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VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OF TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLETION OF UKRAINIAN ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL SYSTEM REFORM: SOLUTIONS AND FORMATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

The aim. The article is aimed at revealing the advantages and difficulties of the model of the reform of the administrative-territorial structure implemented in Ukraine and the effectiveness of the formation of the administrative-territorial structure basic level at two key stages of the reform.

Methodology. The analysis of the legal framework for the formation of a new basic level of the administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine in terms of determining the configuration of communities is carried out. The main approaches to the formation of territorial communities of the basic level are analyzed. The regions are compared in terms of the formation of small communities in terms of population.

The Results. The number and localization of communities with a small number of populations in two different stages of the formation of the basic level of the new administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine has been established. The advantages and disadvantages of the voluntary stage of unification of territorial communities in Ukraine in 2015-2019 have been identified. The conformity to the declared needs of the formation of territorial communities with sufficient development potential at the final administrative stage of the formation of the basic level of the new administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine has been determined. It focuses on the threats to ensuring local development and the accumulation of community development problems as the basis for a new reform of the administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine in the future.

The novelty of the research. For the first time, on the basis of analytical studies and statistical data, an assessment of the formation and regional distribution of small in terms of population territorial communities of the basic level, which were formed after the administrative stage of the reform of the administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine, was carried out.

The practical significance. The studies carried out made it possible to analyze, compare and evaluate the effectiveness of two key stages of the reform of the administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine in terms of the formation of territorial communities with limited demographic development potential. The question was raised about the need to resolve the shortcomings of the formation of the basic level of the administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine in the future.

Keywords: administrative-territorial division, territorial community of the basic level, region.

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