siupsinskas, 2003; Streimikiene, 2002; Vaitiekunas, 2001; Burneika & Bagociute, 2002; Bruneckiene, 2009; Kravchenko, 2013; Koshelenko, 2013; Orehova, 2013) and others.

However, implementation of regional policy as a process and its evaluation is a very poorly studied area. Several scientific studies have modeled the effects of regional policy for individual activities: for Lithuanian public administration – (Brozaitis *et al.*, 2002), the economic and social development – (Macys & Stunguriene 2005; Kilijoniene, 2010), and so on.

There is no unified opinion formed in the scientific literature for the selection of social and economic development indicators of inter-regional comparisons and drawing attention to the lack of regional policy for qualitative and quantitative impact on the regional and national levels of development methodology for evaluation creation. The purpose of the article is a regional policy influence. Research methods used in this article are: systematic and comparative analysis of scientific literature, logical abstraction and conclusion generation methods, data normalization method, simulations.

Comparative analysis of the main macroeconomic indicators of Lithuania and Ukraine

In the scientific literature the authors, assessing the country's or region's competitiveness, measure it starting with one or a few specific factors and ending with sets of factors. By applying different competitiveness measure methods, some authors have used macroeconomic factors, reflecting the macro-economic environment, market conditions and conditions created for business (infrastructure) (Zitkus & Mickeviciene, 2013; Rakauskiene & Tamosiuniene, 2013; Tamosiuniene & Staskeviciute, 2011; Vilpisauskas, 2004), the others used

microeconomic factors, reflecting the corporate management performance, productivity and so on, and the others try to include harder quantify measurable factors, such as social responsibility, tolerance, diversity, creativity (Aiginger, 2003; Bruneckiene & Kilijoniene, 2011).

According to estimates of the World Economic Forum (2013), there are three country development stages: a resource oriented development, development oriented to the performance, and development oriented to the innovation. Lithuania is a transition from efficiency oriented to investments based development stage, and Ukraine is in the effectiveness development stage, so Lithuania's development level is higher, and the higher country's development level is, the higher is country's competitiveness. However, the competitiveness of the countries is influenced by the cyclical development stage. In theory, in the economic recovery period, the country's competitiveness should be evaluated better, and vice versa, during economic downturns - the country's competitiveness will have to decline (Kilijoniene & Simanaviciene, 2009). The country's economic cyclical development is best demonstrated by real GDP change. The economic upturn was in Lithuania and Ukraine, which as a result of global financial crisis, went to the period of decline, from 2008 till 2009. Although both countries' cyclical changes in the economy were similar, in the case of Lithuania, economy growth rate in economy recovery time has been faster, while Lithuania's economic recovery in 2010 was slower than in Ukraine, but in 2012 Ukraine's GDP growth rate slowed more than in Lithuania. Lithuania's economy growth rate has been more stable than in Ukraine, despite the impact of the crisis for both countries' GDP change rate was very similar. Linking of the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) to GDP showed that the country's GDP growth (decrease) determine GCI growth (decrease). Since 2010 Lithuania's competitiveness index unchanged, while Ukraine increased competitiveness in 2011 and it has decreased in 2012. These differences between the countries can be explained not only by the country's economic state change, but also by the fact that political and institutional environment in Ukraine is much unstable than in Lithuania.

Comprehensive evaluation of regional economic losses caused by the economic crisis, has assessed Lithuania's and Ukraine's main macroeconomic indicators change (real gross domestic product (GDP), real gross domestic product per capita in the comparative power standard, unemployment rate, the number of employed persons, foreign direct investment per capita rate, inflation and the discomfort index). The study examines the period from 2005 to 2011.

Real GDP in post-crisis period in Lithuania dropped by 15,0 % and 15,1 % in Ukraine. The significant decline of the index was driven by structural change of economic activities: the added value in agriculture in 2010 compared to 2005 respectively decreased in Lithuania by 27,1 % and 20,2 % in Ukraine, industrial added value decreased respectively to 14,3 % and 4,7%, while services grew by 9,6 % and 5,4 % respectively. Thus, the added value in agriculture and industry, in after-crisis period, decreased more significant in Lithuania than in Ukraine.

The structure of economic activities has resulted, that in the post-crisis period the unemployment rate began to rise significantly in Lithuania and in 2010 reached the highest level of 17,8 %, while in Ukraine the highest unemployment rate was in 2009 - 9,5 %. Number of employed people in 2011, both in Lithuania and Ukraine was lower than before the financial crisis. Unemployment rate in Lithuania in 2011 concluded 93,0% from the level in 2005, while in Ukraine - 99,3% from the employment rate in 2005.

The inflation rate, calculated on the gross domestic product deflator changes, during the analyzed period of 2005–2011, was the biggest in 2008 in Ukraine – 28,6 %, and in Lithuania – 9,8 %. During the analyzed period of 2005–2011, inflation in Ukraine was 2–7 times higher than in Lithuania. This led that the discomfort index was also the highest in 2008 in Ukraine - 34,6 %, and in Lithuania it was the biggest in 2010 – 20,6 %.

In addressing this challenge, an integrated assessment of regional economic losses, caused by the economic crisis is to distinguish economic development indicators (real GDP per capita, net foreign direct investment per capita, employment rate) to determine the Lithuanian and Ukrainian economic development indices, to consider the base year 2005. This index shows that according to the economic development index neither Lithuania's nor Ukraine's economies in 2011 haven't reached their highest level of the index of economic development, which was in 2008. Economic development index in 2011 in Lithuania was 125,78 % and 107,78 % in Ukraine. The highest index was in 2008, respectively, in Lithuania 133,92 %, and in Ukraine 124,16 %.

Regional competitiveness evaluation system in Lithuania and Ukraine

Summarizing the variety of development level indicators in the scientific literature and a foreign experience, the study identified four main groups of indicators that most accurately describe the social and economic situation of Lithuania's and Ukraine's regions – demographic, social and economic development and labor market, assessed both regions transportation systems, social and tourism services availability, compared public infrastructure and development services describing indicators. There were selected universal indicators of region's development level assessment and their combinations, which are necessary in order to make inter-regional comparisons. In order to develop a common regional competitiveness evaluation system, it is appropriate to evaluate a regional policy influence as well. To investigate regional policy impact assessment problematic, there should be used qualitative and quantitative research methods of data analysis. Regional policies influence evaluation results directly depend on the detailed regional statistics, based on the level of development of region evaluation indicators dynamics. Therefore, to support regional social economic development level differentiation and to identify underdevelopment regions, it is necessary to perform a complex analysis of development of the regions where it is important to choose the optimal set of regions' current social and economic

situation parameters (indicators), in order to identify regional differences in the country.

Experience and a plenty of regional studies carried out show that between the different territories of the regions there are sufficiently clear social (socio - cultural, demographic and ethnic distinctions), economic, natural (soil, topography, climate, landscape distinctions), territorial differences. State policy can suppress these diversities of, to promote or to sort, maintaining a positive natural and cultural identities and comparing socio - economic disparities.

Analysis of scientific literature, Lithuanian and Ukrainian experience, statistical data analysis, and expert evaluations carried out in both countries, created a joint region competitiveness evaluation system. Region's competitiveness evaluation system process consists of four phases. Stage 0 is for the region development level evaluation index set to creation. These indicators should be selected by expert survey, creating the survey questionnaire.

Stage 1 is for the existing region's social and economic situation evaluation and identification of strengths and weaknesses of region's development. Regional development level parameters normalization. Evaluating Lithuanian and Ukrainian regions, their economic development components and typical branches of the economy, it is necessary to use the system of index calculation, which is based on integrated total indicator and characterizes regions' level of development, while normalizing and integrating the region's level of development indicators of inter-regional disparities. For index constituent dimension, weights are set to each object separately, taking into account the specificities of the territory, specificity of developed activity.

To calculate the index of assessment of Lithuania's and Ukraine's regional social and economic development level there should be selected indicators of normalization method, the input to determine the coefficients (component dimensions), exceeding or not exceeding the data in the selected regions close to the group average. The motive for the selection of indicators normalization method named by interviewed experts is a possibility to compare the regional social and economic achievements, accompanied by indicators of relevance not only for selected regions and the EU average.

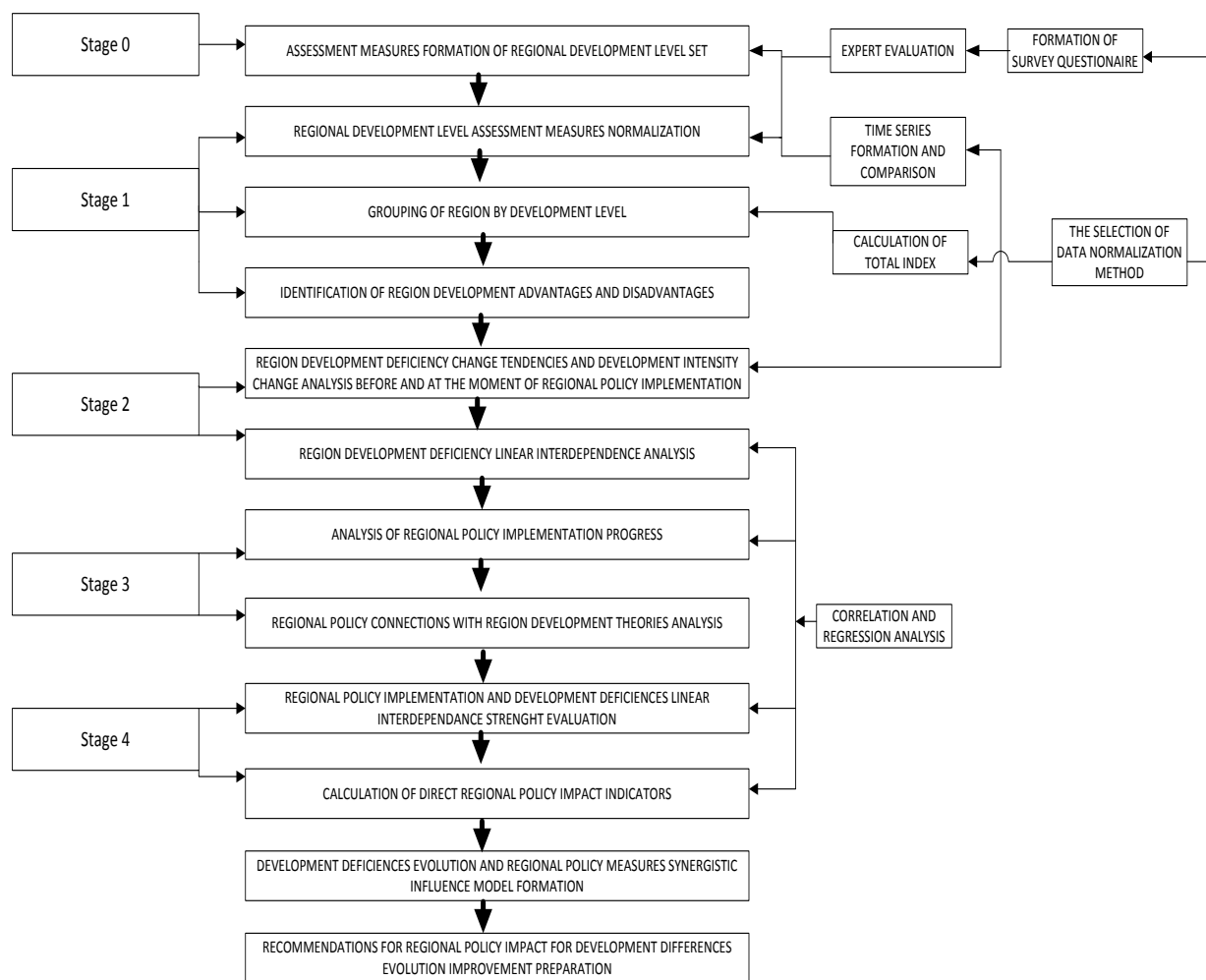


Figure 1. Regional competitiveness assessment structure (made by the authors)

The regions are grouped by the level of development. According to the actual average annual indexes, grouping by level of development continues to be carried out in both regions.

Identification of regional development disadvantages and advantages. After the evaluation of regional development with aggregated index, there are identified strong (advantages of development) and weak (developing weaknesses) regional sides, with further development where should be promoted social and economic development incentives for achieving regional competitiveness. Analysis of regional strengths and weaknesses highlights the future steps in defining the development strategy, the objectives - to develop the region's strengths (already exploited or potential) in order to increase the region's competitiveness. Highlighting of weaknesses in the future will also allow taking actions to eliminate or reduce them; it allows implementing the regional policy in the less developed regions. The weak and strong sides of the region are identified according to the possible maximum and minimum for each assessment year estimates of values:

- if during the analyzed time the rate of total index was maximal, such index evolution characterizes the *region's development strong points or advantage of development*.

- if during the analyzed time the rate of total index was minimal, such index evolution characterizes the *region's development weak points or deficiency of development*.

The second stage is for the selected region development deficiencies of the linear interdependence and development deficiency change in trends and the evolution of the intensity of changes analysis before and during the regional policy implementation period. This study is devoted to the question of how the region has evolved before and during the periods of implementation of regional policy, is the development pace accelerating or slowing down and if it identifies indicators which are more influencing (independent) and dependent on other indicators development. The analytical performance of consistency is described in Table 1.

Third stage begins with implementation of regional policy and interface with regional development theories analysis. In this stage of the investigation with regard to the national legal framework, the theoretical regional development models' interpretation was carried out and it's practical application in order to determine the most suitable for a particular state regional structural context.

Table 1

Regional development shortcomings linear interdependencies setting

Checking propositions equity during evaluation	Data analysis method	Propositions verification activities	Interpretation of results
The region is developing rapidly in the period of regional policy implementation or after all.	Regression analysis	Analyzing the social and economic development indicators, reflecting the region's development shortcomings context, the dynamics of the linear regression analysis.	Regression trend line change tendencies are evaluated, : - If the curve changes in favorable direction, it is considered that the lack of development is decreasing; - Otherwise, the lack of development increases.
	Comparative analysis of time series	Analyzing the region development shortages, the average value change before provision of support, in the duration and after implementation the regional policy.	If the average change value of the development during regional policy implementation period is favorable then: - Development is seen as a progressive, - Otherwise it is regressive.
Does regional development disadvantages evolution associates with a linear relationship	Correlation analysis	The correlation matrix of developed indicators is formed, which shows the strengths between the linear dependence characteristics. Identified indicators that are independent from each other, and dependent.	If the coefficient's absolute value (without number mark) is: - More than 0.951, - it is a very strong linear relationship dependence between indicator (a mark indicates the direction of the straight). - Between 0.801 and 0.950, - it is a strong linear relationship. - Between 0.601 and 0.800 - is a linear relationship, - Between 0,401 and 0,600 - is a weak linear relationship, - Less than 0,400 - a linear dependence between the values could not be determined.

In fourth stage, regional policy impact assessment is carried out, which is based on use of correlation and regression data analysis methods to the linear indicators dependence nature and strength determination, and the

linear dependence function interpretation in order to evaluate the regional policies impact effect for the development deficiencies evolution. This study phase and results interpretation provisions are specified in Table 2.

Table 2

Regional policies influence assessment process

Checking propositions equity during evaluation	Data analysis method	Propositions verification activities	Interpretation of results
Regional policy implementation and regional development disadvantages evolution are linked with linear dependence	Regression analysis, the coefficient of determination	R^2 characterizes how accurate the regression equation approximate provided data. R^2 indicates how much is data percentage fall in the described model and shows if the approximation accuracy is ensured.	- If $R^2 > 0,951$, then model is well describing the event (high approximation accuracy). - If R^2 value is from 0,801 till 0,950 – model is adequate for observed event (satisfactory approximation accuracy). - If R^2 value is from 0,601 till 0,800 - model sufficiently describes the event, but it is recommended to adjust it; - If $R^2 < 0,600$ – approximation is insufficient and the model needs to be adjusted.
		R^2 also characterizes the relationship between the variables strength.	- If $R^2 > 0,901$, a relationship between the variables is very strong. - If $0,701 < R^2 < 0,900$, relationship between the variables is strong. - If $0,501 < R^2 < 0,700$, relationship between the variables is average. - If $0,201 < R^2 < 0,500$, relationship between the variables is weak. - If $R^2 < 0,200$, relationship between the variables is very weak.
Regional policy support absorption effect for social and economic development of the region's development deficiency evolution is very favorable.	Regression analysis, regression function interpretation.	Regional policy can be quantitatively expressed in interpretation of the regression curve and equation. Using the regression equation, the absolute and relative effects on the development of regional policy development evolution defects are calculated.	If the regression curve varies: - Favorable direction, that considered that regional policy positively influences a development deficiency evolution; - Otherwise, the regional policy has the reverse impact.

The deficiency of development evolution and regional policy synergistic effect pattern formation and recommendations for regional policy-making and implementation affect enhancement preparation. After making all regional policies effect evaluation steps, it is important to properly interpret the results and present them to a common system. To summarize the evolution of development deficiencies and the estimated impact of

regional policy it is important to provide a single "system of coordinates", it is a form a synergistic effect model linking regional developments with regional policy implementation.

The set of regional development indicators level tried to create EUROSTAT, where for the regions level of development the 50 indicators has been provided. The indicators have been grouped into the global development

of the region (GDP per economically active capita, the unemployment rate by age and sex, long-term unemployment, the net disposable income) and thematic indicators distributed into natural resources, human resources, infrastructure, manufacturing sector productivity subgroups. However, in reality, not all the indicators are calculated and recorded in the statistics boards, so officially it is not decided on the optimal level of regional economic development indicators compositions set.

As shown by diversity of indicators, often to identify the regional development level there are distinguished the total competitiveness, labor, education and training, capital, land and infrastructure indicators groups. Some of them can directly not reflect the region's competitive ability (e.g., the index for education and training outcomes), but they reflect its ability. Therefore, in the regional level it is recommended to use more universal indicators.

So in order to justify region social - economic development level differentiation and to identify in the relation of the national average, underdevelopment regions, it is necessary to perform a complex analysis of the regions' status. After evaluating foreign experience and researcher's works on this subject, it can be said, that for the regional status assessment, usually summarized (universal) indicators are used, and for setting up and providing of weightings, it is appropriate to carry out an expert assessment.

Summarizing Lithuanian and Ukrainian regional competitiveness analysis and assessing the regional policies impact on the development of Lithuanian and Ukrainian development deficiencies, in Table 3 there are provided the recommendations for regional policy-making and implementation guidelines for the reduction of Lithuania and Ukraine development deficiencies.

Table 3

Influence of regional policy for Lithuania and Ukraine development deficiencies evolution possibility rising

The set of indicators	Lack of development	Recommended trends of reduction of development weaknesses in regional policy measures	The name of region development model
Social development	Number of suicides	Regional policy should be directed to small and medium-sized enterprises and innovative entrepreneurship development, by establishing regional centers (regional innovation centers) which coordinate and promote new ideas and new technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The growth pole theory and the central and peripheral model; - Profit / product cycle theory - Stages / sectors of the theory
	Expenditure on R & D scope		
Economic development	GDP	Regional policy should be concentrated in the industrial and technological development, where predicted direct and secondary cumulative effects are influencing the other branches of industry and business, and create a modern, new and high technology-based manufacturing, which is necessary for economic development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cumulative growth theory
	The volume of investment		
	The added value structures are created	In addition, regional development should be promoted through macroeconomic reforms to promote efficiency (lower cost), in other words strengthening of market mechanisms, thereby reducing of inter-regional disparities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional economic convergence theory
Demographics	The annual population	Regional policy emphasizing that regional development or high-skilled, high-tech companies and manufacturer's service and fundraising foundation are a favorable environment and appropriate physical and social infrastructure development policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cumulative growth theory
Labor market	Natural change		
	Net migration		
	Employment		
Public infrastructure and services	The employment structure		
	Road network		
	Railway network		
	Number of places in accommodation establishments		
	Household income		

The effects of regional policy implemented measures can be evaluated only in a few years by adding investment in business, human resources, infrastructure development, but it must be done periodically to monitor regional social - economic development processes and the effectiveness of regional policy changes. Existing knowledge of the situation will direct the flow of investment into the spheres, which most need the support and prevents the most from the country's common economic development.

Conclusions

Analyzing the problems of Lithuanian and Ukraine regional policy, these main conclusions were made:

- in the country regional structure and in various studies very different level, types and kinds of regions are indicated. Regions extraction principles and criteria are also very different. Only in recent years there is a trying to use the potentially aligned methodologies, particularly in the EU and associated countries.
- the variety of regional development theories enables to analyze development as multidimensional process, which leads to changes in the social, institutional, political, administrative structures or even human behavior. In summary, the regional development theories emphasize the favorable conditions (economic and

physical infrastructure development, support for human capital) of the region's economic growth formation. These theories focus on the modernization of the economic sectors (usual activities changing with modern and profitable) and the view that the economy has to develop systematically, to proceed to coherent transition stages of the chain, to emphasize the importance of exports for economic growth in the region.

- after analyzing the transformations in Lithuanian and Ukrainian economy, the integrated regional policies effect to regional differences development evaluation methodology was prepared, which is designed to link the regional developments with regional policies. Summarizing the variety of development level indicators in the scientific literature and Lithuania's and Ukraine's

experience, four main groups of indicators are identified in this paper that accurately describe the socio - economic situation: demographic, social and economic development and labor market, assessed region's transportation systems and social and tourism availability, compared public infrastructure and services development indicators. Performed evaluation of expert opinion consensus enabled to select the indicators of region's development level evaluation and their combinations, which are necessary to carry out inter-regional comparisons. The article also contains structure graph, dedicated to indicate the consistency in the execution of the evaluation process and opportunities of use of research data analysis methods to implemented regional policies development impact to region development deficiencies calculation.

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Lietuvos ir Ukrainos regioninės politikos transformacijos

Santrauka

Tapusi Europos Sąjungos (toliau ES) nare, Lietuva dalyvauja įgyvendinant ES regioninę politiką. Lietuva palaiko draugiškus santykius su daug valstybių. Viena iš jų yra Ukraina. Kaip ES nare, Lietuva tarptautiniu lygiu siekia skatinti tvarią plėtrą ne tik savo šalyje, bet ir perkelti ją į kitas šalis. Tačiau, regioninės politikos įgyvendinimo įtakos vertinimas konkrečios valstybės atveju, turėtų būti taikomas individualiai, parengiant integruotą metodiką, apimančią regionų plėtros lygio analizės rodiklių sistemą, skirtą diferencijuoti regionus pagal socialinį ir ekonominį išsivystymo lygį, identifikuoti regionų silpnąsias ir stipriąsias puses, taip pat atspindinčią regioninės politikos įtaką regionų plėtrai. Silpna regionų vadybos vieta – regiono socialinių ir ekonominių rezultatų kompleksinis vertinimas. Todėl ši tema yra tokia aktuali ir svarbi visoms šalims bei jų ekonominei ir socialinei plėtrai. Neturint vienodos vertinimo metodikos, pagrįstos objektyvių informacijos šaltinių duomenimis, rezultatų vertinimai yra subjektyvūs. Tokie rezultatai nelabai tinkami tarpregioniniams palyginimams. Todėl *straipsnio tikslas* - pristatyti bendro Lietuvos-Ukrainos mokslinio tyrimo metu parengtą vertinimo metodiką, kuri užtikrintų rezultatų objektyvumą ir pritaikomumą sprendžiant regionų plėtros problemas.

Mokslinėje literatūroje nėra vienodos nuomonės dėl socialinės ir ekonominės plėtros rodiklių parinkimo tarpregioniniams palyginimams atlikti, taip pat skiriama nepakankamai dėmesio regioninės politikos įgyvendinimo kiekybinės bei kokybinės įtakos regionų ir šalies išsivystymo lygio raidos įvertinimo metodikai sukurti. *Straipsnio objektas* - regioninės politikos įtaka. Straipsnyje naudoti tyrimo metodai: sisteminė ir palyginamoji mokslinės literatūros analizė, loginio abstrahavimo bei išvadų generavimo metodai, duomenų normalizavimo metodas, modeliavimas.

Straipsnyje pateikta mokslinės literatūros analizė, Lietuvos ir Ukrainos patirtis, statistinių duomenų analizė. Taip pat, remiantis abiejų šalių ekspertinio vertinimo rezultatais, sudaryta bendra regiono konkurencingumo vertinimo sistema. Norint apskaičiuoti Lietuvos ir Ukrainos regionų socialinio ir ekonominio išsivystymo lygio įvertinimo indeksą, turėtų būti pasirinktas rodiklių normalizavimo metodas, kai įvedami nustatyti koeficientai (sudedamosios dimensijos) duomenims, didesniems ar mažesniems, lyginant su pasirinktu artimos regionų grupės vidurkiu. Šio rodiklių normalizavimo metodo pasirinkimo motyvas yra įvardintas apklaustų ekspertų, todėl yra galimybė palyginti regionų socialinės ir ekonominės veiklos pasiekimus, kartu nustatant rodiklių atitikimą ne tik pasirinktiems regionams, bet ir ES vidutiniams dydžiams. Apibendrinant Lietuvos ir Ukrainos regionų konkurencingumo tyrimą ir įvertinus regioninės politikos įtaką Lietuvos ir Ukrainos išsivystymo trūkumų raidai, 1 lentelėje pateikiamos rekomenduojamos regioninės politikos formavimo ir įgyvendinimo kryptys, skirtos mažinti Lietuvos ir Ukrainos plėtros trūkumus.

1 lentelė

Regioninės politikos įtaka Lietuvos ir Ukrainos išsivystymo trūkumų raidai didinimo galimybės

Rodiklių grupė	Išsivystymo trūkumas	Rekomenduojamos išsivystymo trukumų mažinimo kryptys regioninės politikos priemonėmis	Regionų plėtros modelio pavadinimas
Socialinė plėtra	Savižudžių skaičius	Regioninės politikos priemonės turėtų būti nukreiptos į smulkių ir vidutinių įmonių bei novatoriškos verslininkystės plėtrą, steigiant regioninius centrus (regioninius inovacijų centrus), koordinuojančius ir skatinančius nauju idėjas bei naujas technologijas.	– Augimo poliaus teorija ir Centro ir periferijos modelis; – Pelno/produkto ciklo teorijos; – Etapų/sektorių teorijos;
	Išlaidų mokslo tiriamajai veiklai (MTTP) apimtis		
Ekonominė plėtra	Bendrasis vidaus produktas	Regioninė politika turėtų būti koncentruota į pramonės ir technologijų plėtrą, kur prognozuojami tiesioginiai ir šalutiniai kumuliaciniai efektai lemia ir kitas pramonės sakas bei verslą. Kuriama moderni, naujomis ir aukštosiomis technologijomis grįsta gamyba, kuri yra būtina ekonominei plėtrai. Be to, regioninė plėtra turėtų būti skatinama per makroekonominės reformas, skatinant efektyvumą (mažesniu kštu), kitaip tariant stiprinant laisvos rinkos mechanizmus, taip mažinant tarpregioninius skirtumus.	– Kumuliacinio augimo teorija
	Investicijų BPKF apimtis		
	Sukuriamos pridėtinės vertės struktūra		
Demografija	Metinis gyventojų skaičius Natūrali kaita Migracijos saldo	Regioninė politika, pabrėžianti, kad regioninė plėtros arba aukštos kvalifikacijos darbuotojų, aukštųjų technologijų įmonių ir gamintojų paslaugų ir pritraukimo pagrindas – palankios aplinkos bei tinkamos fizinės ir socialinės infrastruktūros plėtra politikos priemonėmis.	– Kumuliacinio augimo teorija
Darbo rinka	Užimtumas Gyventojų užimtumo struktūra		
	Viešojo infrastruktūra ir paslaugos		

Valstybių regioninėje sandaroje ir įvairiuose tyrimuose nurodomi labai įvairių lygių, tipų ir rūšių regionai. Regionų išskyrimo principai ir kriterijai taip pat būna labai skirtingi. Tik pastaraisiais metais stengiamasi naudoti galimai suderintas metodikas, ypač ES ir asocijuotose šalyse.

Regionų plėtros teorijų įvairovė leidžia plėtrą analizuoti kaip daugiaplanį procesą, kuris susijęs su permainingomis socialinėse, institucinėse, politinėse, administracinėse struktūrose ar net žmonių elgsenoje. Apibendrinant galima teigti, jog regioninės plėtros teorijos akcentuoja palankių sąlygų (ekonominės bei fizinės infrastruktūros plėtros, paramos žmogiškajam kapitalui) regiono, ekonominiam augimui sudarymą. Šiose teorijose didelis dėmesys skiriamas ekonomikos sektorių modernizavimui (įprastinės veiklas keičiant moderniomis ir pelningomis) bei laikomasi nuomonės, jog ekonomika turi plėtotis sistemiskai, pereiti nuoseklią etapų grandinę, akcentuojama paslaugų eksporto svarba ekonominiam regiono augimui.

Išanalizavus transformacijas Lietuvos ir Ukrainos ekonomikoje, parengta integruota regioninės politikos įtakos regioninių skirtumų raidai vertinimo metodika, kuri skirta susieti regioninės plėtros tendencijas su regioninės politikos įgyvendinimu. Apibendrinus išsivystymo lygio rodiklių įvairovę mokslinėje literatūroje ir Lietuvos bei Ukrainos šalių patirtį, straipsnyje išskirtos keturios pagrindinės rodiklių grupės, kurios tiksliausiai apibūdina regiono socialinę ir ekonominę situaciją – tai demografijos, socialinės ir ekonominės plėtros bei darbo rinkos, įvertinti regiono transporto sistemos ir socialinių bei turizmo paslaugų pasiekiamumą lyginami viešosios infrastruktūros ir paslaugų išvystymą apibūdinantys rodikliai. Atliktas ekspertų nuomonių sutarimo vertinimas leido atrinkti regiono plėtros lygio įvertinimo rodiklius ir jų derinius, kurie būtini siekiant palyginti regionus. Straipsnyje taip pat pateikiama struktūrograma, skirta parodyti vertinimo proceso vykdymo nuoseklumą ir tyrimo duomenų analizės metodų panaudojimo galimybes, įgyvendintų regioninės politikos priemonių įtakai, taip pat regionų išsivystymo trūkumų raidai apskaičiuoti.

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Raktažodžiai: *regioninė plėtra, metodika, regioninė politika, Lietuva, Ukraina.*

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