

Thus, national economy with weak diversified industrial structure nowadays is extremely vulnerable to the timeserving fluctuations of foreign markets. In its turn, all that brought in "zone" of high risk social sphere of the country. Confirmation is that fact, that Ukraine is one of most suffered from the global economic crisis countries. Recession of industrial production in 2009 were almost 22 %.

All that have determined an insistent need for realization of strategy of transition of national economy of the country on innovative model of development in the basis of which lies basic innovations of the 5th and 6th KC. Motive power in the decision of this problem may become only recognition of depth and danger of stagnation by the state elite, its political will and aspiration to success.

## **TRANSFORMATION OF BELARUSIAN DEMOGRAPHIC SPACE IN THE END OF 20TH – BEGINNING OF 21ST CENTURY: THE ROLE AND MAIN FUNCTIONS OF DEPRESSED AREAS**

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**Abstract.** *Demographic space of Belarus at the end of XX – beginning of XXI century is characterized by the transformation, differentiation and polarization. Transformation is expressed in compression of the area of positive demographic dynamics and expansion of the area of demographic depression, which is characterized by an annual, natural and mechanical population decline and aging. Differentiation is expressed in reduction of continuity and domination of areality of demographic space. Polarization is expressed in increasing differences in the nature of the demographic development of urban and rural spaces, and leads to the formation of: 1) zones of the positive dynamics of the urban areas and the concentration of population in large cities, and 2) zones of demographic periphery in rural areas and fragmentation of rural settlement. Urban and rural spaces of Belarus in the transformation conditions acquire new functions – migration attractiveness of depopulated rural areas for the purpose of recreation and agro-tourism, agro-towns formation, migration of the industrial sector into the suburban zone, small business development in the industrial sector of small towns, etc.*

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**Антіпова Є.А. Трансформація демографічного простору Білорусі наприкінці ХХ – початку ХХІ століття: роль та нові функції депресивних районів.** Демографічний простір Білорусі в кінці ХХ – на початку ХХІ століття характеризується трансформацією, диференціацією та поляризацією. Трансформація полягає у стисненні зони позитивної демографічної динаміки і розширенні зони демографічної депресії, яка характеризується щорічним природним та механічним скороченням населення, його старінням. Диференціація полягає у скороченні континуальності і домінуванні ареальності демографічного простору. Поляризація виражається у збільшенні відмінностей в характері демографічного розвитку міських і сільських просторів і призводить до формування: 1) зон позитивної динаміки у міських поселеннях та концентрації населення у великих містах, 2) зон демографічної периферії в сільській місцевості та фрагментарності сільського розселення. В умовах трансформації міські та сільські простори Білорусі набувають нових функцій – міграційна атрактивність знелюднених сільських територій для цілей рекреації та агротуризму, формування агромістечок, міграція виробничої сфери в приміську зону, розвиток малого бізнесу в індустріальному секторі малих міст тощо.

Demographic development of the Republic of Belarus in the end of 20<sup>th</sup> – beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century is characterized by a number of evolutionary trends that are peculiar to the European countries. Depopulation, low birthrate, natural decrease and ageing of population take place in the country. However, political and socio-economic transformations, induced by the disintegration of socialist system and USSR, reforming of economy in the economic conditions of transition period have led to the changes both common scenario of demographic development in the Republic of Belarus and transformation of demographic space.

In the end of 20th century the population size of the Republic of Belarus exceeded 10 million. Over the period of 1999 – 2012 the population size declined by 5,8 % till 9,465 million people, annual decrease amounts to 0,4 %. Both evolutionary factors (value changes, individualization of European society's awareness, the growth of socio-economic development and etc.) and strictly local factors (environmental, socio-economic and etc.) are in the basis of this transformational demographic trend. Against the background of population size decrease modern demographic space of Belarus is characterized by intensification of polarization of urban and rural spaces' development the first features of which appeared as far back as in the 1970s.

Polarization is expressed in the increase of differences in the character of demographic development of urban and rural spaces and leads to the following formation: 1) areas with positive urban dynamics and concentration of population in large cities; 2) in rural area – areas of demographic periphery and fragmentariness of rural settlement. While urban population of the country rises annually (over the period of 1999 – 2009 the growth amounted 3,1 %), rural population faced scale decrease (25,7 % over the period) (Table 1).

The period of political and socio-economic transformations in Belarus coincided with the beginning of transformation in the character of natural population movement. In 1993 natural increase changed into population loss (2,8 %) and the country entered into the stage of depopulation. Over the period of 1999 – 2009 the decrease of birthrate was practically 20 % - from 13,9 to 11,5 ‰, the growth of mortality was more than 30 % - from 10,7 to 14,3 ‰. Meanwhile if the birth rate of

urban and rural population was equalizing during this period (11,7 and 11,1 ‰ respectively), mortality of rural population was more than in two times than among urban population (24,2 and 11,1 ‰ respectively). All in all there is natural increase of urban population currently (0,6 ‰) against the background of common trend of natural decrease, in rural area – natural decrease (13,1 ‰) (Table 2).

Table 1 – Dynamics of Belarusian population size\*

| Years | Population size, millions of people |       |       | Growth/decrease over the period of 1999 – 2011, % |       |       |
|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
|       | all population                      | urban | rural | all population                                    | urban | rural |
| 1999  | 10,045                              | 6,961 | 3,084 | -5,8                                              | +3,1  | -25,7 |
| 2012  | 9,465                               | 7,175 | 2,290 |                                                   |       |       |

Heterogeneity of demographic space intensifies at the micro geographical level. Three areas of dynamics can be determined – progressive, stable and regressive – in the urban space with common positive trend. Every fifth town of Belarus is characterized by annual population growth. Geographically these are cities referred mainly to both the area of capital development and south Polesye region with prevalence of naturally-economic and historically-cultural factors. By population size these are the cities of two categories – large cities having higher level of socio-economic stability and small cities in which governmental support of small-scale business currently is in use (Figure 1a).

Table 2 – Dynamics of natural population movement in Belarus, ‰

| Years | Birth rate     |       |       | Death rate     |       |       | Natural increase/decrease |       |       |
|-------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|---------------------------|-------|-------|
|       | all population | urban | rural | all population | urban | rural | all population            | urban | rural |
| 1990  | 13,9           | 14,9  | 11,7  | 10,7           | 7,4   | 17,3  | 3,2                       | 7,5   | -5,6  |
| 1993  | 11,3           | 11,6  | 10,9  | 12,4           | 8,8   | 20,0  | -1,1                      | 2,8   | -9,1  |
| 1999  | 9,3            | 9,5   | 8,7   | 14,2           | 10,6  | 22,3  | -4,9                      | -1,1  | -13,6 |
| 2010  | 11,4           | 11,6  | 10,8  | 14,4           | 11,1  | 24,4  | -3,0                      | 0,5   | -13,6 |
| 2011  | 11,5           | 11,7  | 11,1  | 14,3           | 11,1  | 24,2  | -2,8                      | 0,6   | -13,1 |

The regressive type is dominant by the character of dynamics, 70 % of cities refer to this type. The largest areal of spread of such type of cities is north region Poozerye (Vitebsk region) with conation of naturally-geographical and demographic factors [1]. This region is characterized by prevalence of small cities by population size (less than 20 thousand of people) where population size decreased in the result of migration in 1960 -70s, the period of active urban industrialization, and in our days it has the oldest age structure of population in comparison with other regions (Table 3).

Natural urban population movement of Belarus is characterized by approximately equal positions in the structure of cities with natural increase and decrease (51 and 49 % respectively). There are north-east area of loss and south-west area of increase in demographic space (Fig. 1b).

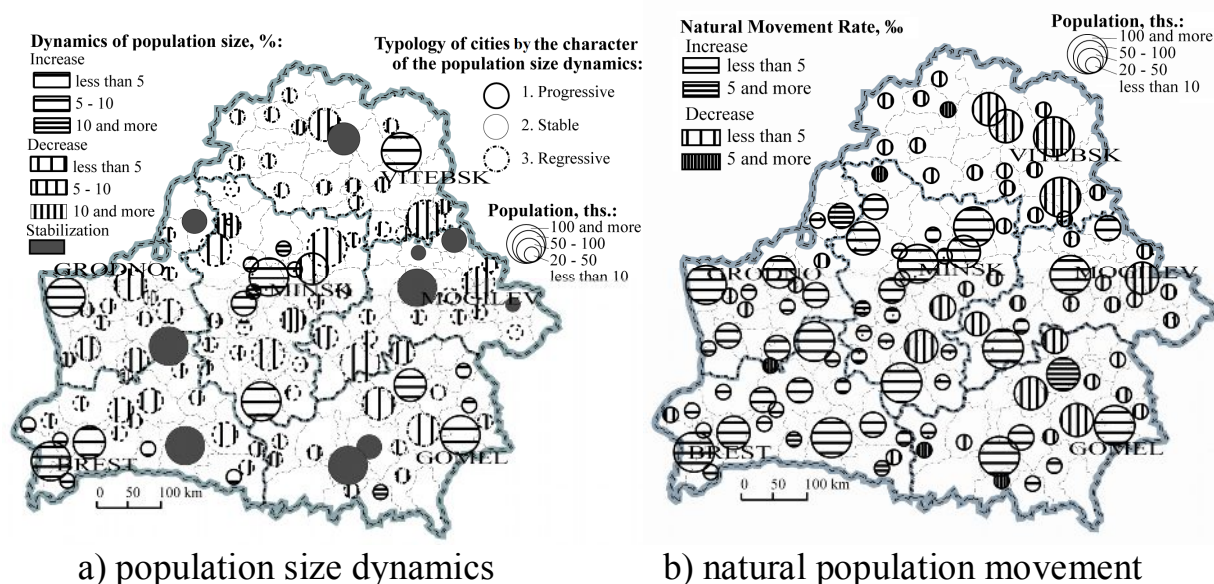


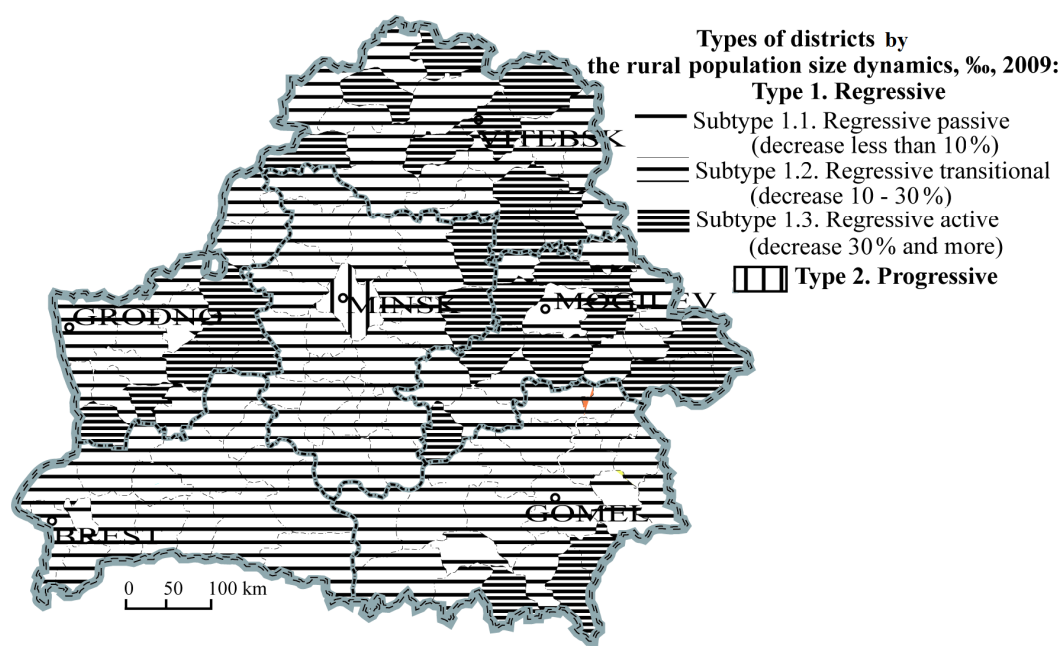
Figure 1 – Dynamics and natural movement of urban population of Belarus

Table 3 – Typology of Belarusian demographic space by the character of population size dynamics, 1999 – 2009

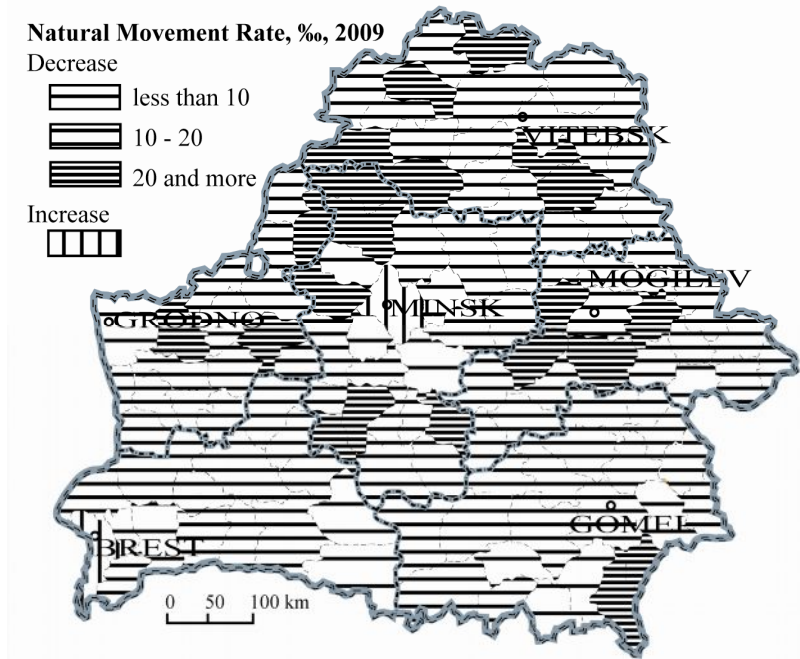
| Type of city/region                             | Number of cities /districts |    | Increase/ decrease of population size, 1999 – 2009, % |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                 | entities                    | %  |                                                       |
| A. Urban space                                  |                             |    |                                                       |
| Type 1. Cities with progressive dynamics        | 23                          | 21 | +5,5                                                  |
| Type 2. Cities with regressive dynamics         | 79                          | 70 | -7                                                    |
| Type 3. Cities with stable dynamics             | 10                          | 9  | -0,006                                                |
| B. Rural space                                  |                             |    |                                                       |
| Type 1. Districts with regressive dynamics      | 117                         | 99 | -20,4                                                 |
| Subtype 1.1. Regressive passive (till 10 %)     | 4                           | 3  | -7,4                                                  |
| Subtype 1.2. Regressive transitional (10 -30 %) | 81                          | 69 | -21,5                                                 |
| Subtype 1.3. Regressive active (more than 30 %) | 32                          | 27 | -32,3                                                 |
| Type 2. Districts with progressive dynamics     | 1                           | 1  | +12                                                   |

It can be determined two areas in rural space of Belarus with common negative trend – area of regressive and progressive dynamics – with prevalence of the first one. Minsk region is the only region from 118 administrative districts that is characterized by annual population growth what is caused by processes of suburbanization, development of suburban capital zone, spread of urban socio-economic standards on bordering rural space, development of migration from urban

to rural areas among middle and highly provided segments of population. Absolute majority of districts located in all regions of the country are characterized by regressive dynamics – annual decrease and natural population loss. During 1999 – 2009 population size in the districts of this type has reduced on more than 20 %. The most depressive area (with decrease of population size on more than 30 % and natural loss on more than 15 %) arose in north-east (Vitebsk and Mogilev regions) and west (Grodno region) regions (Table 1, figure 2).



a) population size dynamics



b) natural population movement

Figure 2 – Dynamics and natural movement of rural population of Belarus

On the basis of above-stated the transformation of demographic space of Belarus in the end of XX – the beginning of XXI century has led on the one hand to the fragmentariness and lessening of area with positive demographic dynamics to isolated areals of rural area and certain cities, on the other hand to the expansion of area with demographic depression that is widespread in rural area (Table 4).

Cities and regions of demographically depressed areas of Belarus take a certain functional niche in economic complex and territorial structure of the country. Depressed cities perform mainly agro-industrial and industrial functions. Depressed rural spaces by functional type refer to mainly the following districts: a) with large natural complexes; b) in the zone of regional center influence; c) agricultural profile with low or high agro-resort potential (Table 5).

Table 4 – The main characteristics of Belarusian demographic depression space, 1999 – 2009

| Indicator                                                             | Urban area | Rural area |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Number of administrative districts (cities, regions)                  | 79         | 117        |
| Share from total amount of administrative districts (cities, regions) | 70         | 99         |
| Depopulation over the period of 1999 – 2009, %                        | 7          | 20,4       |
| Natural population decrease, ‰                                        | 0,4        | 13,2       |
| Migratory population decrease, ‰                                      | 5,2        | 16         |

Table 5 – Functional types demographically depressed regions of Belarus

| Functional type of cities                    | Urban space, unit/% |     | Functional type of districts                         | Rural space, unit/% |     |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Industrial                                   | 32                  | 41  | Capital region                                       | 6                   | 5   |
| Industrially-agricultural                    | 35                  | 44  | In the zone of regional center influence             | 20                  | 17  |
| Agrarian                                     | 1                   | 1   | Agricultural profile with high agro-resort potential | 19                  | 16  |
| Touring-recreational and nature conversation | 11                  | 14  | Agricultural profile with low agro-resort potential  | 19                  | 16  |
| Total                                        | 79                  | 100 | Natural with large natural complex                   | 32                  | 27  |
|                                              |                     |     | Natural with high touring-recreational potential     | 7                   | 6   |
|                                              |                     |     | Special (Chernobyl) region                           | 14                  | 12  |
|                                              |                     |     | Total                                                | 117                 | 100 |

In the situation of transformation urban and rural spaces of Belarus begin to assume new functions. A number of rural communities that in the result of depopulation remained without population were populated by migrants from Russia having retirement age. Certain rural communities that also remained without population and located in the lake area of Vitebsk region begin to develop the sphere of agritourism. It is created an agro farmstead network for the purpose of recreation that become popular recently by the reason of attractive pricing policy among not only Belarusians, but also among Russians. According with governmental programme of development and revival of Belarusian rural area a network of agrotowns emerged in order to improve an image of rural area and create social standards of higher level in the largest socio-economically and demographically stable rural communities. Under the implementation of governmental programme of regions' and small towns' development small-scale business becomes more active in a number of cities of Belarus, small-scale enterprises are created in food sector and service industries. It is observed an active process of suburbanization in urban space. Cottage communities in the area of capital influence which were without population became "secondary residence" for people from Minsk. There is building of hypermarkets and malls, establishment of enterprises and suburban farms (hothouse enterprises, poultry factories and etc.) catering for capital in the suburban zone of Minsk.

#### **REFERENCES**

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