

Kalinina M., PhD Stavvytska A.

Oles Honchar Dnipro National University (Ukraine)

ALIGNMENT MEASURES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Since the 1950s, regional development policy has become an urgent task of the European Union's regional policy. For a long time, European Union countries have focused on the goal of equality in regional policy-making, but since the mid-1970s they have gradually begun to pay more attention to economic efficiency. This important aspect determines the European Union's regional development policy, and its component of economic growth reorients it to optimize the contribution of regional resources to support regional policy through competition and unemployment.

The key objectives of the European Union's regional policy are programmatic positions aimed at improving the situation in the regions [1]:

1. Promoting the development and structural alignment of backward regions.
2. Transformation of economically backward regions.
3. Promoting rural development.
4. Promoting the development and structural alignment of the northern regions.

Four types of indicators are used to measure the degree of alignment of European Union regions:

- Physical indicators are mainly used in Northern European countries, the basis of regional policy of this region is the issue of peripherality and problems of development of regions with low population density. They are related to geographical or natural conditions;

- Indicators of economic inequality that are most commonly used in countries such as Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and others. The base is GDP per capita as an indicator of regional wealth. Also, most countries evaluate the potential impact of demographic trends;

- indicators that measure social inequality based on differences in quality of life and income. Also, in most other countries, social differences are measured by unemployment / employment.

Other equalization indicators include future employment trends, the economically active population, the level of personal incomes and the quality of the workforce. Also, the NUTS system (nomenclature-territorial units for statistics) is an important identifier in the EU statistics system, which in the supranational model of regulation includes NUTS-1 (example – Germany), NUTS-2 (provinces in Poland), NUTS-3 (rural regions) which is 2-3 times more than Ukrainian ones). However, in some countries there are territories below NUTS-3 (NUTS-4; NUTS-5, etc.) [1].

The European Commission's Department for Regional Policy estimates that almost 90% of the European budget goes to the regions, taking into account their specific needs, in particular $\frac{1}{4}$ funds go to innovative projects, more than 40% goes to the development of transport infrastructures, education, health and professional needs. local population training [2].

The poverty rate in the European Union ranges between 10% and 40%: poverty is the lowest in the Czech Republic and the highest in Bulgaria. Low poverty is also demonstrated by the Scandinavian countries. There are also two tasks on the agenda of the euro area countries: solving the problem of debt within the euro area; elimination of shortcomings in the functioning of the euro area in order to prevent such crises in the future [3].

Innovation within the programming period 2014-2020 of the European Union's regional policy is macro-regional strategies, which create a new way of promoting cooperation between European regions, regardless of their membership in the Union. This strategy will activate EU national administrations, create a platform for sharing information, experience and best practices, and will lead to joint action. The end result of the implementation of this strategy is the development of energy, transport, environmental protection, tourism, which together will improve the quality of life of citizens of the macro-regions of the European Union [4].

Thus, pursuing a regional policy of equalizing the economic development of EU regions is a long-term process, but effective. Addressing long-term structural challenges to minimize regional asymmetries, in particular by helping to subsidize more backward EU regions, will create new foundations for enhancing the economic development of the entire European Community.

References:

1. Майборода Г.М. Політика вирівнювання розвитку регіонів в ЄС. URL: <http://www.geograf.com.ua/geoinfocentre/20-human-geography-ukraine-world/497-politika-virivnyuvannya-rozvitku-regioniv-v-es> (дата звернення 14.03.2020)
2. Єреміца В. Європа не може стерти відмінності між бідними й багатими регіонами. Радіо Свобода. 21.01.2013. URL: <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/24879880.html> (дата звернення 15.03.2020)
3. Кризові явища в євросоні та їх вплив на політичні трансформації в ЄС. Аналітична записка. Національний інститут стратегічних досліджень. URL: <http://old2.niss.gov.ua/articles/772/>(дата звернення 15.03.2020)
4. Поліщук Л.С. Регіональні асиметрії в ЄС та нові інструменти політики вирівнювання. Актуальні проблеми міжнародних відносин. 2015. Вип. 126 (Ч. 2). С. 116-124.