

SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE PRISM OF PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

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Abstract. *The article substantiates that the sustainable development of regions in the contemporary conditions of Ukraine should be viewed not as an isolated result of economic growth or administrative equalization, but as a consequence of the quality of public administration capable of combining strategic planning, inter-level coordination, public investment management, fiscal sustainability, digital transformation, and mechanisms of transparency and accountability. It is proved that under the conditions of full-scale war, infrastructure destruction, demographic losses, and a high dependence on international financial support, regional policy acquires the features of both an anti-crisis and a transformational instrument. It is established that the effectiveness of regional development is determined not only by the volume of resources, but also by the capacity of territories to form a high-quality project portfolio, integrate fiscal risks into the planning system, ensure openness of decision-making, and transform recovery into a trajectory of long-term competitiveness. The role of multi-level governance, public investment management, transparency, accountability, and digital government in ensuring the sustainable development of regions is revealed. Practical recommendations are proposed for public authorities and local self-government bodies aimed at strengthening the institutional and financial mechanisms of regional policy.*

Keywords: *sustainable development, regional policy, public administration, multi-level governance, fiscal risks, public investments, digital government, transparency, accountability, regional resilience.*

The article examines sustainable regional development as a complex category of public governance, the content of which, in the contemporary conditions of Ukraine, extends far beyond the traditional understanding of balancing the economic, social, and environmental components of development. The relevance of the topic is determined by the combination of military, financial, infrastructural, and demographic challenges that shift regional policy from the domain of administrative equalization to that of anti-crisis and transformative governance. It is substantiated that, in the context of a full-scale war, large-scale recovery needs, and a high dependence on external financing, the determining factor of sustainable territorial development is not only the volume of available resources, but above all the quality of the institutional architecture capable of ensuring strategic planning, intergovernmental coordination, public investment management, the integration of fiscal risks, as well as the transparency and accountability of managerial decisions.

The purpose of the article is to deepen the scholarly understanding of sustainable regional development through the prism of public governance and to substantiate the

institutional, financial, and digital mechanisms capable of ensuring regional resilience, recovery, and long-term competitiveness. The study proves that contemporary regional policy should be based on the logic of multilevel governance, territorially oriented strategic planning, and the transition from resource distribution to results-based management. It is established that the effectiveness of regional development is determined by the capacity of public authorities to build a high-quality project portfolio, align investment decisions with strategic priorities, introduce a scenario-based approach to budgeting, and take fiscal risks into account as an integral element of regional planning.

The scientific novelty of the article lies in the proposed approach to understanding sustainable regional development as an integrated system within which the institutional, financial, digital, and control dimensions are considered not in isolation, but as interconnected components of a single public governance mechanism. Particular attention is paid to the role of transparency, accountability, and digital tools, including platforms such as DREAM, in ensuring data openness, monitoring project implementation, and reducing corruption risks. The practical significance of the obtained results lies in the development of recommendations for public authorities and local self-government bodies aimed at strengthening institutional capacity, introducing risk-oriented planning, advancing project governance, institutionalizing mechanisms of transparency and accountability, and expanding the use of digital solutions in the processes of strategic planning, financing, and monitoring of regional development. The proposed provisions may be applied in improving state regional policy, territorial recovery programmes, and public administration practices at the subnational level.

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