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SOCIO-GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF THE URBANIZATION PROCESSES IN CHERNIVTSI REGION UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS

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The article presents a retrospective analysis of the development of urbanization processes in Ukraine's smallest administrative region – Chernivtsi Region. It examines changes in the population of urban settlements over time and their spatial characteristics, both at the regional level and within newly established districts. Using the Zipf-Medvedkov rule, it was found that distinct suburbanization processes are occurring around the regional center. Overall, the city of Chernivtsi exerts a demographic pressure of 250 people per square kilometer on nearly all settlements of the district bearing the same name, with 13 communities located within its active zone of influence. Suburbanization is observed in the suburban settlements of Chahor, Velykyi Kuchuriv, Kamianka, Mamaivtsi, and Ostritsa. Notably, these suburbanization processes are closely linked to the transportation network and extend predominantly to the west, south, and southeast. Therefore, there is a pressing need for a more detailed study of suburbanization processes around the regional center. In contrast to Chernivtsi District, the other two districts show an almost ideal rank-size distribution in their urban settlement systems.

Among the challenges observed in the course of urbanization processes in the region, the following should be highlighted. Demographic challenges are manifested in depopulation trends and a consequent decline in the number of residents. Therefore, an increase in the proportion of urban residents is only possible through migration. Economic and political challenges are related to the war in the country and the resulting economic difficulties. As a result, there is a risk of emigration and a decline in quality of life. Legislative challenges arise from the reclassification of certain urban settlements to lower status, which not only reduces urbanization indicators but also creates a number of issues related to planning the development of local communities.

Keywords: settlement, urbanization, level of urbanization, urban settlement, administrative structure, population distribution, population migration.

Problem statement. Settlements, as a form of social organization and a living environment for the population, reflect the specific development features of the territory in which they function. Cities have long become centers of attraction for migrants, investment, innovation, and more. Chernivtsi Region, the smallest in Ukraine, is characterized by some of the lowest urbanization rates in the country. However, this region stands out due to its specific geopolitical conditions, progressive demographic trends, and distinct ethno-cultural characteristics, which

have influenced the formation of the region's network of urban settlements and continue to shape urbanization processes. Studying this complex is of scientific interest. At the same time, despite a certain academic popularity and fairly frequent research on population distribution, comprehensive exploration of settlement and urbanization processes particularly using the example of Chernivtsi Region is not common in modern human geography.

Analysis of recent studies and publications. The study of urbanization processes is highly relevant in contemporary socio-geographical research, as cities concentrate key resources, particularly demographic ones. Therefore, analyzing the work of economic geographers in the fields of settlement patterns, demographic geography, and urban studies is undoubtedly important. Notably, there are theoretical and methodological works that have become foundational for research in settlement studies. These include the works of Vasyl Dzhaman [5], Oleksandr Topchiiev [17], Anatolii Dotsenko [6], Leonid Rudenko [14], Kostiantyn Nemets [13], and Olena Dronova [7]. In their studies, they thoroughly explore the theoretical and methodological foundations of socio-geographical understanding of urban settlement and urbanization processes. In their monograph, a group of authors edited by Yaroslav Oliinyk, Kostiantyn Mezentsev, and Nataliia Mezentseva outlined the key priorities for the current development of urban settlements in Ukraine in the context of modern socio-geographical research [12].

Important in the context of contemporary regional studies on settlement patterns are the works of Kateryna Sehyda, who explored the specifics of urbanization processes both across various regions of Ukraine and in detail through the case of Kharkiv Region. It is precisely her methodological approaches to studying urbanization at the regional level that formed the foundation of our research [15, 16]. Also noteworthy, from the perspective of studying urbanization processes under the new administrative-territorial structure, are the investigations carried out in the Odessa Region by Viktoriia Yavorska and Lesia Buyanovska [2]. Iryna Gukalova and Nataliia Omelchenko, in their article, examined certain approaches to the quantitative assessment of urbanization levels in Ukrainian regions, which allowed for a more precise evaluation of the urban situation in the country and the identification of its regional variations [1]. S. Shulevskyi conducted a study of urbanization processes in the Ukrainian Black Sea region [19].

Identification of previously unresolved aspects of the general problem. The study of current trends in urbanization processes, as reviewed in recent publications, has focused either on Ukraine as a whole or on individual regions. However, no research has yet been conducted on the quantitative parameters of urbanization processes in the Chernivtsi Region, especially in the context of the decentralization reform. This may be explained, on the one hand, by the region's low urbanization rates compared to more urbanized areas of Ukraine, or by limited academic interest in the smallest region by area. Nonetheless, such research is now essential across all regions of Ukraine without exception. The results of these investigations should serve as a basis for further development of regional planning documents and strategies for territorial community development.

Formulation of the article's objective. Given the relevance of this research area and the identified lack of data specific to Chernivtsi Region, our objective was defined as follows: to conduct a socio-geographical analysis of the urbanization processes in Chernivtsi Region in the context of administrative-territorial reform, by examining the current characteristics of urbanization development in the region, identifying the main directions of suburbanization processes around the regional center, and determining the problems and prospects for the further development of urban settlements in Chernivtsi Region.

Presentation of the main research material. Presentation of the main research material. Against the background of the national urbanization rate of 69.7%, Chernivtsi Region stands out with one of the lowest indicators in Ukraine – 43.3%. We conducted a study of urbanization processes in the Chernivtsi Region covering the period from 1959 to 2022. The final date of analysis is determined by the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine ‘On Protection of the Interests of Reporting Entities and Other Documents During Martial Law or State of War’” [9]. Therefore, in our research, we rely on statistical data as of January 1, 2022, and use the terminology applicable at that time, such as “city” and “urban-type settlement”.

Over the period since 1959, the urban population of the region ranged from 242.6 thousand (31.4% of the total population) in 1959 to 385,972 (43.3%) by the end of the study period. Overall, the level of urbanization increased at a rate of 3,980 people per year. It is worth noting that the number of urban residents changed proportionally with the total population of the region, in line with national demographic trends. Interestingly, there was a ten-year period from 2001 to 2010 during which the total population of the region declined, but the urbanization level remained stable and began to rise again from 2011 onward. This further highlights the potential for urbanization processes in the region. As shown in Figure 1, the trend line indicates continued growth in the share of urban residents. This observation is especially relevant in the context of increasing numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and relocated enterprises, the majority of which choose urban settlements. According to the Chernivtsi Regional Military Administration, over 40,000 IDPs settled in the regional center alone (based on official statistics).

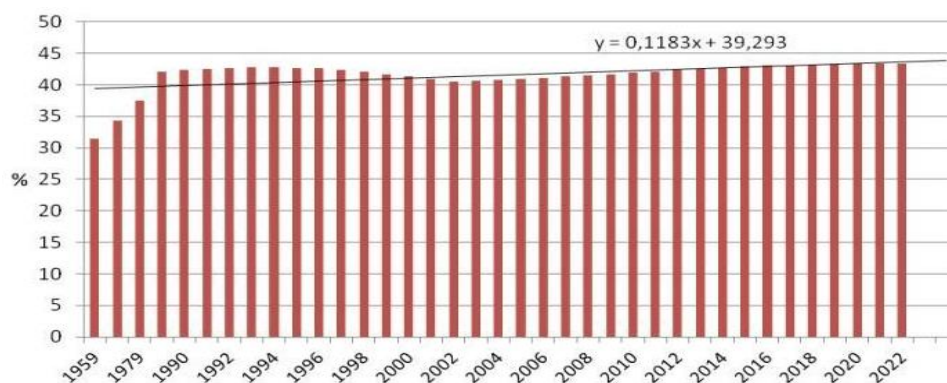


Fig. 1. Dynamics of the urbanization level in Chernivtsi Region in the period 1959–2022.

Рис. 1. Динаміка рівня урбанізації в Чернівецькій області у 1959–2022 рр.

This indicator was formed based on the population of eleven cities and eight urban-type settlements. Population figures across urban settlements also demonstrate certain temporal dynamics. As of 2024, urban settlements in Chernivtsi Region could be categorized into three groups of cities by population size (small – up to 10,000; medium – 10,000 to 100,000; and large – 100,000 to 300,000) and three groups of urban-type settlements (small – up to 3,000; medium – 3,000 to 5,000; and large – 5,000 to 10,000). Of particular interest is the region’s youngest city, Novodnistrovsk, whose population has tripled since its founding, though a certain stagnation is now observable. Small urban settlements predominated until 1979, after which the share of medium-sized cities began to increase. It is noteworthy, however, that two

cities have now moved into the category with fewer than 10,000 residents, which may indicate the decline of former district-level urban centers. Special attention should be given to the urban-type settlement of Krasnoyilsk, where the number of residents has clearly increased during the study period, doubling over 63 years. This can be attributed to its favorable geopolitical location and a high proportion of residents of Romanian ethnicity. The undisputed leader in both population size and growth rate is the city of Chernivtsi, which has continued to grow in comparison to previous years. As of early 2022, its population reached 264,000.

Urban settlements are unevenly distributed across the region, with the largest number both in terms of quantity and population located in Chernivtsi District (6 cities and 5 urban-type settlements). The urbanization level here exceeds the regional average and stands at 51.1%. This is explained both by the role of the regional center, which accounts for 68.5% of the entire urban population of the region, and by the presence of other urban settlements within the city's zone of influence.

Dnistrovskiyi and Vyzhnytsia districts each have the same number of urban settlements. Specifically, Dnistrovskiyi has three cities and one urban-type settlement, while Vyzhnytskyi has two of each. The urbanization levels in these districts are 22.9% and 22.2%, respectively. These two administrative units differ in terms of natural conditions, settlement history, and demographic characteristics.

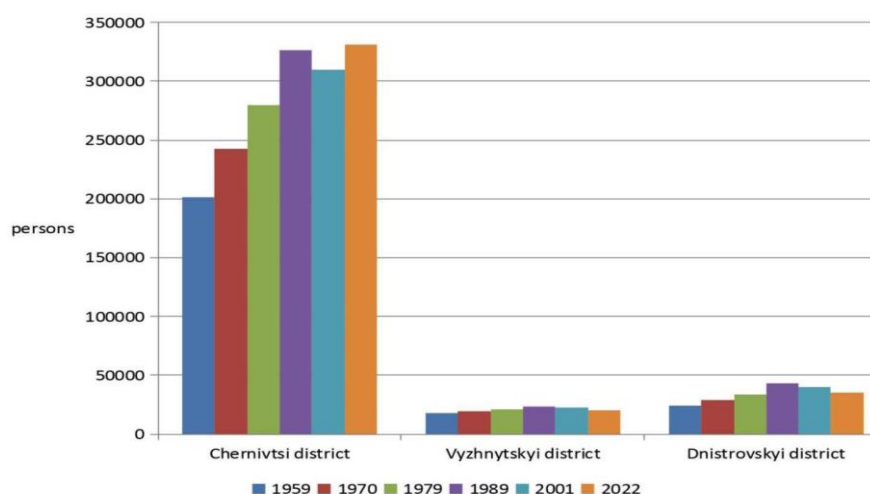


Fig. 2. Dynamics of the urban population by the new administrative districts of Chernivtsi Region (as of 01.01.2022).

Рис. 2. Динаміка міського населення за новими адміністративними районами Чернівецької області (станом на 01.01.2022 р.).

Over the 63-year study period, an increase in the urban population was recorded for the urban settlements within the respective administrative districts. The highest growth was observed in the cities and urban-type settlements of Chernivtsi District (65%). The most stable urban settlements were in Vyzhnytsia District, showing a population increase of 12%, which may indicate, on the one hand, conservative views among residents, and on the other hand, a slower pace of economic development. It is also worth noting that most of this district's

territory is mountainous. In Dnistrovskyi District, the urbanization growth rate stands at 46% if the full 63-year period is considered (prior to the establishment of the city of Novodmitrovsk). However, when adjusting for actual development, including the fact that in 1979 the satellite city near the Dniester Hydroelectric Station had only 3.5 thousand residents, the real urbanization growth rate for the district is just 6%.

If we take the peak regional urbanization indicator of 1989 as a reference point, actual growth is observed only in Chernivtsi District (1%), while Vyzhnytsia and Dnistrovskyi districts show a decline of 13% and 18%, respectively (Fig. 2).

There are also noticeable differences in the population density of both urban residents and urban settlements themselves. These figures reach 80.7 people per square kilometer in Chernivtsi District, compared to 10.6 and 16.6 people per square kilometer in Vyzhnytsia and Dnistrovskyi districts, respectively. Similarly, the overall density of urban settlements in the region is 2 settlements per 1,000 square kilometers, which is close to the national average of 2 units. Within the administrative districts, these values are 2.7, 2.1, and 1.9 respectively. The distribution of urban settlements by population size is quite uneven. There are significant disparities between the populations of cities and urban-type settlements. Most urban residents are concentrated in the regional center and in urban settlements located within its zone of influence.

The results of the calculation of the urbanization coefficient for the region over the study period show a trend toward growth, which is also confirmed by the trend line.

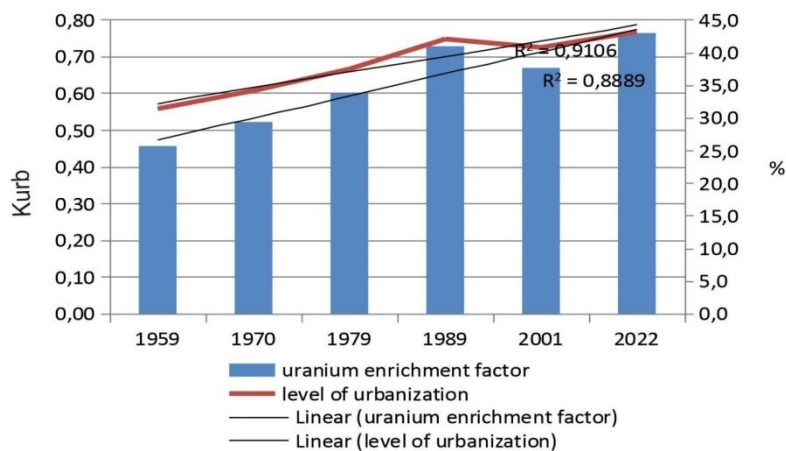


Fig. 3. Dynamics of the urbanization coefficient and urbanization level in Chernivtsi Region from 1959 to 2022.

Рис. 3. Динаміка коефіцієнта урбанізації та рівня урбанізації в Чернівецькій області у 1959–2022 рр.

Against the backdrop of the growing importance of urbanization processes and the increasing role of urban settlements and urban lifestyles in the region, we calculated the level of actual urbanization for the entire territory of Chernivtsi Region, as well as separately for cities and urban-type settlements.

The level of actual urbanization reflects the real degree of population urbanization, taking into account not only the administrative boundaries of cities and suburbs, but also surrounding suburban areas and agglomerations. Official statistics often count only residents registered within

city limits. However, under modern conditions, many people live in suburbs and commute daily to cities for work. The actual urbanization level considers these agglomeration connections as well. The results showed that the index of actual urbanization for cities is 26.7, while for all urban settlements combined it is already 29.7. This indicates an active development of suburbanization processes in the region. This pattern is formed in particular due to the urban-type settlements in Chernivtsi District. Due to population migration from rural areas to urban settlements within the active influence zone of Chernivtsi, we are witnessing not only urbanization processes but also suburbanization around the city.

The level of actual urbanization helps to better understand how many people are truly leading an urban lifestyle, regardless of their registered place of residence. Therefore, we tracked the dynamics of this indicator for the region over the study period, which once again points to suburbanization processes in the region under investigation.

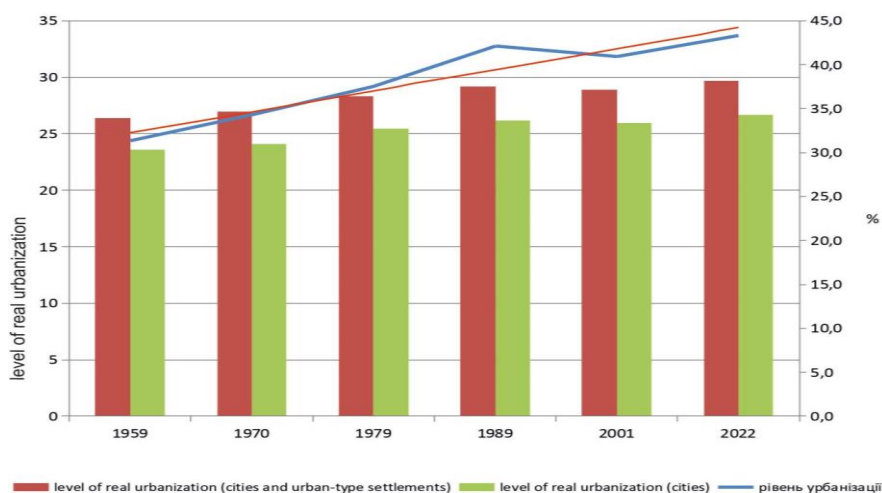


Fig. 4. Dynamics of the urbanization level and actual urbanization index in Chernivtsi Region from 1959 to 2022.

Рис. 4. Динаміка рівня урбанізації та фактичного індексу урбанізації в Чернівецькій області у 1959–2022 рр.

In population geography, the Zipf-Medvedkov method is widely used to identify patterns in population distribution “2, 3, 17”. More precisely, it involves the combination of Zipf’s rule with the principle that an ideal settlement system follows a “rank-size” relationship. Deviations from this pattern in the distribution of urban settlements are thus considered to result from a variety of demographic factors and require further explanation. By analyzing curves constructed according to the “rank-size” rule, we compare the actual characteristics of the urban settlement network with idealized calculated values “2, 3, 16” (Fig. 5).

Analyzing the relationship between the actual and idealized population distribution curves for Chernivtsi Region reveals the dominance of the city of Chernivtsi, which may indicate an underdeveloped system of urban settlements. The second-largest city, Storozhynets, has a population nearly nine times smaller than the theoretical value, while the third-largest, Novodnistrovsk, shows a deviation of -4.2. Interestingly, the fourth in the ranking Krasnoyilsk (urban-type

settlement) nearly matches the ideal population value. Further along the curve, there is a slight inverse divergence between actual and theoretical population figures, with the actual values generally being higher. This also reflects the demographic significance of the regional center: Chernivtsi has nearly 19 times the population of Storozhynets. Thus, the urban settlement system in Chernivtsi Region can be described as having a sharply monocentric structure, as the leading city dominates over Storozhynets by more than a factor of 10. It is worth noting that in her studies on the urbanization of Ukrainian regions, Kateryna Sehyda classifies Chernivtsi Region as a low-urbanized area with a high level of actual urbanization “3”.

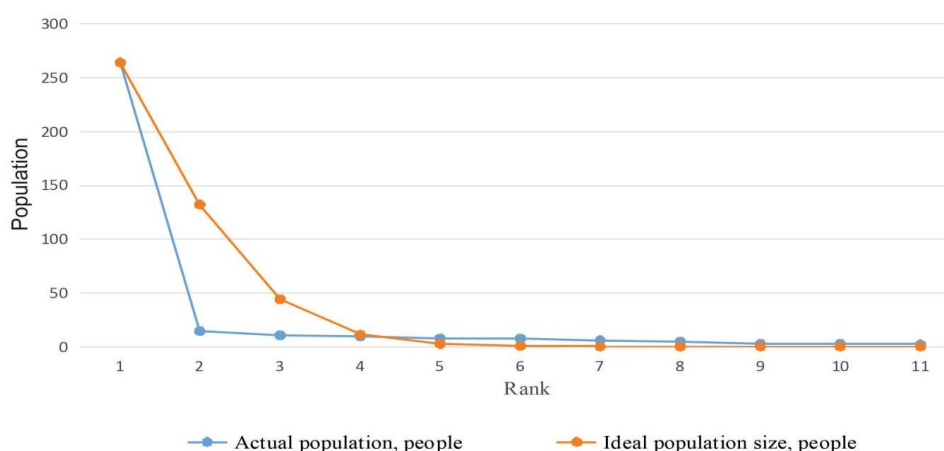


Fig. 5. “Rank–size” distribution curves for cities and urban-type settlements in Chernivtsi Region (according to the Zipf–Medvedkov method).

Рис. 5. Криві розподілу “ранг–розмір” для міст та селищ міського типу Чернівецької області (за методом Ціпфа–Медведкова).

If we continue our study of the urban settlement network in Chernivtsi Region using the “Zipf-Medvedkov” rule and apply the primacy correction coefficient, we find that the approximation value ($R^2 = 0.839$) indicates an incomplete reliability of the results regarding the region’s compliance with the rule. The point where the graph intersects the y-axis corresponds to a value of 1.8, which allows us to calculate the theoretical population of the main city as 75.8 thousand residents. The primacy coefficient for the urban settlement system of Chernivtsi Region is 0.29, and the contrast ratio is 1.137. This type of analysis enables a more reasoned approach to regional settlement planning in the future.

The “rank-size” method is extremely important for studying urbanization processes, as its universality allows for the analysis of settlement systems not only at the national and regional levels but also at the district level. This method makes it possible to examine both entire regions and individual districts, providing a more detailed analysis. If further refinement is needed, these results can be used to analyze other administrative units of Ukraine and to support the formation of base regions. By analyzing the region as a whole, we obtain generalized results, which are useful for gaining an overall understanding of urbanization processes in the area.

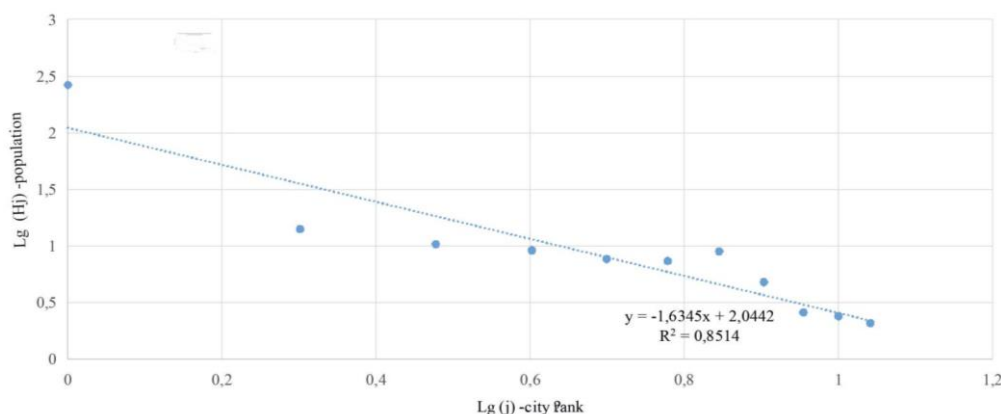


Fig. 6. Dependency curve (logarithmic scale) between population size and ranks of urban settlements in Chernivtsi Region, 2022.

Рис. 6. Крива залежності (логарифмічна шкала) між чисельністю населення та рангами міських поселень Чернівецької області, 2022 р.

However, in our opinion, it is appropriate to analyze this correlation at the district level, as smaller administrative units. The results are presented in the appendices. It is worth noting that for Vyzhnytsia District we obtained an approximation value of $R^2 = 0.99$, which indicates an optimal rank-size relationship within the urban settlement system of this district. A slightly lower reliability coefficient ($R^2 = 0.95$) was recorded for Dnistrovskiy District, but this still suggests a high degree of accuracy in the results. Despite the closeness to the ideal model, monocentricity is not observed in the settlement system here. In general, when looking at the graphs for Vyzhnytsia and Dnistrovskiy districts, the results may be interpreted as evidence that additional factors such as economic, social, or political influences are affecting the real urban settlement systems more than the classical theoretical predictions described by Zipf. In the case of these districts, economic and social factors are particularly relevant, and it is also important to note the absence of suburbanization in these areas.

For Chernivtsi District, taking into account the leading position of the regional center, the “rank-size” rule produced a slightly lower approximation (0.85), although still higher than the overall regional value. In this district, we observe a distinctly monocentric settlement pattern, where the main city exceeds the second-largest urban settlement in population by more than ten times “3”. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of urbanization processes in the region. At the same time, it is precisely the results for Chernivtsi District that require further, more detailed investigation.

Our research has shown that suburbanization processes are present in the territory of Chernivtsi Region and are occurring specifically around its monocentric core Chernivtsi. Therefore, let us examine this component of urbanization in the region in greater detail.

Over the study period, the population of the city increased by 1.7 times. This growth was driven both by demographic factors and by the city’s absorption of nearby settlements. According to the 1959 census, the city’s population was 156,653 people (Fig. 7), and it continued to grow in subsequent years. In 1965, the city of Chernivtsi incorporated its left-bank area (now the Sadhivsky District), which included six settlements (the city of Sadhora, the urban-type settlement of Lenkivtsi, and the villages of Rohizna, Stara Zhuchka, Nova Zhuchka, and Dolishni Sherivtsi).

During the 1980s, Chernivtsi further expanded by partially incorporating suburban villages such as Korovia, Chahor, and Hodyliv (though not fully absorbing them). Significant urban and population growth occurred in the 1960s–1980s, driven by the construction of major industrial facilities. This industrial expansion attracted migrants from nearby settlements, neighboring regions, and other parts of the country.

The decentralization reform laid the groundwork for the city's new territorial expansion. The first step was the voluntary accession of the villages of Korovia and Chornivka to the Chernivtsi City Council.

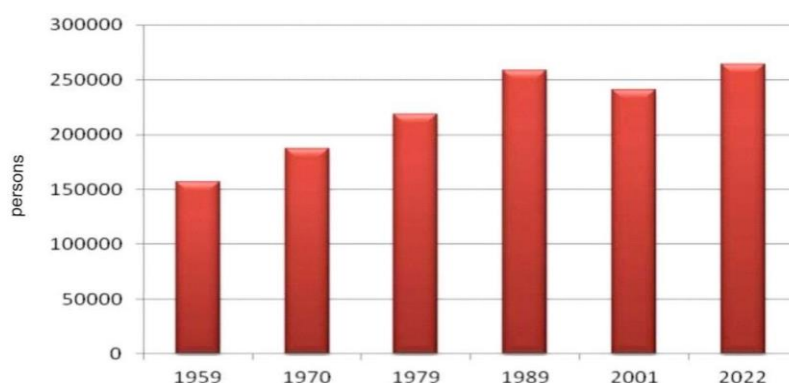


Fig. 7. Population dynamics of Chernivtsi, 1959–2022.

Рис. 7. Динаміка чисельності населення Чернівців у 1959–2022 рр.

Alongside population growth in the city since the 2000s, suburbanization processes have also begun. Starting from 2001, there has been a noticeable increase in population in the villages of the present-day Chahor, Ostritsa, Velykyi Kuchuriv, Kamiana, and Mamaivtsi communities. It is important to note that not all first-order neighboring settlements of the Chernivtsi City Council have experienced population growth, which can be explained by specific geographic factors such as natural barriers, distance from the city, quality of road infrastructure, and others. Suburbanization processes, as a form of settlement system development, are primarily based on migrational ties between the main urban center and lower-level settlements in the settlement hierarchy. Therefore, it is important to examine the demographic pressure field created by Chernivtsi. The strength of this demographic field depends on the population of the central city and is directed radially from the center [5].

Therefore, within a 15 km radius, the city of Chernivtsi exerts demographic pressure on the surrounding settlements with a strength of 1,174.5 people/km². A pressure of 500 people/km² extends within a 23 km radius, covering settlements in 13 communities of Chernivtsi Raion. Similarly, a pressure of 250 people/km² reaches a radius of 32.5 km, encompassing nearly the entire administrative district. At a radius of 51.5 km, the demographic influence of Chernivtsi drops to 100 people/km².

However, the pressure of the demographic influence field reflects only general demographic dependence, while actual connections primarily depend on transport routes and the potential for migration activity. In fact, transport accessibility is the key factor determining the directions of pendulum (commuter) migrations and directly shaping the processes of suburbanization (Fig. 8). As shown, the previously mentioned communities except for Mahala (which is separated by the

natural barrier of the Prut River and its floodplain, and whose residential areas are located at a certain distance from the city) are situated within 15 km by road, following the main transport corridor.

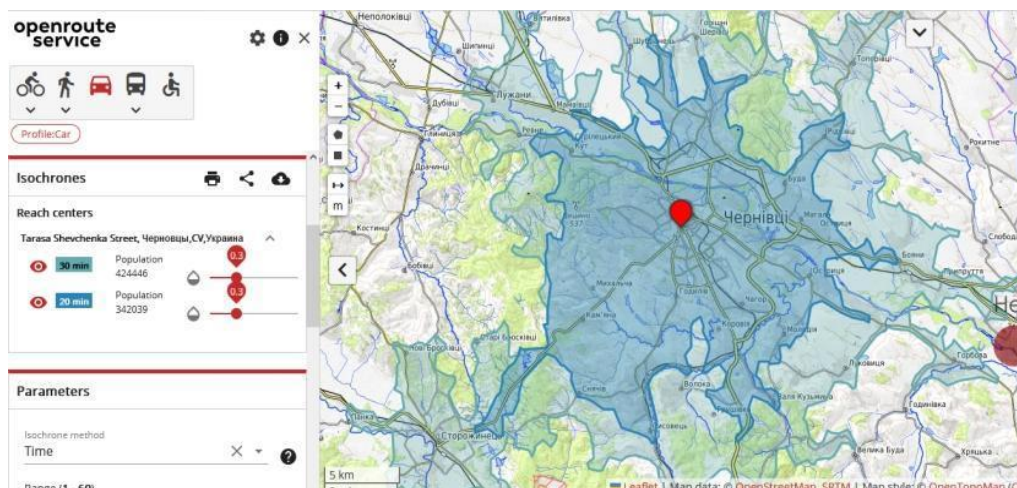


Fig. 8. Fragment of the transport accessibility map (20 and 30 minutes) to the city of Chernivtsi (created using GIS OpenRouteService).

Рис. 8. Фрагмент карти транспортної доступності (20 і 30 хв.) до м. Чернівці (створеної за допомогою ГІС OpenRouteService).

Using the OpenRouteService platform, we can determine that approximately 80,000 people reside within a 20-minute accessibility zone to the city of Chernivtsi or around 340,000 people when including the city itself.

Our analysis of the accessibility calculations for the surrounding communities suggests a likely future absorption of the villages of Koroviia and Chornivka by the city, as well as the strengthening of suburbanization links in the direction of Kamianska, Velykokuchurivska, and Chahorska communities.

Despite being one of the lagging regions in terms of urbanization levels, the study of this phenomenon in the Chernivtsi Region remains significant. In the context of decentralization, changes to the administrative-territorial structure, de-urbanization trends leading to the restructuring of urban settlements, and active geopolitical transformations amid the military aggression by the Russian Federation – reflected in the development of new logistics routes, the movement of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and the relocation of businesses – new challenges and opportunities arise for the future development of urban settlements and the course of urbanization processes in particular. Let us break down the impact of each of the mentioned factors. The decentralization reform, together with changes in the administrative-territorial structure, provides urban settlements with the opportunity to begin developing with renewed momentum (Fig. 9).

Firstly, all of them have become centers of territorial communities, which—given the new opportunities will lead to intensified urbanization processes (both demographically and socially). Within the 30-kilometer zone around the regional center, more than half of the region's population resides. According to OpenRouteService, within a polygon of 1,656.5 km², approximately

503,000 people live. This results in a population density of over 303 people per square kilometer in the city of Chernivtsi's sphere of influence.



Fig. 9. A fragment of the 30-kilometer transport accessibility map of the city of Chernivtsi (generated using GIS OpenRouteService).

Рис. 9. Фрагмент 30-кілометрової карти транспортної доступності Чернівців (згенерованої за допомогою ГІС OpenRouteService).

Secondly, the centers of Vyzhnytsia and Dnistrovskiy districts became urban settlements that are not demographic leaders in the settlement system, which may result in structural shifts in population distribution and urbanization processes. Decentralization in the social sphere will strengthen the inflow of population into these settlements, enhancing their importance. This is evident not only in their administrative functions, as these settlements are also centers of hospital districts, educational hubs, and more.

Thirdly, due to the voluntary formation of territorial communities and the joining of settlements, we are witnessing an acceleration of suburbanization processes and, possibly, changes in the settlement pattern. Thus, the villages of Chornivka and Koroviia have become part of the Chernivtsi urban territorial community. These settlements already had strong ties with the regional center, and now they have practically merged into the social and economic life of the city.

Another important factor is the introduction of a new classification of urban settlements, which will affect both overall urbanization indicators and community development. According to the Law of Ukraine "On Deradjanization of the Procedure for Resolving Certain Issues of the Administrative-Territorial Structure", the status of a settlement is now determined by its population. A clear classification is introduced: a city – more than 10,000 inhabitants; an urban-type settlement – from 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants; a village – up to 5,000 inhabitants. It is worth noting that the transition of former villages to the category of urban-type settlements is currently

voluntary, while the reverse is regulated by law. In addition, only residents of cities will now be included in the category of “urban population”, which will also impact urbanization indicators.

The new classification of settlements, both in Ukraine and in the Chernivtsi Region, will bring new challenges for communities and territories. Local authorities will have to adapt to changes in planning and implementing development strategies.

During the period of martial law, state statistical agencies do not provide updated population data; therefore, our research relied on the figures as of January 1, 2022. Accordingly, we continued to use the term “urban-type settlement” (UTS), maintaining their classification as part of the urban population. Nevertheless, based on the available population figures, we attempt to outline the current structure of urban settlement and urbanization levels in Chernivtsi Region. The results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Estimated indicators of changes in urban settlement patterns in Chernivtsi Region
considering the new criteria for defining urban localities

01.01.2022		24.01.2024	
Region	11 cities 5 UTS (urban-type settlements) 43.3% share of urban population 47.7 people per sq. km – urban population density	Region	4 cities (<i>Chernivtsi, Novodnistrovsk, Storozhynets, Krasnoyilsk</i>) 9 settlements (<i>Hlyboka, Khotyn, Sokyryany, Zastavna, Berehomet, Novoselytsia, Kitsman, Vashkivtsi, Kelmentsi</i>) 33.6% share of urban population 47.7 people per sq. km – urban population density
Chernivtsi District	6 cities 5 UTS (urban-type settlements) 51.1% share of urban population 80.7 people per sq. km – urban population density	Chernivtsi District	3 cities 4 urban-type settlements 44.5% share of urban population 70.4 people per sq. km – urban population density
Vyzhnytsia District	2 cities 2 urban-type settlements (UTS) 22.2% share of urban population 10.6 people per sq. km – urban population density	Vyzhnytsia District	0 cities 1 settlements 0% share of urban population 0 people per sq. km – urban population density
Dnistrovskyi District	3 cities 1 urban-type settlement (UTS) 22.9% share of urban population 16.6 people per sq. km – urban population density	Dnistrovskyi District	1 city 1 settlement 6.9% share of urban population 4.9 people per sq. km – urban population density

Another defining feature of the current development of urban settlements – and thus urbanization processes is the impact of the war in Ukraine. Firstly, internal displacement and the relocation of enterprises influence both the development of settlements and the demographic makeup of cities. Secondly, the occupation and uricide of numerous Ukrainian settlements have reshaped logistical routes. As a result, a Baltic-Black Sea Aegean corridor has emerged

through Lviv, Chernivtsi, Romania, and Moldova, extending toward Odessa. This provides additional advantages for the development of roadside settlements, particularly urban ones.

It is also important to note that settlements located along transportation routes currently stand out in the region in terms of population size. This includes cities such as Kitsman, Hlyboka, Khotyn, and Hertsa, as well as urban-type settlements like Luzhany, Nepolokivtsi, and Krasnoyilsk and others.

Conclusions. Urban settlement in the Chernivtsi region has developed under the influence of various factors. At the time of their establishment, natural, historical-political, socio-geographical, and economic factors played a significant role. The Chernivtsi region is characterized by low levels of urbanization; however, in the Chernivtsi district, the urbanization rate (51.1%) is higher than the regional average. This can be explained both by the role of the regional center which accounts for 68.5% of the total urban population and by the presence of other urban settlements within the city's sphere of influence. This indicates active suburbanization processes that have developed around the regional center. Population growth can be observed in the suburban settlements of the Chahor, Velykyi Kuchuriv, Kamianka, Mamaivtsi, and Ostritsa communities. It is important to note that suburbanization is aligned with the transport network and is concentrated in the western, southern, and southeastern directions. Therefore, there is an urgent need for further in-depth study of suburbanization processes specifically around the regional center.

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СУСПІЛЬНО-ГЕОГРАФІЧНИЙ АНАЛІЗ ПЕРЕБІГУ УРБАНІЗАЦІЙНИХ ПРОЦЕСІВ НА ТЕРИТОРІЇ ЧЕРНІВЕЦЬКОЇ ОБЛАСТІ В СУЧАСНИХ УМОВАХ

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Простежено ретроспективу розвитку урбанізаційних процесів на території найменшої області України – Чернівецької. Досліджено зміни людності міських поселень у часі, та їх особливості відносно розташування і для області загалом і в розрізі новостворених районів. Із використанням правила Зіпфа-Медведкова виявлено, що на території області чітко простежуються субурбаніза-

ційні процеси, які відбуваються навколо обласного центру. Загалом м. Чернівці створює напругу демографічного впливу 250 осіб на кілометр майже на всі поселення однойменного району, а в зоні його активного впливу розміщені поселення 13 громад. Саме на їх території й простежуються субурбанізаційні процеси. Ми можемо спостерігати зростання населення у приміських поселеннях Чагорської, Велико-Кучурівської, Кам'янської, Мамаївської, Острицької громад. Варто зауважити, що субурбанізаційні процеси приурочені до транспортної мережі та спрямовані в західному, південному та південно-східному напрямках. Тому в подальшому є нагальна потреба детального вивчення саме субурбанізаційних процесів навколо обласного центру. На відміну від Чернівецького району, у двох інших графіки залежності показують ледь не ідеальне співвідношення "ранг-людність".

Серед проблем які простежуються у перебігу урбанізаційних процесів області варто виділити наступні. Демографічні – проявляються у депопуляційних процесах регіону, і відповідно у скороченні мешканців. Тому зростання частки міських мешканців можливе за рахунок міграцій. Економіко-політичні – що проявляються у проблемах, пов'язаних із війною в державі, та економічних, пов'язаних з цим. Як результат є загроза в еміграції та пониження якості життя. Законодавчі – внаслідок зміни статусу окремих міських поселень на нижчий, ми отримуємо не лише скорочення показників урбанізації, а й низку викликів пов'язаних із плануванням розвитку громад.

Ключові слова: поселення, урбанізація, рівень урбанізації, міське поселення, адміністративний устрій, розселення населення, міграції населення.