
ПОЛІТИЧНИЙ ТА СОЦІАЛЬНО-ЕКОНОМІЧНИЙ РОЗВИТОК КИТАЮ

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POTENTIAL OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN REDUCING SOCIAL INEQUALITY IN UKRAINE (UKRAINIAN-CHINESE CASE)

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The article reveals the directions of implementation of Ukrainian-Chinese cooperation. It is substantiated that the implementation of partnerships has the potential to take into account the interests of each party. The importance and prospects of realization of interaction for the decision of problems of social inequality in Ukraine are outlined. It is noted that social inequality is manifested in the quantitative measurement of property stratification and qualitative studies of the standard of living of the population. The state of formation of social standards is analyzed. It is emphasized that the Ukrainian practice of forming social guarantees and indicators that allow to investigate changes in the property status of the population demonstrates significant imbalances at the stages of legislative definition and subsequent use for measuring the property status. It is noted that one of the complex indicators used to conduct studies of social stratification in the context of its qualitative characteristics is the indicator of the quality of life of the country's population.

Statistical data on the state of property stratification of the population of Ukraine and diversification of incomes are given. Problematic aspects of income generation and dependence on state support are highlighted. The mathematical dependence of the increase in State budget expenditures on social protection and social security and changes in the purchasing power of Ukrainian citizens has been established. It is noted that the component of the "quality of life" indicator – the purchasing power of the population – makes it possible to assess in a generalized form the state of the population's ability to meet needs at the existing

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level of wages and the formed prices for products. It was stressed that the implementation of cooperation between countries in the context of job creation and, consequently, improving the welfare of the population is possible, both in the context of bilateral economic and scientific cooperation and taking into account Ukraine's potential for cross-border projects.

The directions of perspective points of intersection of interests of Ukrainian-Chinese cooperation within the territory of Ukraine are determined. It is noted that in the context of decentralization and greater autonomy and independence of local communities, intensification of international cooperation directly with local authorities, in the context of increasing the powers of the latter, will allow Chinese partners to gain a transparent understanding of the nature of interaction and close proximity determination of territorial preferences, industries, contractors.

Keywords: social inequality, Ukrainian-Chinese cooperation, decentralization, welfare of the population.

ПОТЕНЦІАЛ МІЖНАРОДНОЇ СПІВПРАЦІ У ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННІ ЗМЕНШЕННЯ СОЦІАЛЬНОЇ НЕРІВНОСТІ НАСЕЛЕННЯ В УКРАЇНІ (УКРАЇНО-КИТАЙСЬКИЙ КЕЙС)

Г. М. Коцюрубенко, Г. В. Музиченко

У статті розкриті напрями реалізації україно-китайської взаємодії. Обґрунтовано, що реалізація партнерських відносин має потенціал врахування інтересів кожної зі сторін. Окреслено важливість і перспективність реалізації взаємодії для розв'язання проблем соціальної нерівності в Україні. Зазначено, що соціальна нерівність знаходить свій прояв у кількісному вимірі майнового розшарування та якісних дослідженнях рівня життя населення. Проаналізовано стан формування соціальних стандартів. Наголошено, що українська практика формування соціальних гарантій та показників, що дають змогу дослідити зміни майнового стану населення, демонструє значні дисбаланси на етапах законодавчого визначення та подальшого використання для виміру майнового стану. Зазначено, що одним із комплексних показників, що використовуються для проведення досліджень соціального розшарування в контексті його якісних характеристик, є показник якості життя населення країн.

Наведено статистичні дані щодо стану майнового розшарування населення України та диверсифікації по доходах. Виділено проблемні аспекти формування доходів та залежності від державної підтримки. Встановлено математичну залежність приросту витрат Державного бюджету на соціальний захист та соціальне забезпечення та зміни купівельної спроможності громадян України. Зазначено, що складник показника «якості життя» – купівельна спроможність населення – дає змогу в узагальненому вигляді оцінити стан можливостей населення задовольнити потреби за наявного рівня оплати праці та сформованих цін на продукцію. Наголошено, що реалізація співпраці між країнами в контексті формування робочих місць та, як наслідок, підвищення добробуту населення можлива як у контексті виключно двосторонньої економічної та наукової взаємодії, так і з урахуванням потенціалу України щодо розвитку транскордонних проєктів.

Визначено напрями перспективних точок перетину інтересів україно-китайської співпраці в межах території України. Зазначено, що в умовах проваджуваних процесів децентралізації та набуття більшої самостійності та незалежності місцевих громад активізація міжнародної співпраці безпосередньо з місцевими органами влади в умовах збільшення повноважень останніх дасть можливість китайським партнерам отримувати прозоре розуміння характеру взаємодії та максимального наближення до

безпосередніх виконавців проєктів, чіткого визначення територіальних уподобань, галузей, підрядників.

Ключові слова: соціальна нерівність, українсько-китайська співпраця, децентралізація, добробут населення.

Introduction. The processes of globalization and expansion of economic ties affect the interpenetration of economies and determine the feasibility of finding promising partnerships, in accordance with the requirements of the time and the needs of potential participants.

The potential of international cooperation for the Ukrainian economy is multi-vector implementation, each direction of which will allow to realize its own reserve of such a partnership. However, the ultimate goal of the functioning of the economy, as a social and legal entity, is to create conditions for life and functioning of its own citizens. The development of international cooperation creates significant prospects for realizing the opportunities of Ukrainian citizens in terms of shaping their own welfare. The expediency of considering international cooperation, in this aspect, is due to significant issues in the field of social inequality and property stratification of the population of Ukraine, and the need to find sources and mechanisms to reduce such inequality. In addition, special attention should be paid to finding partners whose interests have the potential to be implemented directly in Ukraine, which will ensure the implementation of steps to reduce social stratification and improve the welfare of Ukrainian citizens. China has been an active player in international economic relations for a long time. The history of the Ukrainian-Chinese partnership is quite long, at the same time, relatively unenlivened [Loiko, Ramsky 2018]. Instead, current trends and directions of China's interests indicate significant potential and opportunities formed not only for Ukrainian partners, but also for China's economy in their direct implementation in Ukraine.

The implementation of military operations on the territory of Ukraine significantly complicates the prospects of intensifying the attraction of international investments, at the same time, the pre-war interest of Chinese partners in investments in the Ukrainian economy demonstrates a constant interest in such areas as energy and agriculture. The priority of these areas, both for the Ukrainian state and for the world community, is quite significant. From the point of view of agriculture: military actions on the territory of Ukraine have already provoked a collapse in the supply of agricultural products and determined the importance of logistics networks and raw materials markets that Ukraine is forming. The global restructuring of energy markets taking place in the modern world and the prospect of changes in the supply chain put forward requirements for the development and activation of the use of alternative energy sources. Considering the potential of Ukrainian landscapes and natural resources, the implementation of this direction has significant economic potential for development and investment.

Literature review. Features of social inequality formation and ways to reduce it are in the interests of many scholars. In particular, the theoretical foundations of social inequality were studied by N. Andriyiv and N. Shuprudko [Andriiv, Shuprudko 2019], the nature and consequences of global social inequality were studied by A. Kolot and O. Gerasimenko [Kolot, Herasymenko 2017], E. Sulima [Sulima 2004], and options for reducing social inequality were developed by L. Klevchik

[Klevchik 2019], A. Prokopenko [Prokopenko 2015], L. Tkachenko, I. Novak [Inequality in Ukraine... 2012]. Prospects for the development of Ukrainian-Chinese relations were studied by S. Kulitsky [Kulitsky 2021], V. Wenger [Wenger 2018], S. Troyan [Troyan 2018].

The purpose of the research. The purpose of the article is to study the state of property stratification of the population of Ukraine and to develop and substantiate the perspective of the implementation of Ukrainian-Chinese cooperation to solve the problems of social inequality in Ukraine.

Materials and methods. This study was carried out using a retrospective analysis of literature sources: theoretical analysis and generalization of special literature were carried out to study the state of the research problem, determine its relevance, identify the subject of research; graphical-tabular method and methods of generalization, analysis, synthesis, analogy and statistical methods of grouping, the method of mathematical forecasting. Analytical and statistical data provided by the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, and the Numbeo International Project became the information and statistical base of the study.

Results and discussion. Consideration of issues of social inequality in Ukraine is under the influence of new factors and factors, in particular, regarding the formation of a separate class of persons who became disabled as a result of military operations, an increase in the number of social categories that require protection and financial support from the state due to the inability to work etc. Social inequality, as a social phenomenon and a subject of study, is not exclusively a sphere of a single science. The multifaceted nature and multiplicity of aspects of consideration determine the fact that the definition and interpretation of “social inequality” will depend on what problems should be solved by a particular science. However, the initial components for understanding the essence of the concept of “social inequality” are considered to be the “classic triad: unequal access to wealth, power and fame – the three fundamental benefits that man seeks” [Loiko, Ramsky 2018].

From the point of view of economic research, social inequality, first of all, finds its manifestation in the quantitative measurement of property stratification and qualitative studies of living standards. However, the Ukrainian practice of forming social guarantees and indicators that allow to study changes in the property status of the population, shows significant imbalances at the stages of legislative definition and further use to measure property status. A comparison of the actual subsistence level (an indicator calculated monthly by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine to monitor the dynamics of living standards in Ukraine, based on statistics on consumer prices) and the minimum monthly wage, shows that by 2017 in fact government instruments impact on the reduction of social inequality, in terms of social security for wages, did not meet its purpose (Fig. 1).

Until 2016, the minimum wage did not even provide for the coverage of the minimum living expenses that must take place to support livelihoods. The further dynamics shows a change in the ratio towards positive trends, but the excess of the minimum monthly wage over the subsistence level in 2020 was only 23%, which is direct evidence of problematic aspects in the field of wages and social standards and social guarantees.

Taking into account the established dynamics, the study of population distribution by average per capita equivalent total income, which is one of the determinants

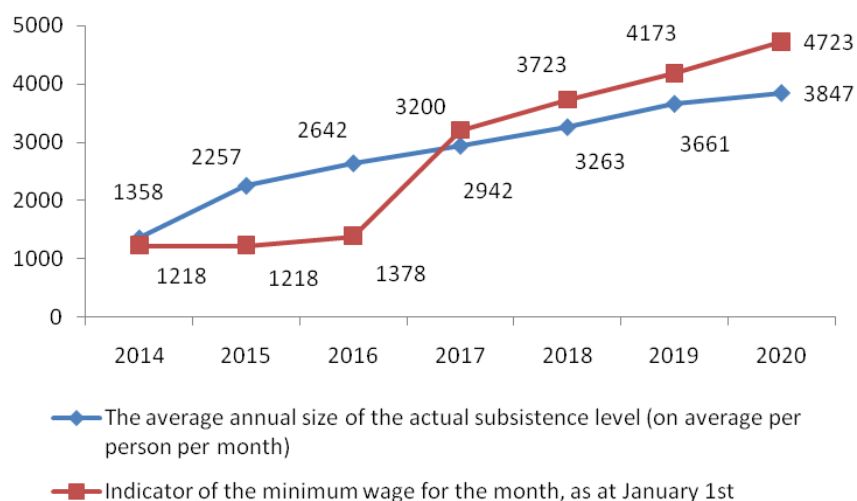


Fig. 1. Dynamics of change of some indicators of social standards in Ukraine, 2014–2020, UAH [Compiled on the basis of data State Statistics Service of Ukraine]

of economic research on social inequality, should be conducted in the context of comparison with state standards of social guarantees (Table 1). This approach will make it possible to study the proportion of the population that is below the state-established living wage, in fact in a state bordering on survival.

The above statistical material allows us to conclude that in 2016 almost 51% of the population of Ukraine received income below the actual subsistence level,

Table 1.

Distribution of the population by the level of average per capita equivalent total income (selectively by income categories, UAH), %, 2014–2020 [compiled on the basis of State Statistics Service of Ukraine]

Indexes	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
up 1920.0	51.7	35.3	18.4	6.9	2.6	x	x
1920.1–2280.0	16.5	17.6	16	7.7	4	x	x
2280.1–2640.0	11.7	15.9	16.4	11	6.7	x	x
2640.1–3000.0	7.8	11.4	13.6	11	7.6	x	x
Total by category	87.7	80.2	64.4	36.6	20.9	10.7	8.3
3000.1–3360.0	4.6	6.7	10	10.7	9.4	x	x
3360.1–3720.0	2.5	4.4	7.9	10.8	9.2	x	x
3720.1–4080.0	5.2	8.7	17.7	9.3	8.7	x	x
Total by category*	12.3	19.8	35.6	30.8	27.3	19.2	17.8
4080.1–4440.0	x	x	x	6.3	8.9	x	x
4440.1–4800.0	x	x	x	6.4	7	x	x
4800.1–5160.0	x	x	x	5.1	6.9	x	x
Total by category **	0	0	0	17.8	22.8	20.6	21.6
Over 5 000***	0	0	0	14.8	29	49.5	52.3

*In 2019–2020 up to UAH 4 000

** In 2019–2020 from UAH 4 000 to 5 000

***In 2017–2018 – more than UAH 5 160

which correlates with the corresponding dynamics of exceeding this indicator above the minimum wage. Instead, the trends of 2017–2020 show a significant reduction in the number of people receiving income at the level of minimum needs, while in 2020, almost 50 percent of the population's average per capita equivalent total income was within the minimum wage.

One of the complex indicators used to conduct research on social stratification in the context of its qualitative characteristics is the indicator of quality of life of the population – Numbeo International Project annually evaluates and ranks the quality of life among countries on the following criteria: climate, the level of environmental pollution, purchasing power of population, the ratio of housing prices and income, cost of living, level of security, quality of health care, travel time to work [Word and deed: analytical portal].

According to the trend of Ukraine's place in the ranking over the past five years, the indicator of "quality of life" has an upward trend after the best indicator of 2016, which demonstrate, in particular, the tendency to deteriorate some components of the indicator and the formation of unfavorable conditions population development in general (Fig. 2).

Component of the indicator "quality of life" – the purchasing power of the population, allows you to generalize the state of the population's ability to meet the needs of the current level of wages and current prices for products.

The state, as a social entity, creates certain tools to influence social imbalances and forms financial support for socially vulnerable groups of people. Such trends are reflected in the implementation of social policy of the state and the implementation of financing the expenditures of the budget system for the social sphere and social protection. At the same time, social policy in a market economy should focus only on support functions for the population, and not become a source of stable and permanent income, that is social expenditures should not have a significant impact on the state of material security in terms of enrichment.

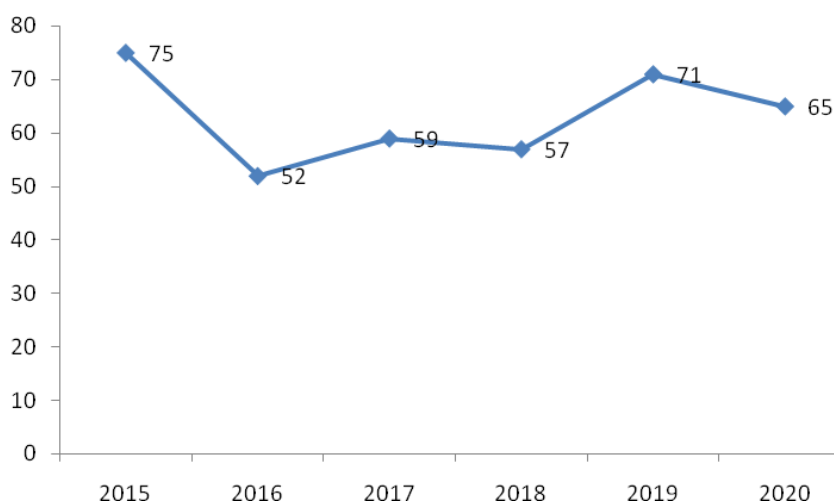


Fig. 2. Dynamics of change of Ukraine's place in the Numbeo rating by quality of life indicator [Based on Word and deed: analytical portal]

Instead, establishing a mathematical relationship between the growth rate of this component of government expenditure (State budget expenditures on social protection and social security) and changes in the purchasing power of the population, allow us to hypothesize a significant dependence (almost 70 percent of R2) on changes in purchasing power activation of state expenditures on social protection and social security (Fig. 3). Realization of such influence can be shown in the form of a considerable share of transfers from the state in structure of incomes of the population.

The noted trends in the state of property stratification of the population, low levels of incomes, significant dependence of the population on state financial support determine the presence of a number of problematic aspects. This state of affairs deepens social inequality and characterizes the economy in terms of inheriting the peculiarities of the inversion type of capital accumulation.

In such circumstances, social contradictions not only have problems to resolve, but are complicated by underdeveloped domestic market, lack of decent wages in the country, turning the country into a raw material appendage for more successful and developed market economies in other countries and more.

Stimulating economic growth in the middle of the country, under these conditions, has a tendency to develop through export operations, which can negatively affect the economic independence of the country [Social inequalities...2018].

The search for ways to reduce social tensions, create an effective wage market, create a stable middle class and minimize dependence on government support should focus on using the potential of opportunities formed in accordance with changes and challenges of the time. An effective tool for solving certain problematic aspects can be the expansion of international partnerships in terms of strengthening the capacity of inner resources in combination with the experience and investment of foreign partners.

It is partnership in the conditions of implementation of joint ventures, technological and scientific hubs, exchange of experience and attraction of

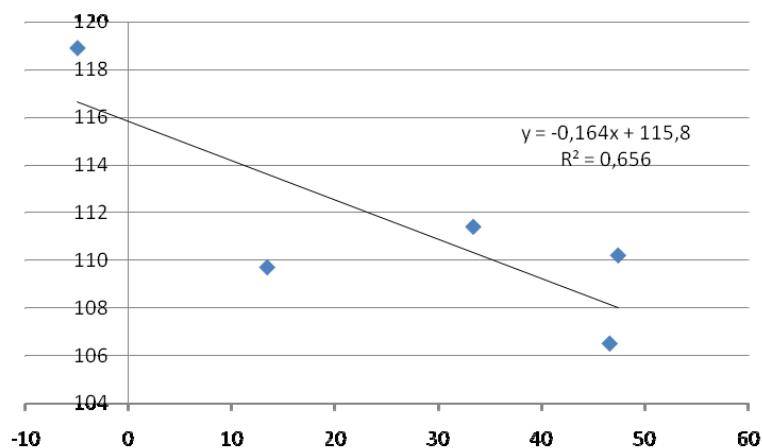


Fig. 3. Graph of mathematical dependence of the growth of the State budget expenditures on social protection and social security and changes in the purchasing power of citizens of Ukraine during 2016–2020 [Calculated by the authors]

investments that has significant advantages over finding credit sources of financing for economic development. In addition, the development of infrastructure facilities in Ukraine will allow not only the creation of employment, but also contribute to the professional transformation of the population, which is a direct component of reducing social inequalities.

The direction of Sino-Ukrainian cooperation has a significant potential for such partnership. PRC has long been one of Ukraine's main trading partners. According to the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, in the first quarter of 2021 the trade turnover between the countries reached 5.683 billion US dollars, while the Counselor for Trade and Economic Affairs of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ukraine Liu Jun declared the figure of \$ 300 million in investments from China in recent five years [Erman 2021]. The interaction of China and Ukraine, in the vast majority of cases, is considered from the standpoint of export-import operations [Loiko, Ramsky 2018]. At the same time, the level of development of industrial relations and the share of high value-added goods in the Ukrainian economy is much lower than the Chinese ones, which affects the formation of significant risks in developing options for cooperation between partners, such as concluding a free trade agreement in context of national interests security etc. [Kulitsky 2021]. Such risks determine the importance of focusing on finding other ways of cooperation in order to take into account the interests of both parties and partially compensate for existing imbalances in the domestic economy, namely from the standpoint of reorienting "weaknesses" to development potential.

Important attention should be paid to the fact of intensifying the search for points of intersection of interests from the standpoint of joint production or provision of services by foreign specialists in contrast to the use of credit lines that can be offered to Ukraine. The formation of the credit component of the interaction creates a debtor-creditor relationship. The experience of such interaction of PRC with other countries (Sri Lanka, Montenegro, Angola, etc.) has a very contradictory result in terms of prospects and feasibility of its use in solving problems of material security and intensification of economic processes through borrowed funds [Tyszkiewicz 2021]. The availability of credit resources makes it impossible to build effective and equal economic relations that will help form the basis for the development of domestic capacities and intensify the use of Ukrainian workers and specialists directly on the territory of Ukraine.

Implementation of cooperation between countries in the context of job creation and, consequently, improving the welfare of the population is possible, both in the context of exclusively bilateral economic and scientific cooperation, and taking into account Ukraine's potential for cross-border projects.

Significant potential for bilateral economic cooperation is in the areas of port and aviation infrastructure, logistics, joint ventures in agriculture, energy and its alternative sources [Tyszkiewicz 2021].

The prospects of establishing not only cultural and educational centers on the territory of Ukrainian educational institutions deserves special attention, but also the introduction of the practice of creating technology parks and technopolises, which will not only gain experience in using technology, but also stimulate their development and strengthen domestic research and development. Ukrainian educational institutions already have a positive experience of cooperation and

attracting sources of own funding from Chinese partners [Loiko, Ramsky 2018; Erman 2021]. Instead, the acquired experience of active military actions on the territory of Ukraine and the consequences that the events will have for various spheres of economic and social life create conditions for conducting research and scientific research, in particular in the field of medicine and rehabilitation, restoration of agricultural land in relation to the possibilities of farming, innovations in construction and reconstruction, etc.

The development of cross-border areas of Ukrainian-Chinese cooperation creates opportunities for integration into global transport systems, in particular through the solution of the “narrow” track for trains from PRC to the EU. In line with existing trends and taking into account the views of experts, this option may be quite interesting for partners, given the congestion of existing facilities on Belarusian roads and further prospects for expansion [Tyszkiewicz 2021]. The development of the Ukrainian transport network, in the context of transcontinental transport, is fully in line with China’s interests in expanding trade with Europe. Rail transport is one of the important components of China’s long-term strategic goals, and the use of the transit potential of Ukraine’s railways is a variable component of promoting Chinese products in European markets. Separately, it is worth paying attention to the fact that the military operations of the spring-summer of 2022 will cause significant damage to infrastructure facilities, however, the southern and eastern regions will experience most of the destruction, which makes it possible to predict the possibility of resuming freight transportation through the western regions of Ukraine.

The development of infrastructure facilities, in addition to the national nature, has significant prospects for implementation in the ongoing processes of decentralization and gaining greater autonomy and independence of local communities. Intensification of international cooperation directly with local authorities, in the context of increasing the powers of the local authorities, will allow Chinese partners to gain a transparent understanding of the nature of cooperation and maximum proximity to the direct executors of projects, clear definition of territorial preferences, industries, contractors and more. Local communities, on the other hand, have the opportunity to create effective mechanisms for the development of their own region with the direct involvement of the community. Such processes have a significant positive effect in part:

- use the budget-generating role of potential investment objects in terms of forming the future base of taxpayers as an important component of the financial basis of territorial communities;
- social and economic effects of Sino-Ukrainian cooperation projects for the prospects of the region and in terms of improving living standards as a priority factor for a particular project or area, namely: employment creation, increasing gross regional product, stimulating the exchange of scientific developments and adaptation to Ukrainian practice, etc.;
- formation of interest of local authorities and local producers in attracting their own financial resources in the context of participation in project implementation and further processes of maintenance of implemented facilities.

Conclusions. The existence of real points of intersection of interests of Ukrainian-Chinese cooperation within the territory of Ukraine forms a significant resource potential for development and forms the preconditions for reducing social

inequality and property stratification. The processes of decentralization and the acquisition of greater independence and autonomy by local authorities determine the intensification and stimulation of the development of such cooperation on the ground. This leads to the formation of local centers of cooperation potentially more mobile for implementation, which a priori creates opportunities for local residents and has a positive impact on the socio-economic development of the community. This approach will ensure the reorientation of the state's social policy to the supporting component and ensure the material and social well-being of the population.

The development of these directions is relevant and important both for the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine and a promising source of expanding the spheres of cooperation for China. In particular, in terms of promoting and approaching the European community and the consumer, the possibility of obtaining leading positions in certain segments of the investment market of post-war Ukraine.

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