

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OF UKRAINE IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: A REGIONAL DIMENSION

### ЕКОЛОГІЧНА ПОЛІТИКА УКРАЇНИ В УМОВАХ ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКОЇ ІНТЕГРАЦІЇ: РЕГІОНАЛЬНИЙ ВИМІР

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*The article aims at substantiating the directions of development of the environmental policy of Ukraine in terms of European integration, in particular, taking into account the regional dimension. The research considers the institutional basis for the formation of the environmental policy at the present stage of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU. A grouping of Ukrainian regions has been carried out according to the level of ecological and environmental activity. A number of institutional, motivational, financial, and organisational measures are proposed for the formation and implementation of the environmental policy.*

**Key words:** environmental policy, Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU, environmental measures, pollutants, European environmental norms.

*Стаття присвячена обґрунтуванню напрямів розвитку екологічної політики України в умовах євроінтеграції, зокрема у регіональному вимірі. Розглянуто інституційний базис формування екологічної політики на сучасному етапі дії Угоди про асоціацію між Україною та ЄС. Проведено групування регіонів України за рівнем екологічної та природоохоронної діяльності. Запропоновано низку інституційних, мотиваційних, фінансово-організаційних заходів щодо формування та реалізації екологічної політики.*

**Ключові слова:** екологічна політика, Угода про асоціацію між Україною та ЄС, природоохоронні заходи, забруднюючі речовини, європейські екологічні норми.

*Статья посвящена обоснованию направлений развития экологической политики Украины в условиях евроинтеграции, в частности в региональном измерении. Рассмотрен институциональный базис формирования экологической политики на современном этапе действия Соглашения об ассоциации между Украиной и ЕС. Проведено группирование регионов Украины по уровню экологической и природоохранной деятельности. Предложен ряд институциональных, мотивационных, финансово-организационных мероприятий для формирования и реализации экологической политики.*

**Ключевые слова:** экологическая политика, Соглашение об ассоциации между Украиной и ЕС, природоохранные мероприятия, загрязняющие вещества, европейские экологические нормы.

**Formulation of the problem.** In modern conditions, the elaboration and implementation of Ukraine's environmental policy are associated with the development of our country focused on European integration. The ecological unit stands out as an important component of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU. The urgency of bringing environmental policy in line with European norms and rules is associated with the fulfilment of priority tasks aimed at approaching the EU.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** Issues of the ecological situation, technogenic safety, the use of alternative energy sources and technologies of environmental protection, as

well as the formation of environmental policy in the context of sustainable development, are all actively studied in the scientific literature. I. Haidutskyi, Z. Herasymchuk, V. Kravtsiv, V. Khymynets, and others dedicate their works to the abovementioned problems. However, in our opinion, the regionalisation of forming the environmental policy takes on topicality in terms of European integration and the implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU.

**Highlighting previously unresolved components of the general problem.** The priorities of the regional policy of the EU Member States have been transformed towards achieving competitive-

ness and stimulating the dynamic development of regions to promote social and economic cohesion and to reduce the imbalances in their development. In our opinion, the current regional policy of the EU is particularly associated with environmental and innovation policies, which are based on the principles of economic growth and sustainable development. The strategic policy documents on the implementation of the environmental block of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU do not explicitly specify the instruments of interaction between the authorities regarding the implementation of obligations under the agreement, yet the regional features are not sufficiently taken into account.

**Setting objectives.** The purpose of the article is to develop a set of measures for the formation and implementation of environmental policy in the regions of Ukraine at the present stage of European integration.

**Presentation of the main research material.** Significant work has been done towards the implementation of the European integration course and the fulfilment of a number of commitments under the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU. The main principles of the state environmental policy of Ukraine for the period up to 2020 include: increasing the level of social-ecological consciousness; improving the environmental situation, and raising the level of environmental safety; achieving a state of the environment safe for human health; integrating environmental policy and improving the integrated environmental management system; stopping loss of biological and landscape diversity and the forming an ecological network; providing an ecologically balanced use of natural resources; improving the regional environmental policy. The purpose of the implementation of the national environmental policy is to stabilize and improve the ecological state of Ukraine by establishing a national environmental policy as an integrated factor of social and economic development of Ukraine in order to ensure the transition to sustainable economic development and to introduce an environmentally balanced system of nature management.

In 2017, the Law of Ukraine "On Environmental Impact Assessment" was adopted, which established legal and organisational principles for environmental impact assessment, aimed at preventing environmental damage, ensuring environmental safety, protecting the environment, favouring rational use and reproduction of natural resources [1]. This document introduces a new European model of the procedure for assessing environmental impacts in accordance with the requirements of the Association Agreement and European Directives.

The National Strategy for Waste Management in Ukraine up to 2030 has also been approved, aimed at introducing a systematic approach to waste management at the state and regional levels, reducing waste generation by increasing the amount of their recycling and reuse. The strategy

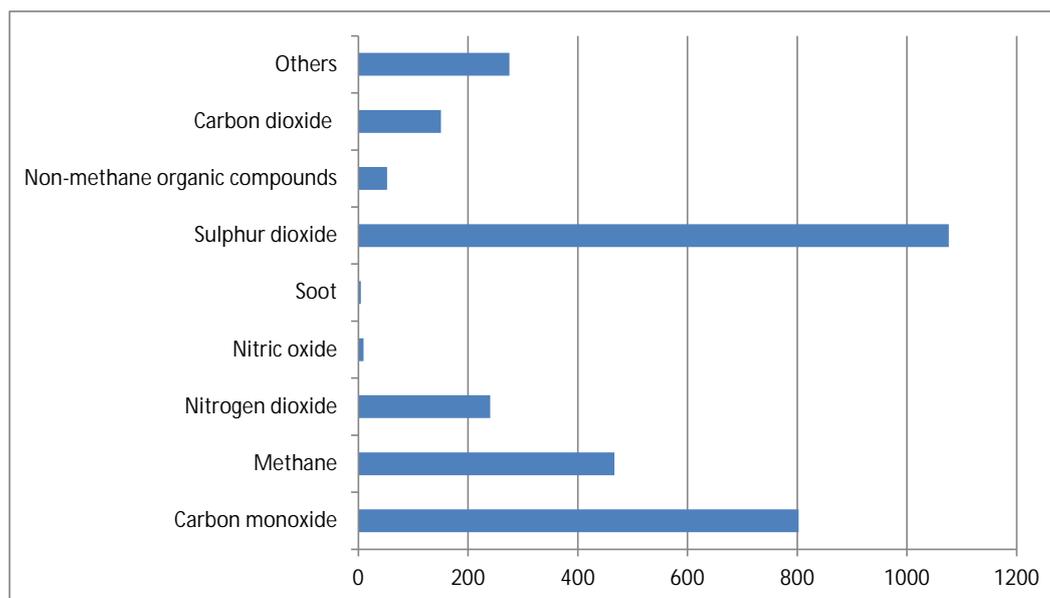
states that the volume of solid waste generation in Ukraine in 2016 amounted to 49 million cubic metres or about 11 million tons. The rate of waste generation in Ukraine is on average 250-300 kilograms per year per person and has a tendency to increase. The strategy presupposes the creation of new facilities for the recycling of recyclable materials, utilisation and composting of biowaste, reduction of the total amount of household waste disposal, minimisation of the total amount of buried waste, and establishing a network of regional landfills meeting the requirements of the EU Directive 31 [2]. An information system will operate to ensure monitoring and control of waste management.

In accordance with this strategy, a Coordinating Council on the implementation of the National Waste Management Strategy in Ukraine up to 2030 was formed as an interim consultative and advisory body of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, responsible for ensuring coordination of the activities of central and local executive authorities on forming and implementing the state policy in the field of waste management.

An interactive map of landfills in Ukraine is being implemented in Ukraine, earlier introduced by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in September 2016. In total, it represents more than 700 points throughout Ukraine with their contact data and a classification of the types of secondary raw materials that they accept. The largest number of such objects is registered in Kyiv, Zakarpattia, Kharkiv, and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

The cooperation provided by the Association Agreement is aimed at preserving, protecting, improving, and reproducing the quality of the environment, protecting public health, prudent and rational use of natural resources, and promoting measures at the international level to solve regional and global environmental problems [3]. The EU common policies are implemented in the following areas: trade, ecological, social, humanitarian, agricultural, educational, industrial spheres, employment policies, etc. The Program of Actions for the Implementation of Environmental Policy for the Period Up to 2020 provides for the following issues: the variability of external conditions and the growing interdependence of environmental, economic, and social problems; increased demand for natural resources and environmental impacts; increased pressure on ecosystems; loss of biodiversity; waste disposal; air quality in urban areas; quality of water resources [4, p. 377].

The implementation of European environmental norms becomes of a paramount importance. Thus, in accordance with the Annex to the Association Agreement, Ukraine undertakes to gradually bring its environmental legislation closer to the EU legislation within 2-10 years. An essential part of the requirements is the creation of appropriate authorised state bodies of control and private organisations for monitoring the state of the environment; introducing methods of calculation of emission limit values for



**Fig. 1. The amount of pollutant emissions in Ukraine in 2016**

pollutants. In this process, the Industrial Emissions Directive (comprehensive prevention and control of pollution) takes on an important role [5, p. 23].

In 2016, emissions of certain polluting substances into the air from stationary sources of pollution in Ukraine amounted to 3078.1 thousand tons, which is more than in the previous year (2857.4 thousand tons). In the structure of emissions in 2016, sulphur dioxide (34.9%), carbon monoxide (26.1%), and methane (15.2%) occupy the largest share.

Despite the fact that, as noted by I. Haidutskyi, the amount of financing of environmental protection measures in Ukraine has considerably increased, their share in the GDP is significantly lower than in the EU countries. In addition, the provided in budgets funds for investment programmes are used less than half. In turn, the level of environmental taxes in Ukraine is 0.4% of the GDP, also being the lowest indicator in Europe. Over the lack of effective energy long-term policy and radical conversion steps, Ukraine remains among the countries with the highest carbon-economy in Europe [6, p. 446–449].

The need for regionalisation of the environmental policy is explained not only by the significant ecological diversification of the territory of Ukraine but also by the peculiarities of social and economic processes in the regions. As a result, the ecological situation in Ukraine has its territorial differences both in terms of the nature and severity of the problems, and the possibilities of their practical solution [7, p. 205].

Failure to take account of regional features can largely impede the implementation of the environmental component of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU since policy development ought to consider the specificities of regional policy and specific economic problems that vary according to regions. Lack of understanding of reforms at the local level may result from inappro-

priate involvement of regions in national processes of environmental policymaking, loss of the opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of regional policy, passivity of regions, and inadequate use of their potential [8].

For the cluster analysis on the grouping of regions of Ukraine by the level of environmental and nature protection activities in 2016 (a package of applied programmes Statistica), the following indicators were used: capacity of treatment facilities, millions of cubic metres; expenditures on measures aimed at reducing emissions in the air, thousand UAH; volumes of reduction of pollutants emission into the air after the introduction of air and security measures, tons per year; utilised waste of hazard classes I-III and IV; capital investments on environmental protection, million UAH; current expenses on environmental protection, million UAH.

According to the results of the analysis, the rating leader is Dnipropetrovsk region (first group), followed by Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions (second group), Ivano-Frankivsk, Mykolaiv, and Kharkiv regions (third group), while all other regions entered the fourth group, with indicators inferior to the previous ones.

In our opinion, the environmental policy of the regions should take into account the principles of the circular economy, which is a system where products are designed in such a way as to ensure its convenient reuse, full recovery or recycling. The circular economy involves the use of renewable energy and the elimination of the use of toxic chemicals that can harm reuse. This kind of economy aims at the elimination of waste by applying best practices in the use of innovative developments [9]. The use of experience in this area of such Eastern European countries as the Czech Republic and Poland will contribute not only to the improvement of the environmental situation but

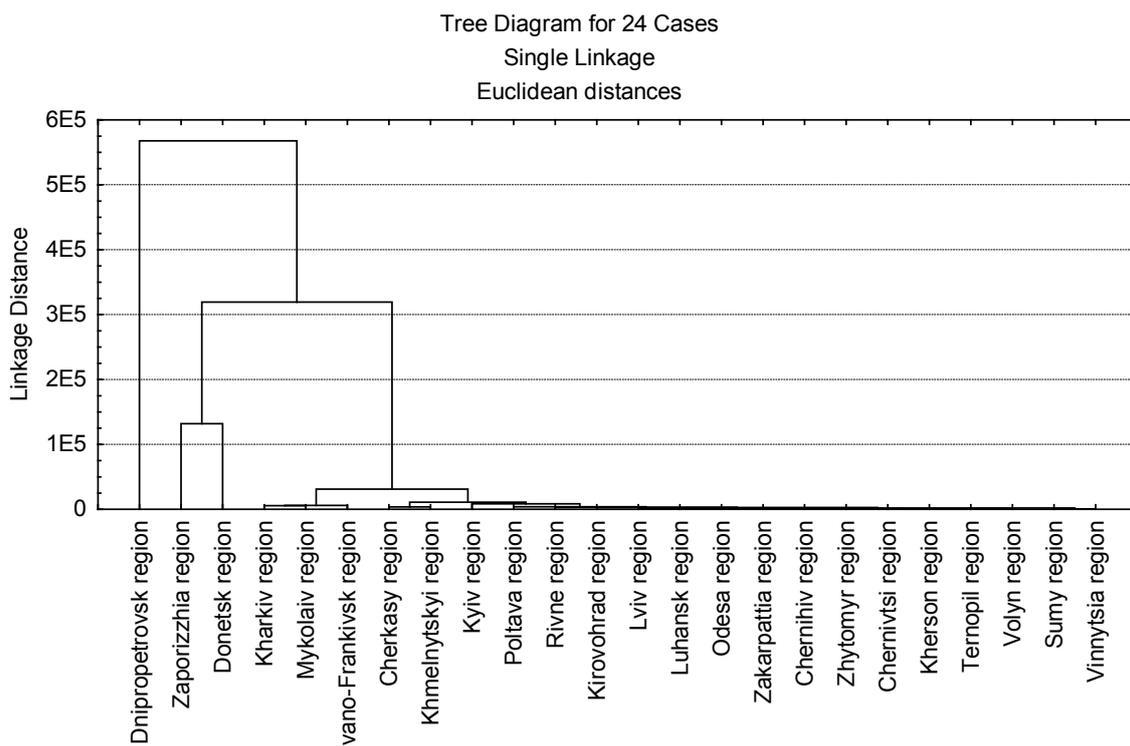


Fig. 2. Graph tree of combinations of regions of Ukraine according to the level of environmental and nature protection measures in 2016

Table 1

**Groups of regions of Ukraine according to the level of environmental and nature protection measures in 2016**

Cluster (group)	Regions of Ukraine	Distance from the centre of the cluster
With the highest level	Dnipropetrovsk region	0,00
With a high level	Zaporizhzhia region Donetsk region	24886,00 24886,00
With an average level	Ivano-Frankivsk region Mykolaiv region Kharkiv region	1999,156 584,285 1955,193
With a low level	Vinnytsia region Volyn region Zhytomyr region Zakarpattia region Kyiv region Kirovohrad region Luhansk region Lviv region Odesa region Poltava region Rivne region Sumy region Ternopil region Kherson region Khmelnytskyi region Cherkasy region Chernivtsi region Chernihiv region	201,616 1333,177 1194,666 891,363 3252,911 1168,112 1330,140 789,499 1306,225 1391,484 1191,106 252,254 1370,469 1373,971 6552,881 5255,592 1330,248 1041,225

Table 2

**Measures on formation and implementation of environmental policy on the regional level**

Institutional measures	Motivational measures	Financial and organisational measures
Expansion of international cooperation. Participation of local actors in international and regional institutions. The activity of local united territorial communities in monitoring compliance with environmental standards. Implementation of the environmental component requirements of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU.	Increasing the level of environmental consciousness of the population. Advancement of benefits from the introduction of the requirements of the European directives. Free access to information on the environment.	Increasing the level of implementation of environmental projects and optimisation of their financial support. Administrative responsibility for non-compliance with legislative requirements in the environmental sphere. Ecologically-oriented investment by entrepreneurs. Monitoring of compliance with environmental indicators.

will also stimulate the innovative development of regions leading to the emergence of new market niches and effective business models.

Measures on the formation and implementation of environmental policy, in particular at the regional level, can be considered within the three groups: institutional, motivational, and financial and organisational measures (Table 2).

**Conclusions.** The processes of European integration have a significant impact on the formation of

the environmental policy in Ukraine. Further implementation of the provisions of the environmental block of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU implies the application of an integrated approach, first of all, taking into account the positive experience of reforming the industry by the EU member states, harmonising the interaction of society and the environment, strengthening international cooperation, localisation of the formation and implementation of environmental policy.

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