



ВСЕУКРАЇНСЬКА
АСОЦІАЦІЯ
ГРОМАД

ANALYSIS OF THE STATE AND PROSPECTS OF SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

WAR vs DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

- Ukraine is at war with Russia to preserve its statehood and integrity
- Ukraine is fighting for its right to freedom and European values
- War is not a reason or even an excuse to forget about development and sustainability
- The country should continue to develop even during the war
- The country should integrate into Europe as soon as possible
- The country must be prepared for post-war challenges

Ukraine has already shown the world an example of resilience in defending its freedom and statehood.

It is time to start preparing the ground for a post-war transition to move to sustainable development on the basis of this resilience



- **Presidential Decree "On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine for the period up to 2030"**
 - Prescription on the need to take into account the Sustainable Development Goals when planning the development of the state
- **The Law of Ukraine "On the Basic Principles (Strategy) of the State Environmental Policy of Ukraine for the Period up to 2030"**
 - Sustainable development goals and their achievement in Ukraine are specified in the list of environmental policy principles
 - Thirty digital indicators for assessing the implementation of environmental policy have been established
 - CMU Order "Data Collection Issues for Monitoring the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals"
 - The list of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals was approved
- **Law of Ukraine "On the Principles of State Regional Policy"**
 - the principle of sustainable development is defined as one of the principles of the state regional policy
 - Sustainable development territories are defined as one of the functional types of territories
 - A system of strategic documents is defined - they should be based on certain principles, including sustainable development. National level: **State strategy for regional development**

SUSTAINABILITY: STRATEGIES (rural development)

- **Concept of Rural Development until 2025**
 - Sustainability: the Concept contains some elements of the approach, but sustainability is not a fundamental idea
 - Pros: relates to rural development in a safe way
 - Disadvantages: a document for solving a one-time problem, not a policy document; no financial instrument
- **National Economic Strategy for the period up to 2030**
 - Sustainability: the "mission" mentions the need to take into account the SDGs, and sets some goals for achieving sustainability
 - Pros: for the first time, agrarian policy and rural development policy are listed as two separate policies
 - Disadvantages: no implementation plan and no information on implementation; no financial instrument
- **State Strategy for Regional Development until 2027**
 - Sustainability: at the centre of the policy objective; there are targets for sustainability and for monitoring the SDGs
 - Pros: there is an implementation plan and a financial instrument (the State Regional Development Fund)
 - Cons: Rural areas are not singled out; there is no coherence with the NES 2030

Ukraine still lacks a coherent and effective system of state strategic planning

Rural development in Ukraine is not recognised as a separate area of state policy

**In fact, there is no state policy in the field of rural development in Ukraine:
No strategy, no budget, no financial instruments**

SUSTAINABILITY: Benchmarks for Ukraine

- **UN Sustainable Development Goals**
 - At least half are directly related to rural and agricultural development policy
 - Adapted in Ukraine: national report "**Sustainable Development Goals: Ukraine**" (2017)
- **A long-term vision for rural areas in the EU (until 2040)**
 - Four objectives/areas of focus : Stronger / Connected / Resilient / Prosperous rural areas
- **EU Common Agricultural Policy (EU CAP)**
 - Ten goals, including: vibrant rural areas
 - Plus science (Horizon Europe). Plus knowledge and innovation (AKIS)
- **European Green Deal**
 - The eight areas include sustainable agricultural policy (the "Farm to Table" strategy)
- **European integration of Ukraine**
 - **EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and requirements for Ukraine as an EU candidate country**
 - **Pre-accession support tool for candidate countries IPARD III**
 - **development of local strategies and building community social capital (CCLD/LEADER approach)**, investments in rural community infrastructure, employment diversification (high value-added products, beekeeping, crafts, rural tourism, etc.), capacity building of local authorities, agro-environmental and climate action



Sustainable rural development: what do we have now?

Politics:

- Ukraine's European integration "successes" in the agricultural and rural sector - an assessment: **1 point out of 5 !?**
- Talks, declarations, intentions...
No strategy or financial instruments
- **Substitution of concepts** (growth, stability, comprehensiveness, etc. are presented as sustainability)



Institutions:

- In the **Government**:
 - **The Ministry of Agrarian Policy** does not yet "see" rural development as a separate sphere
 - The **Ministry of Infrastructure** is still more focused on reconstruction/recovery
 - **Ministry of Economy** - responsible for achieving the SDGs
 - There is no interagency coordination - no relevant body has been established
- No committee in the **Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine** is responsible for rural development

Sustainable rural development: what needs to be done?

**Recognise rural development as a separate policy area at the state level,
develop and implement a new modern rural development policy**

- **Institutionalise policy development and implementation**
 - Identify the agency responsible for the policy and establish interagency coordination
 - Ensure inclusiveness of the process (involve all stakeholders)
- **Form a new vision of the Ukrainian village** - modern, dynamic, sustainable
- **Develop a new Rural Development Strategy**
(focused on rural renewal and modernisation, based on the concept of sustainability, harmonised with the relevant EU policies, operationally and financially secured)
- Establish the **Rural Development Fund** as a financial policy instrument
- Ensure **access to the IPARD III pre-admission support tool**
 - To move as far as possible in the European integration process in the rural and agricultural sector
 - Create the necessary preconditions at the national level (institutional, organisational, etc.)
 - Prepare local authorities, entrepreneurs, citizens to use and participate in CLLD/LEADER

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION



All-Ukrainian Association of Local Self-Government Bodies
"All-Ukrainian Association of the Communities"
(abbreviated name: All-Ukrainian Association of the Communities; abbreviation: AUAC)
was founded in October 2009

(before 2019 its name was "All-Ukrainian Association of the Village and Town Councils" (VASSR))

Membership base

During the period from 2009 to 2020 (until the completion of the territorial reform), the decision on membership in the Association was made by 8326 (more than 80%) settlements and village councils.

The current membership base of the AUAC consists of **866 local self-government bodies** (1420 in total), including:

- ✓ **23 city councils (5.6% of all)**
- ✓ **334 settlement councils (74.2%)**
- ✓ **509 village councils (83.4%)**



AUAC: Work and results

✓ **The "United Communities" project** (with the assistance of the USAID AGRO Programme) - providing the affected communities with the most necessary things (clothes, equipment, food, medicines, etc.)

- ✓ Logistics for more than 100 transports to 102 communities in 13 regions of Ukraine provided
- ✓ Delivery of over 1000 tonnes of cargo for more than 100,000 people was organised



✓ **Expert space** - analytics and expertise in the interests of self-government: lobbying and consulting

- ✓ There are 11 sectoral committees of the WAG, involving more than 300 local government professionals and experts

✓ **Rural and agricultural development**

- ✓ Initiatives for a new state policy of rural development
- ✓ Piloting capacity building of local authorities in this area (with the support of the AAP Project)

✓ **International cooperation** for community and rural development

- ✓ Membership in the European Rural Communities Association (ERCA)
- ✓ Participation in the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine
- ✓ Honorary membership in the European association LEADER for rural development ELARD

The main mission:

**the development of rural territories
through the enhancement
of self-governance in territorial communities**



Key challenges and tasks:

- ✓ Continuation of assistance to communities within the framework of the "Cohesive Communities" Project
Searching for new sources (domestically and abroad)
- ✓ Promoting community reconstruction and restoration of affected rural areas
- ✓ Protecting local self-government, which operates in extremely difficult conditions and is subject to restrictions during the war. Protecting the achievements of decentralisation
- ✓ Initiating a new rural development policy in Ukraine based on the concept of sustainability and harmonised with EU policies



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