



SCIREA Journal of Economics

<http://www.scirea.org/journal/Economics>

January 27, 2018

Volume 3, Issue 1, February 2018

Human development in Ukraine: assessment and policy of provision in mobile society

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Abstract

The article draws attention to the peculiarities of mutual influence of human development processes, development of human potential and population mobility. International ratings of Ukraine were assessed in terms of human development indicators since independence. The relationship between human development index, GDP per capita and Gini coefficient was analyzed in Ukraine and some countries of the world. The difference in indicators of Ukraine and countries which are strategic recipients of its human potential was accented on. The results of the analysis provided an opportunity to substantiate the relevance of formation and implementation of human development policy. The purpose, objectives and tasks of human development policy, which are relevant for Ukraine and other countries with high level of population mobility were defined.

KeyWords: mobility, human development, human potential, human development policy, human development index, Ukrainian society.

1. Introduction.

Modern society is characterized by rapid growth of its mobility level. This means that an increasing number of people displays an actively mobile type of their behaviour. A lot of people implement the high level of their mobility not only through frequent tourist trips, but with the aim of finding better accommodation, training and employment. This creates additional challenges for ensuring human development.

The concept of human development is one of the basic in the implementation of the UN policy. It is widely used in evaluation methodologies of interstate level. Therefore, it is relevant to investigate the influence of population mobility growth on human development indicators, thus confirming justification of distributing the rights and freedoms of choice and movement in the modern civilized world.

Today Ukraine is in the purview of the international community. The geopolitical location is forcing Ukraine to act as a "mediator" in international confrontations between "West" and "East". This complicates opportunities for development of economy and society, and incurs additional risks of losses of human potential.

2. Materials and Methods.

This research is intended to reveal the place of Ukraine in international assessments of human development according to the UNDP methodology. The focus will be on comparison of Ukrainian indicators with the indicators of strategic partners for international cooperation. The results of this research provide an opportunity to justify the purpose, objectives and tasks of human development policy, which are relevant for mobile (open) society.

The best practices of Ukrainian (L. Beztelesna, N. Koval, E. Libanova, O. Mylska) and foreign (J. Avato, Z. Bauman, J. Kettl, R. Sabates-Wheeler) authors were used to receive the results of research. The analysis was conducted on the basis of the records of the UN annual reports on the human development, and some expert studies.

3. Results.

Human development and mobile society.

Creation of conditions for formation and fulfilment of human potential resulted in justification of new concept of society development, namely human development [1, p. 39]. Among various interpretations of the substantive essence of human development it is correct to consider it as a process of growth in human capabilities, expansion of human freedom by increasing the options of choice [2, p. 7]. The comprehensive nature of the "human development" concept contributed to the development of assessment methodology at the level of authoritative international organizations, in particular, the UN within the Development Program (UNDP).

In view of constant growth of population mobility, the scientists and professionals face a new task – to justify what should this level be, need to regulate it and influence the directions of implementation. The answer to most of such questions allows identifying the relationship between population mobility and human development processes. At the same time the ambivalence of mobility manifests. On the one hand, a high mobility level is a sign of society development. According to Z. Bauman, mobility acts as a protection in the modern world, and its high level is a sign of elitism [3]. On the other hand, there is another, extreme option – forced mobility, which is a common practice of poor, troubled countries for which the processes of human development are satisfactory. Again, there are warnings for countries with transformational economy and middle income, which are currently major donors to the labour force in the world (including Ukraine). For them, the high level of population mobility is a challenge countering the excessive migration losses by improving internal conditions of human development. That is, the mobility level in itself does not allow giving a response on the need to regulate it. While a high mobility is a positive sign for developed societies, which cannot result in excessive migration losses, then for troubled societies a higher mobility is a risk, which should be offset.

Human development in Ukraine.

Ukrainian society is mobile enough. However, these processes are not always a determinant of its human development. Such conclusions should be based on the results of human development assessment in Ukraine and international rating comparisons.

According to UNDP "Human Development Report 2016", Ukraine is among the group of countries with "high human development". As repeatedly noted by the experts, the main

reason for such results for Ukraine is very high indicators by "knowledge" dimension. The indicators of average and expected years of education in our country are high enough and actually approach to the average level of OECD countries. The 2015 human development index for Ukraine is 0.743 with an average of 0.746 for the group "high human development" (Table 1).

Table 1. Indicators of human development index in the context of different groups of countries, 2015

Indicators	Group average value							
	Ukraine	"High human development"	"Very high human development"	"Medium human development"	"Low human development"	Europe and Central Asia Region	Average value for OECD countries	World average value
Life expectancy at birth, years	71.1	75.5	79.4	68.6	59.3	72.6	80.3	71.6
Expected years of education, years	15.3	13.8	16.4	11.5	9.3	13.9	15.9	12.3
Average years of education, years	11.3	8.1	12.2	6.6	4.6	10.3	11.9	8.3
GNI per capita, PPP USD	7.361	13.844	39.605	6.281	2.649	12.862	37.916	14.447
Human development index	0.743	0.746	0.892	0.631	0.497	0.756	0.887	0.717

* Source: made by authors according to data [4]

Table 1 shows by what indicators Ukraine lags behind other developed countries. In particular, in terms of life expectancy at birth Ukraine is behind the average indicator of the group "high human development" by 4.4 years, and the group "very high human development" by 8.3 years, the OECD countries – by 9.2 years. International experts note about the growth of average life expectancy in Ukraine by 1.3 years. However, according to E. Libanova, there are considerable doubts concerning such growth of this indicator: the census in Ukraine has not been done since 2000, therefore, it is unknown how many people left; there are fears of certain excess of population and underestimation of mortality [5].

The indicator of the Ukrainian IRR per capita is the most discordant with the group average value "high human development". The negative is its dynamics – reduction of GDP by 32% compared to 1990 indicates that all social issues in human development of Ukraine are usually associated with the economic situation [5]. Table 1 shows that Ukraine is closer to the group "medium human development" by the indicator of IRR per capita. In addition, the indicator of Ukraine of 7.361 PPP USD is substantially below the average for the group of countries of Europe and Central Asia (12.862) and with a huge backlog from the value of OECD (37.916). The indicator of GNI per capita of Ukraine is twice lower than the world average value. This conclusion actualizes a clear reference to the economic priority of human development.

Table 2 provides data on some countries with which Ukraine has similar indicators within the framework of calculating the human development index. We see that if Ukraine is at the level of developed European, some technologically advanced Asian states in terms of expected years of education, then in terms of GNI per capita it is at the level of Guatemala, Cuba, Morocco and other underdeveloped states. The indicator of GNI per capita of Ukraine is getting even close to the value of Swaziland, which belongs to the group "low human development".

Table 2. The similarity of indicators of human development index of Ukraine with other countries in the world, 2015

No.	Indicator	Value for Ukraine in 2015	Which countries is close to

1	Life expectancy at birth, years	71.1	Azerbaijan (70.9), Egypt (71.3), Belarus (71.5), Moldova (71.7), Libya (71.8), Lithuania (73.5)
2	Expected years of education, years	15.3	Slovakia (15.0), Bulgaria (15.0), Kazakhstan (15.0), Russia (15.0), Montenegro (15.1), Croatia (15.3), Japan (15.3), Barbados (15.3), Fiji (15.3), Singapore (15.4), Uruguay (15.5), Hong Kong (15.7), Austria (15.9)
3	Average years of education, years	11.3	Finland (11.2), Croatia (11.2), Azerbaijan (11.2), Austria (11.3), Montenegro (11.3), Armenia (11.3), Malta (11.3), Belgium (11.4), France (11.6), Singapore (11.6), Hong Kong (11.6)
4	GNI per capita, PPP USD	7.361	Guatemala (7.063), Bhutan (7.081), Morocco (7.195), Cuba (7.455), Swaziland (7.522), Salvador (7.732), Paraguay (8.182), Armenia (8.189), Georgia (8.856)

* Source: made by authors according to data [4]

Below we consider the human development index of Ukraine in dynamics (Fig. 1). Conclusions on its positive nature should be done quite carefully. According to E. Libanova, today in Ukraine the progress in increasing human development is 0.037%, while, for comparison, in Turkey it is 0.191, i.e. six times higher, very positive dynamics is in Poland and Hungary, and the average around the globe is 0.120 [5]. That is Ukraine currently lags behind in the dynamics of human development from planetary value, indicating the urgent need to improve these indicators by which it loses. Otherwise, under the increasing mobility of population and given the geopolitical location, our state will be in condition of "deficiency" of human potential and demographic collapse.

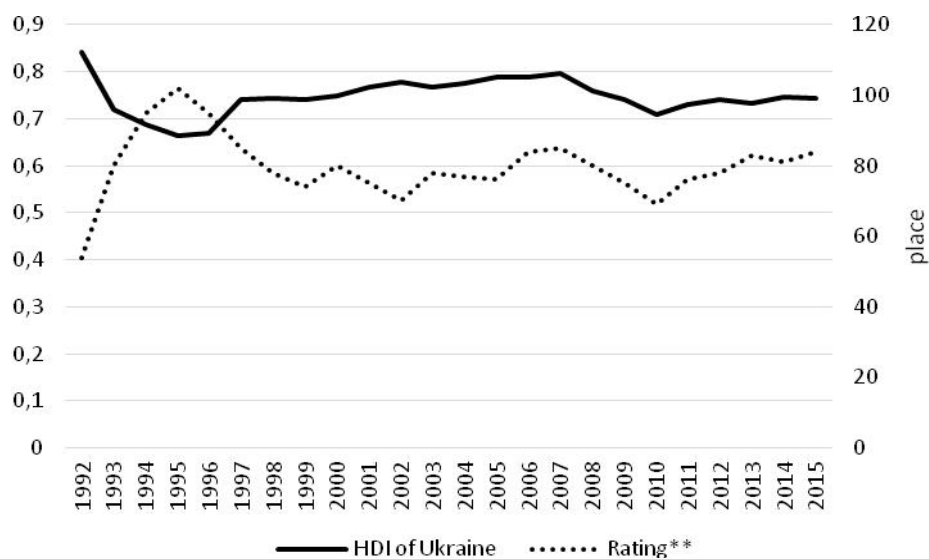


Fig. 1. Dynamics of human development index of Ukraine, 1992-2015

* Source: summarized by the authors according to the data of UNDP annual reports

** Along the secondary axis – rating of Ukraine among other countries in the world

If we compare the dynamics of human development index of Ukraine with the population migration activity, then there is a very high connection with the indicator of the number of retired persons within interstate migration – for the 2006-2015 period correlation is 0.9. At the same time, this connection is absent with the number of arrivals within interstate migration (Fig. 2). This points to the fact that Ukraine, in terms of incoming mobility, is attractive not so much in competitive settings, as from the point of view of temporary absence of the possibilities of movement to more developed countries.

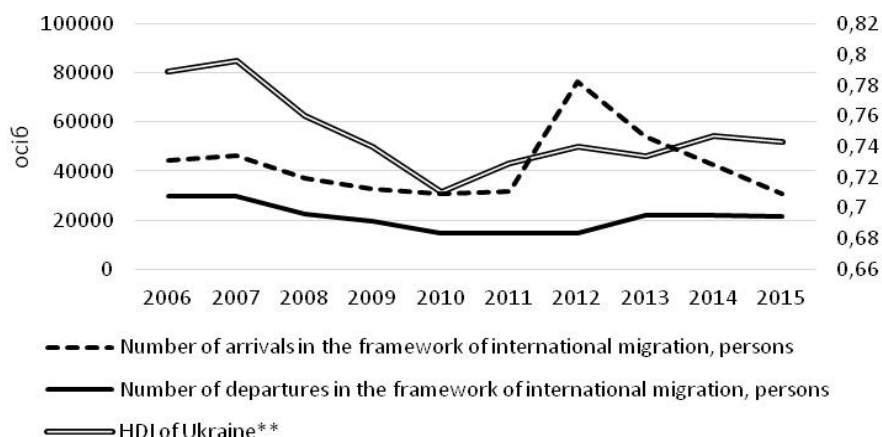


Fig. 2. Dynamics of human development index in correlation to the migration activity of the population of Ukraine, 2006-2015

* Source: summarized by the authors according to the data of UNDP annual reports

** Along the secondary axis – human development index

Studying the human development index of Ukraine and various countries of the world, it is particularly important to pay special attention to those that are adjacent and strategic recipients of its human potential. These are Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania as neighbouring European states, as well as Moldova (new partner of EU) and the Russian Federation (despite all political differences), and more distant states of the European Union – Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Czech Republic, Greece and Portugal. These states are definitely the main recipients of human potential of Ukraine, and the channels of mobility of Ukrainian society are developing along with them.

Fig. 3(a) shows the indicators of human development index as compared with GDP per capita, and Fig. 3(b) – as compared with Gini coefficient. The Gini coefficient is a very important indicator of inequality, which directly determines the internal possibilities of human development and growth factors of the level of its mobility in the event of excessive gaps in society. According to calculations by the UNDP, a relatively low Gini coefficient is identified for Ukraine. This casts doubt on the objectivity of data of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine with the survey of household income level. But you can find the statement that the difference in income between 10% of the richest and 10% of the poorest Ukrainians taking into account the shadow income reaches 40 times [6, p. 11 and 7, p. 48]. In general, statistics of income and wages in Ukraine is very distorted. We should bear in mind the enormous shadow labour, self-employment, trade and migration markets. All of this distorts the perception of situation, creating a "dual" environment for the development of Ukrainian society. Another thing is that this situation serves to short-term enrichment of one part of persons and "survival" of another part. But temporary effect will not lead to the long-term development.

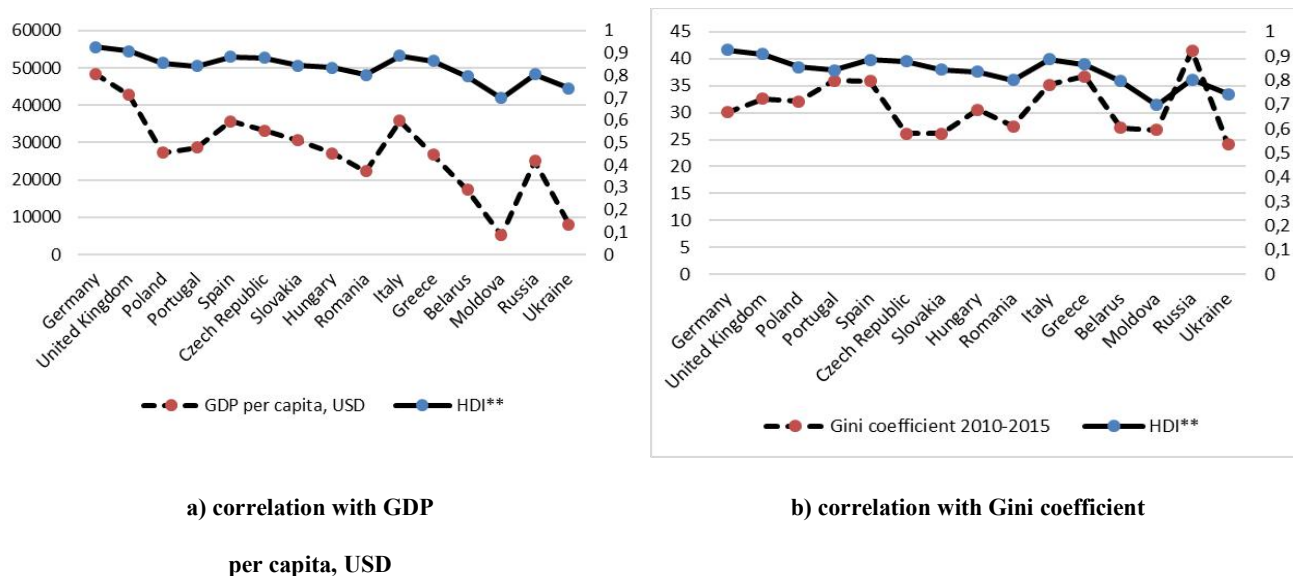


Fig. 3. Correlation between human development index, GDP per capita and Gini coefficient in Ukraine and some other countries, 2015

* Source: made by authors according to data [4]

** Along the secondary axis – human development index

Fig. 3(a) shows how much the indicators of Ukraine are below neighbouring states and strategic recipients of human potential of our society. Further development of global and European mobile space in such situation will only strengthen the level of mobility of the population of Ukraine with the implementation in the migration direction.

Thus, the analysis of human development index at the state level pointed out the weaknesses of Ukraine, resulting in the increasing losses of human potential in conditions when the level of population mobility will continue to grow.

Priorities for human development policy, relevant for Ukraine and other mobile societies.

The counteraction to the losses of human potential and achievement of goals of human development should be implemented through appropriate policy. We will disclose below its nature and specify the implementation peculiarities in mobile society.

Human development policy should be viewed as a comprehensive system of measures implemented by public authorities in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, which (measures) are focused on providing demographic, health, educational, economic, environmental and safety conditions of dignified, socially fair and active life of modern

society. Depending on the spheres of assessing human development, proclaimed by the UN, the main directions of implementing the human development policy are highlighted, each of which forms an integral system of measures of administrative influence: 1) basic spheres – demographic policy, health, education, employment and income policies; 2) adjacent spheres – social protection, culture, civil society development, gender and environmental policies.

The objective of human development policy has a double meaning. On the one hand, it focuses on the creation and expansion of human capabilities. On the other hand, freedom of choice risks to transform into excessive migration losses for any country in the modern world "pied" in socio-economic and political terms. Therefore, the human development policy requires the implementation of measures oriented at combating the losses of human potential.

Based on the definition of human development policy, the following *objectives* of its implementation can be defined:

- 1) creation of new possibilities for meeting human needs and enlarging choices;
- 2) control and preservation of possibilities for exercising human freedoms, especially related to choices and movements;
- 3) control and creation of favourable conditions for exercising social, economic, cultural, environmental, political and civil human rights;
- 4) creation of favourable environment for the development of human potential.

We will determine the peculiarities of implementation of human development policy in mobile society. The tasks which are advisable to divide in the context of conceptual (generic) and in the directions of implementing human development policy reveal it best of all:

1. Conceptual tasks:

- stimulating investment in human development – health protection, education, ecology, development of employment and entrepreneurship;
- institutionalization in the society of responsibility for exercising freedom of choice, avoiding paternalism (for Ukrainian society the paternalistic attitudes have been inherited from the Soviet times and they significantly inhibit the modern progressive processes, especially in the eastern and southern parts of our state);

- provision of social protection, including its mobile forms. In the context of high level of population mobility, it is very important to ensure the mobility of social protection, which is one of the components of social protection for international migrants, and minimizes the risk of loss of granted benefits or accrued financial assistance [8; 9];

- control over the level of dependence on external resources. In the context of development of mobile society, dependence can manifest in terms of human resources – immigrants, immigration capital accumulated by immigrants – primarily in the form of money transfers as passive investment inflow into the economy of the donor country;

2. Tasks in the context of directions for implementing the human development policy:

2.1. Tasks in framework of implementing demographic policy: stimulating demo replacement of the population (in terms of demographic crisis); optimization of sex-age structure of the population; support of the value of family institution (in terms of demographic crisis – multi-child);

2.2. Tasks in framework of implementing health policy: institutionalization of health value, keeping a healthy lifestyle; development of adequate social infrastructure and qualified staffing of the health system; continuous innovations in the health system;

2.3. Tasks in framework of implementing education policy: ensuring education quality and accessibility; stimulating lifelong education; overcoming educational and vocational deficiencies, opposing obsolescence of knowledge.

2.4. Tasks in framework of implementing employment policy: ensuring decent work; motivation of self-employment and entrepreneurship; motivation of innovative work; providing a first work place, including within circulating educational migrations;

2.5. Tasks in framework of implementing income policy: promoting productive employment and effective entrepreneurship aimed to increase production with the improvement of GNI indicators per capita; to create equal conditions of employment and entrepreneurship in view of gaining an adequate income in return; to eliminate excessive gaps in the level of population income; to create favourable conditions for alternative sources of obtaining income by using (leasing) property, investment activities (including in the stock market), revenues from the use of intellectual property, etc.

4. Summary.

Therefore, the results of assessing the human development at the state level point not only at spatial economic polarization, but also at different learning opportunities and reproduction of the population in focus of formation of human potential. Ukrainian society, while in competing conditions with more developed countries, has to respond to existing risks of losses of human potential. The justification of conceptual foundations of formation and implementation of human development policy is relevant for this goal. Consideration of population mobility through the prism of human development policy directs to the priority of enlarging choices and creating favourable environment to exercise the human rights and freedoms. They are based on the freedom of choice, which, in particular, is evident due to exercise of freedom of movement. In such relationships the human development policy in mobile society needs to be formed in a way to balance the consequences of exercising freedom of choice with trends in demographic, health, social and economic areas.

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