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## Peculiarities of foreign economic relations of Volyn Region and the Republic of Poland

Golub G., Pogribskij T., Głuszko S. **Cechy międzynarodowych stosunków gospodarczych obwodu wołyńskiego i Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej.** Artykuł analizuje społeczno-geograficzną istotę międzynarodowych stosunków gospodarczych regionu. Przedstawiono wspólne i wyróżniające cechy realizacji polityki regionalnej Ukrainy i RP w kontekście międzynarodowych stosunków gospodarczych obwodu wołyńskiego. Zbadano dynamikę handlu zagranicznego, współpracy inwestycyjnej w zakresie turystyki i polityki turystycznej, kultury, edukacji między Ukrainą a RP w wymiarze regionalnym. Zdefiniowano i przeanalizowano współpracę transgraniczną regionu wołyńskiego z Rzeczpospolitą Polską. Uzasadniono perspektywy dalszej współpracy gospodarczej oraz polityki regionalnej dla obwodu wołyńskiego i Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej.

Голуб Г., Погребский Т., Глушко С. **Особенности внешнеэкономических связей Волинской области и Республики Польша.** В статье исследовано общественно-географическую сущность внешнеэкономических связей региона. Выявлено и раскрыто общие и отличительные черты проведения и реализации региональной политики Украины и Республики Польша в контексте внешнеэкономических связей Волинской области. Исследована динамика внешнеторгового, инвестиционного сотрудничества в области туризма и туристической политики, культуры, образования между Украиной и Республикой Польша в региональном измерении. Определены и проанализированы трансграничное сотрудничество Волинской области и Республики Польша. Обосновано перспективы дальнейшего сотрудничества и внешнеэкономических связей и региональной политики для Волинской области и Республики Польша.

Голуб Г., Погребський Т., Глушко С. **Особливості зовнішньоекономічних зв'язків Волинської області та Республіки Польща.** У статті досліджено суспільно-географічну сутність зовнішньоекономічних зв'язків регіону. Виявлено та розкрито спільні та відмінні риси проведення та реалізації регіональної політики України і Республіки Польща в контексті зовнішньоекономічних зв'язків Волинської області. Досліджено динаміку зовнішньоторговельного, інвестиційного співробітництва в галузі туризму та туристичної політики, культури, освіти між Україною та Республікою Польща в регіональному вимірі. Визначено і проаналізовано транскордонне співробітництво Волинської області та Республіки Польща. Обґрунтовано перспективи подальшого співробітництва та зовнішньоекономічних зв'язків і регіональної політики для Волинської області та Республіки Польща.

**Key words:** foreign economic relations, regional policy, cross-border cooperation, Volyn region, Ukraine, Republic of Poland

**Słowa kluczowe:** międzynarodowe stosunki gospodarcze, polityka regionalna, współpraca transgraniczna, obwód wołyński, Ukraina, Rzeczpospolita Polska

**Ключевые слова:** внешнеэкономические связи, региональная политика, трансграничное сотрудничество, Волинская область, Украина, Республика Польша

**Ключові слова:** зовнішньоекономічні зв'язки, регіональна політика, транскордонна співпраця, Волинська область, Україна, Республіка Польща

## Abstract

The article investigates the socio-geographical essence of the region's foreign economic relations. The common and distinctive features of the implementation and implementation of the regional policy of Ukraine and the Republic of Poland in the context of foreign economic relations of the Volyn region are identified and revealed. The dynamics of foreign trade, investment cooperation in the field of tourism and tourism policy, culture, education between Ukraine and the Republic of Poland in the regional dimension is studied. Cross-border cooperation between Volyn region and the Republic of Poland is defined and analyzed. Prospects for further cooperation and foreign economic relations and regional policy for the Volyn region and the Republic of Poland are substantiated.

## Introduction

In the context of the European integration process in Ukraine, in which the Volyn region actively participates, the importance of balanced development of its foreign economic, in particular, foreign trade, investment and tourism relations with European partner countries is exacerbated. The Republic of Poland occupies a special place in a number of such partner countries.

The Republic of Poland has been a member of the European Union since 2004. It is one of the most developed countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Volyn region has a common border with this country. The Republic of Poland is the most important strategic partner of our state. It actively promotes Ukraine's integration into the EU and other European structures. The Republic of Poland was one of the first in the world to officially recognize the state independence of Ukraine. It is Ukraine's largest trading partner among the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

## The main results of the research

One of the main aspects of the socio-economic development of the country is the expansion

and strengthening of foreign economic relations with other countries, the scope and structure of which determines the economic condition of the country.

Cross-border cooperation plays a very important role in the formation of strong and effective foreign economic relations, regional policy and balanced socio-economic development of Ukraine and the Republic of Poland.

Today, cross-border cooperation is one of the important strategic directions of development of border regions, which creates additional opportunities to address issues of socio-economic development of border regions and intensify EU-Ukraine integration processes in the regional dimension.

Volyn-Polish investment cooperation, on the one hand, is a mechanism that, embodied in specific forms of interstate industrial cooperation, deepens the production cooperation of Ukrainian and Polish enterprises, as well as forms international reproductive ties in the field of public product production. On the other hand, given the limited domestic resources of economic development, attracting foreign investment plays an important role in overcoming the investment downturn and can be seen as a tool to attract new technologies and innovations, modern methods of management, marketing and production, and therefore a powerful tool for renewal (*Програма транскордонного співробітництва...*, 2020).

Volyn region and the Republic of Poland have some prospects for the development and deepening of investment cooperation. Throughout the study period, there is a generally positive trend in attracting investment from the Republic of Poland, even despite the last two years. However, there are certain barriers that hinder these processes and need to be gradually and thoroughly removed.

Regarding the total turnover of Volyn region in 2019, we can note that enterprises and organizations of Volyn region exported products to 85 countries (Poland accounted for 19.2% of exports), imported goods came to enterprises from 83 countries (Poland accounted

for 9.3% of imports). The volume of exports of goods in 2019 amounted to 125 million dollars. US dollars, imports – 209 million dollars (*Між-регіональне співробітництво...*).

As for cross-border cooperation projects, there are nine in the Volyn region:

- 4 in the field of border infrastructure development (Better access to the Ukrainian-Polish border region by reconstruction of the state road M-07 "Kyiv-Kovel-Yagodyn" on the section 487 + 500-496 + 500, km 496 + 500-505 + 286; Creation of the Adamchuky-Zberezhye international road checkpoint across the Ukrainian-Polish state border; Construction of the Dolsk customs crossing; uniform development"); "Improving the quality of accessibility of the Chelm and Luboml regions through the construction, modernization of roads and infrastructure in the border area in order to ensure their even development");
- 3 in the field of tourism ("Development of international tourist routes"; "Development of the project of the international complex tourist route" Friendly frontier "and its implementation"; "Substantiation of the complex program of development of tourist and recreational sphere in cross-border regions");
- 1 in the field of health care " International cross-border cooperation project between the TMO of Luboml and Shatsk districts (Ukraine) and the Independent Public Health Institution of Janow (Republic of Poland) ";
- 1 in the economic sphere ("Joining efforts to develop cross-border cooperation, further deepen cooperation within Euroregions and intensify work to expand the scope of such cooperation").

Cross-border clusters are one of the modern forms of cross-border cooperation. They unite subjects and participants of cross-border cooperation on a voluntary basis, which are freely located in the cross-border space (fig. 1).

Cross-border clusters are defined as groups of independent companies and associated institutions that are geographically concentrated in a cross-border region, cooperate and compete,

specialize in different fields, but are linked by common technologies and skills and complement each other to work together or joint projects, products.

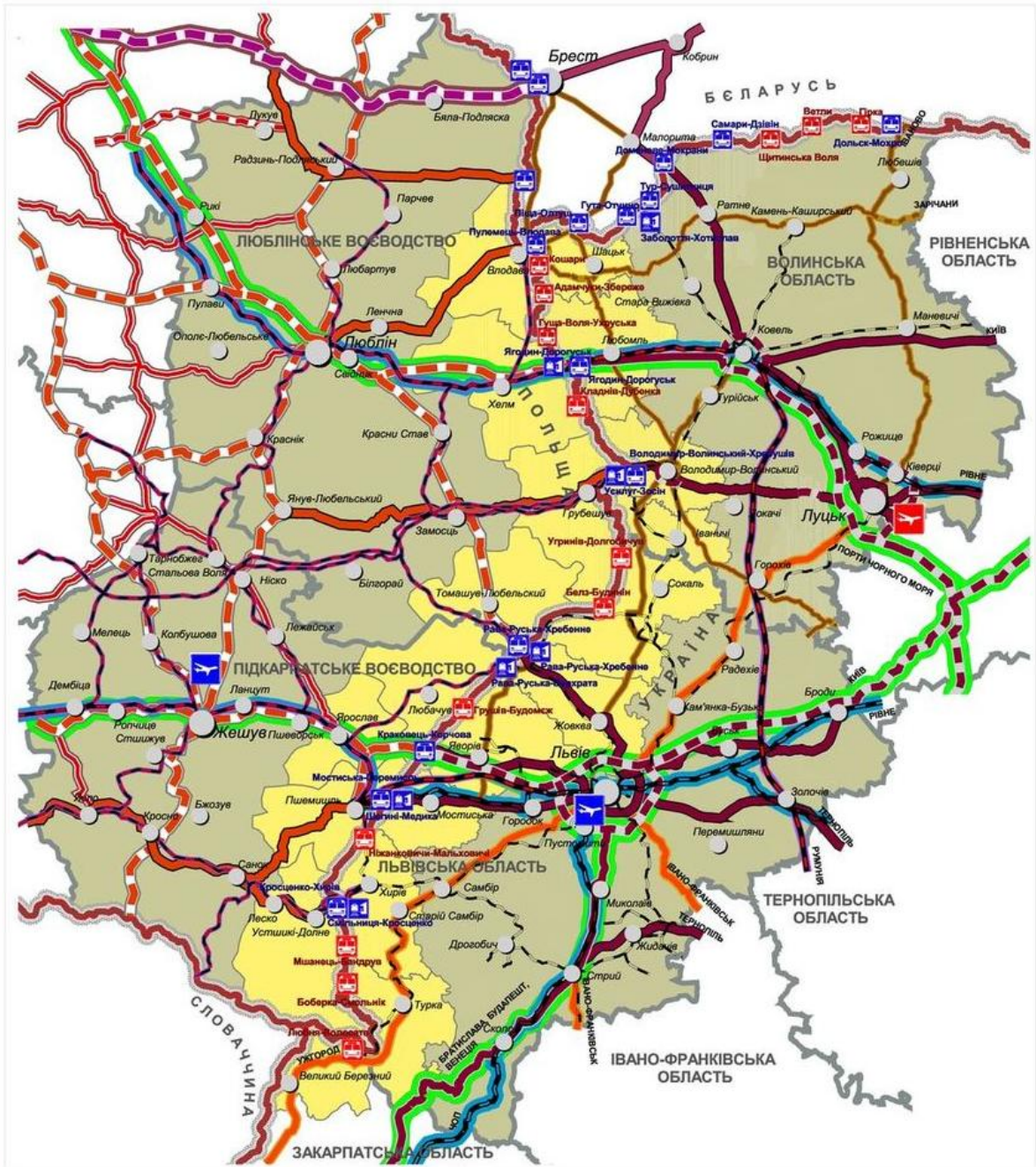
Cross-border clusters are formed on the basis of mutually beneficial cooperation of cross-border relations between business entities in the border areas of neighboring countries. All this justifies their effective activity of various economic entities, authorities, non-profit and public organizations of these territories (*Генеральне Консульство...*).

Thus, the expansion of the network of cross-border clusters in the Ukrainian-Polish cross-border region is the most promising area for intensifying foreign economic ties between the two countries, an important tool for their transition to the highest level of efficiency and close cooperation in regional policy.

The cross-border tourist and recreational cluster operates in the Ukrainian-Polish cross-border region (Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Neighborhood Program for 2016–2020). In the Volyn region, the regional council signed an agreement on the establishment of a Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian cross-border tourist cluster (October 31, 2016). The parties to the Agreement are the Lublin Regional Tourism Organization, Volyn Tourism Cluster and Brest Tourism Cluster, he organization of a cross-border tourist and recreational cluster within the framework of the Program "Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2016–2020" provided for the creation of 5 centers of tourist information and equipment rental (*Державна стратегія...*, 2016).

A "Cross-Border Innovation Cluster" was established (February 19, 2017) between the Chelm Chamber of Commerce and the Lesia Ukrainka Eastern European National University (Lutsk, Volyn region). The aim is to organize professional internships in the Republic of Poland for students of Eastern European University in the field provided by the curriculum of the university (*Генеральне Консульство...*). The cluster will realize its goals by creating space for the development of new innovative products and services; commercialization of the

# ТРАНСПОРТНА ІНФРАСТРУКТУРА INFRASTRUKTURA DROGOVA



## ZAMIERZENIA INWESTYCYJNE (PROJEKTOWANE I PLANOWANE)

- AUTOSTRADY
- DROGI EKSPRESOWE
- DROGI KRAJOWE
- DROGI ISTNIEJACE**
- DROGI EKSPRESOWE
- DROGI KRAJOWE

## ТРАНСПОРТНІ КОРИДОРИ ПАНЕУРОПЕЙСЬКОГО КОРЫТАРЗА ТРАНСПОРТОВОГО

- АВТОМОБІЛЬНІ ДРОГОВЕ
- ЗАЛІЗНИЧНІ КОЛЕJОВЕ
- АВТОДОРОГИ ДРОГИ**
- МІЖНАРОДНІ МІДЗНАРОДОВЕ
- НАЦІОНАЛЬНІ КРАJОВЕ
- РЕГІОНАЛЬНІ РЕГІОНАЛНЕ

## ЗАЛІЗНИЧНІ ЛІНІJ ЛІНІJ КОЛЕJОВЕ

- КОЛІЯ 1524 мм КОЛЕJ
- КОЛІЯ 1435 мм КОЛЕJ

## ПРИКОРДОННІ ПРОПУСКНІ ПУНКТИ ПРЗЕСЦІЕ ГРАНИЦЗНЕ

- АВТОМОБІЛЬНІ ДРОГОВЕ (існуючі/проєктні)
- ЗАЛІЗНИЧНІ КОЛЕJОВЕ
- АЕРОПОРТ (існуючі/проєктні)
- ЛОТНИСКО (існуючі/проєктowane)

## ТРАНКОРДОННИЙ РЕГІОН РЕГІОН ТРАНСГРАНИЦЗНИЙ

- ТРАНКОРДОННИЙ РЕГІОН РЕГІОН ТРАНСГРАНИЦЗНИЙ
- ПРИКОРДОННІ ТЕРИТОРІJ ОБСЗАР ПРЗГРЯНИЦЗНИЙ

Fig. 1. Transport infrastructure of the Ukrainian-Polish cross-border region  
 Rys. 1. Infrastruktura transportowa ukraińsko-polskiego regionu transgranicznego  
 Рис. 1. Транспортная инфраструктура Украина-Польского трансграничного региона

potential of scientific centers; conducting research; organization of trainings, practical classes, seminars and conferences on topics related to the development of innovation, as well as business activities; formation and maintenance of a system of information and exchange of experience, which will serve to establish and develop scientific and economic contacts; finding funds from the European Union to fund research, investment, and other activities that support the development of innovation; cooperation with other national and foreign organizations, the goals and scope of which correspond to the tasks and activities of the cluster.

In recent years, Euroregions have been formed as the main territorial entity that exists at the interstate level in terms of the implementation of Ukraine's European integration orientation. The purpose of their creation is to intensify cooperation between communities and local authorities located in the adjacent border, in the development of economic, cultural, educational, tourism, scientific, environmental, infrastructural and other relationships. Examples of such euroregions are the Bug Euroregion, which unites Volyn region (Ukraine), Lublin Voivodeship (Poland), and Brest Oblast (Belarus).

The main tasks of the Euroregion "Bug" include:

- organization and coordination of interaction between the parties in the economic, cultural, environmental and educational spheres;
- mutual assistance in developing projects that may have a common interest for both parties;
- establishing good neighborly relations between the participants of the Euroregion;
- identification of potential and prospects for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between neighboring states.

In our opinion, this format of foreign economic relations between the two countries is promising and should be developed and improved. Effective development of cross-border cooperation and strengthening of partnership between Ukraine and the Republic of Poland involves expanding and improving the existing regulatory framework. It is necessary to actively work

on the preparation of bilateral documents in all areas and branches of the regions and the state as a whole.

Particular attention should be paid to trade, economic and energy cooperation, development of cross-border and cross-border cooperation, search for common interests in logistics and transport, solving environmental problems, deepening relations in the fields of cultural, humanitarian and youth policy.

As there are only two border crossings with the EU in Volyn, this is not enough to establish friendly interpersonal, economic and tourist ties with the member states of the European Union. In order to unload the border crossing points at a meeting of members of the Euroregion Council "Bug" it was decided to open seasonal checkpoints Adamchuki-Zberezhe and Kladniv-Dubinka, as well as the road crossing Varyazh-Usmezh. There are concrete developments in the direction of opening a new border crossing and creating a seasonal ecotourism crossing over the Western Bug River using a pontoon bridge in the area of Shatsk National Nature Park and Polissya National Park (Shatsk-Vlodava) (*Договір між Україною і Республікою Польща...*).

Within the framework of the Cross-Border Cooperation Program "Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2014–2020" the application form of a large infrastructure project "Improvement of the ecological situation in Shatsk National Nature Park by sewerage of settlements around Lake Sviyaz" was submitted to the second stage of selection. Among the planned activities: sewerage of the western part of Shatsk township, village Gaivka, village Melniki, village Sviyaz and the village of Pulmo. As a result: the sanitary and epidemiological situation in the Shatsk Lakes region will improve, the access of the population of the cross-border region to the system of sanatorium treatment will improve, the level of seasonal diseases will decrease, the unemployment rate will decrease due to the tourist attractiveness of the region. The total cost of the project is EUR 6,499,998.00.

One of the promising areas of external bilateral relations between the Volyn region and the Republic of Poland is the implementation and implementation of regional policy. On the example of the Republic of Poland, Volyn region has the opportunity to take the principle of the mechanism of implementation of regional development strategies and strategies for each district. It is necessary to implement a new paradigm of regional development, which is based on a territorial approach and use of the external potential of the regions.

The development of foreign economic relations between the regions of Ukraine and the Republic of Poland is characterized by the fact that the potential for foreign trade in goods and services by the Republic of Poland is used much more efficiently than Ukraine, thus forming a noticeable asymmetry in trade and economic relations.

Prospects for the development of foreign economic relations and regional policy include the development of cross-border cooperation and the formation of cross-border clusters operating between our countries. The expansion of the network of cross-border clusters in the Ukrainian-Polish cross-border region is the most promising area for intensifying foreign economic relations and close cooperation in regional policy within them.

In particular, the implementation of the project of a unique integrated space between Ukraine and Poland – the Ukrainian-Polish cross-border region will attract about 5 billion euros of investment and create more than 20 thousand new jobs for Ukrainians, because Ukraine's integration into Europe does not mean visa-free travel. The work on the project on the Ukrainian side is carried out by the Ministry of Regional Development together with the State Enterprise "Ukrainian State Research Institute of Urban Design" DIPROMISTO named after Bilokon (fig. 2).

Within the framework of this project, the development and integration of the most important areas of cross-border cooperation between

Ukraine, in particular, Volyn region and the Republic of Poland, including interstate regulation of legal relations (tax, customs and credit policy); improving the concept of cross-border cooperation in the state regional strategies of both states; formation of institutional principles of cross-border cooperation (cross-border clusters, Euroregion, special economic zone); development and modernization of border infrastructure in accordance with EU standards, as well as construction of new border crossing points; creation of a public communication system.

Within the framework of Ukrainian-Polish cooperation in the field of tourism, special attention is focused on the development of rural and ecological tourism. The main problems of development in the field of tourism in the Volyn region are the low level of development of tourist infrastructure and lack of funds for entrepreneurial initiatives.

The following types of tourist products are promising in the Polish and Volyn tourist markets: health, historical, recreational, rural and ecological tourism. Each of these types of tourism involves the development of appropriate infrastructure. This cooperation is also carried out through scientific and educational, cultural and ethnocultural tours (*Культурно-гуманітарне співробітництво...*).

One of the elements of Volyn-Polish cooperation in the field of culture is the use of Polish experience in reforming the management of the cultural sector of Volyn, Poland's support for the integration of Ukrainian cultural and artistic environment into the European cultural space and dissemination of Ukrainian culture. A very promising direction in the development of foreign economic relations is the development of international tourism; cultural-educational and scientific-technical cooperation, organization of scientific conferences, cooperation between museums and art centers; creation of a common information base, collection and exchange of information on the economic potential of the region and the country as a whole.

СПІЛЬНИЙ ПРОЕКТ МІСТОБУДІВНОГО РОЗВИТКУ  
 ТРАНСКОРДОННОГО РЕГІОНУ УКРАЇНА-ПОЛЬЩА  
 СХЕМА ФУНКЦІОНАЛЬНО - ПЛАНУВАЛЬНОЇ  
 ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ ТЕРИТОРІЇ

PROJEKT WSPOLNY ZAGOSPODAROWANIA PRZESTRZENNEGO  
 REGIONU TRANSGRANICZNEGO UKRAINA - POLSKA  
 MAPA PLANOWANIA PRZESTRZENNEGO

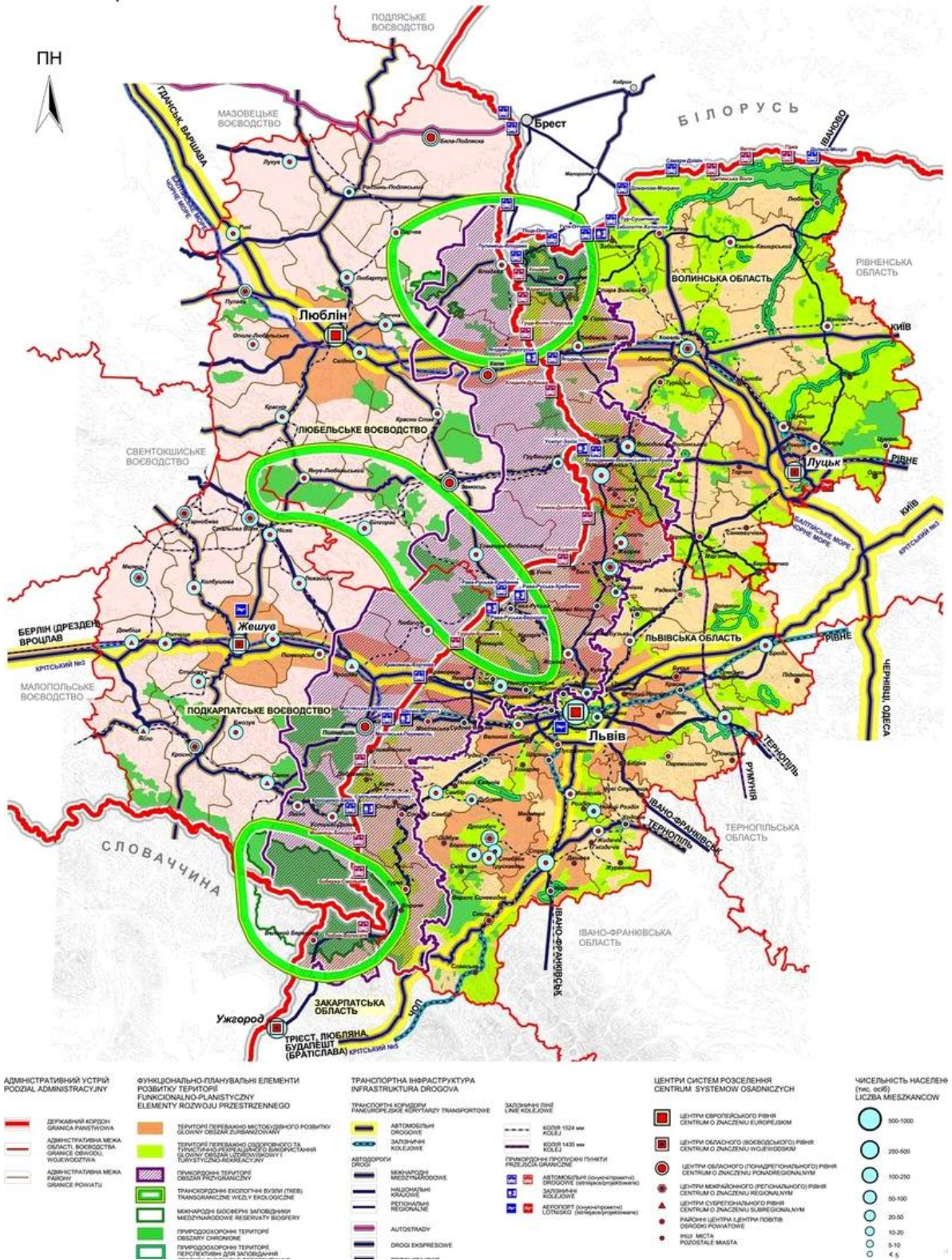


Fig. 2. Cross-border integrated space project between Ukraine and Poland  
 Rys. 2. Transgraniczny zintegrowany projekt kosmiczny między Ukrainą a Polską

Рис. 2. Проект трансграничного интегрированного пространства между Украиной и Польшей

## Conclusions and recommendations

One of the promising areas of external bilateral relations between the Volyn region and the Republic of Poland is the implementation of regional policy. On the example of the Republic of Poland, Volyn region has the opportunity to take the principle of the mechanism of implementation of regional development strategies and strategies for each district. It is necessary to implement a new paradigm of regional development, which is based on a territorial approach and use of the external potential of the regions.

The largest volume of investments from the Republic of Poland in the Volyn region is invested mainly in the development of the manufacturing sector, in particular woodworking and food industry and banking, enterprises engaged in trade and intermediary activities and providing various services, including transport.

The main areas of long-term development of foreign economic relations between the Volyn region and the Republic of Poland, which should be developed in the future include:

- the potential for interaction of foreign trade in goods and services;
- development of cross-border clusters;
- increasing the volume of Polish capital and investment;
- development of international tourism;

- cultural, educational and scientific and technical cooperation;
- organization of scientific conferences, cooperation between museums and art centers.

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