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THE MODERN CONCEPT OF UKRAINE'S POST-WAR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE LENS OF THE HYBRID-SYNERGETIC APPROACH

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Summary. The study provides a system-theoretical generalization of scientific approaches to regional development in the context of forming a new managerial paradigm for Ukraine's post-war recovery. It analyzes the transition from neoclassical and Keynesian to institutional, endogenous, cluster, and spatial-functional approaches, identifying their advantages and limitations in integrating economic, social, environmental, and digital factors into the system of public administration. Based on this synthesis, a hybrid-synergistic approach is proposed, combining institutional quality, cluster interaction, endogenous potential, and spatial balance of territories. The concept envisions a shift from a centralized compensation policy to an integrated growth system that ensures coherence between regional self-development, strategic planning, and digital analytics. Particular attention is given to the harmonization of legislation on decentralization, spatial planning, sustainable development, and digital territorial identification. It is proven that the hybrid-synergistic approach will form the foundation for an integrated architecture of regional policy aimed at reinforcing economic, social, and environmental effects in Ukraine.

Keywords: regional development, regional development policy, approaches, post-war recovery, public administration, hybrid-synergetic approach, digitalization.

Introduction. The problem of regional development lies in finding a balanced combination of state regulation, local initiative, and innovative digital management tools. Traditional approaches, ranging from the neoclassical liberal to the Keynesian centralized models, fail to meet the complexity of modern challenges, as they either focus exclusively on market mechanisms or require excessive centralization of resources. In the context of post-war reconstruction, such one-dimensionality becomes unacceptable, since it demands the integration of economic, social, environmental, and digital aspects into a unified governance system. Therefore, the relevance of this study lies in the need to reconsider the conceptual foundations of regional development and transition to a hybrid-synergistic model that will ensure a harmonious combination of state, market, and local potential in restoring the spatial balance of Ukraine.

Analysis of research and publications. In contemporary scientific research, the issue of regional development within Ukraine's public administration system is predominantly examined within separate theoretical paradigms, without forming a holistic vision of a spatial-institutional model for the country's post-war reconstruction. In the works of Smith A. [1] and Friedman M. [2], the neoclassical approach is viewed as a mechanism of market self-regulation; however, it fails to account for the inequality of regional starting conditions and the influence of human capital on growth dynamics. Keynes J.M. [4], Rosenstein-Rodan P. [5], and Hirschman A.O. [6] lay the foundations of the Keynesian model of state intervention, yet they do not define the institutional conditions for its implementation under limited budgetary resources. North D.C. [8], within the institutional approach, emphasizes the importance of institutional quality but does not address the mechanisms of their adaptation to the multilevel system of regional governance. Myrdal G. [10] reveals the causal logic of spatial imbalances but does not propose practical tools for their correction. Barca F. [11] and Shenoy A. [12], within the endogenous approach, highlight the role of local assets but do not outline mechanisms for aligning them with national strategies. Porter M.E. [13] examines the cluster interaction between business, science, and government, yet limits his analysis to technological aspects without considering

the managerial architecture of regional policy. The approaches of Brundtland G.H. [15], Christaller W. [17], and Lösch A. [18] focus on the sustainable and spatial-functional dimensions of development but do not reflect the digital component of modern governance.

Taken together, these works form a fundamental theoretical basis but do not offer an integrated model capable of combining economic efficiency, social inclusiveness, environmental sustainability, and digital-analytical management tools. Therefore, the scientific novelty of this research lies in developing a hybrid-synergistic approach to regional development that considers economic, institutional, spatial and technological processes as an interconnected system. Unlike previous studies, this research provides a comprehensive vision of regional policy as a multilevel network of interactions among the state, business, and communities, utilizing digital analytics for forecasting, coordination, and strategic territorial planning.

The purpose of the article is formation and substantiation of a new hybrid-synergistic approach to post-war regional development and recovery of Ukraine within the system of public administration, which would combine the key elements of institutional, endogenous, cluster, and spatial-functional perspectives to create an integrated mechanism for regional governance.

Research results. Given the diversity of theoretical approaches to understanding regional development and the differences in their methodological foundations, there is a need for their systematic generalization and structural comparison. For a comprehensive understanding of these theoretical scientific approaches and for identifying their key distinctions within the system of public administration, it is advisable to conduct a comparative analysis of theoretical approaches to regional development in the system of public administration (see Table 1).

The conducted analysis of scientific approaches (Table 1), devoted to regional development the-

Table 1 – Comparative characteristics of theoretical approaches to regional development in the system of public administration

№	Author	Approach name	The essence of the approach
1	Adam Smith	Neoclassical (liberal-market)	Economic growth of regions is ensured through free competition, resource mobility and minimal state intervention.
2	Milton Friedman	Neoclassical (liberal-market)	Deregulation, tax liberalization and private initiative are key drivers of spatial development.
3	John Maynard Keynes	Keynesian (centralized)	Active public investment in infrastructure and stimulation of aggregate demand allows to correct market imbalances in regions.
4	Paul Rosenstein-Rodan	Keynesian (centralized)	Large-scale public investments in individual industries or territories can cause the effect of a "great leap" for regional modernization.
5	Albert O. Hirschman	Keynesian (centralized)	Targeted investment in strategically important sectors can create positive chain effects within the region.
6	Douglass C. North	Institutional	The quality of institutions, which include the legal system, government accountability and regulatory predictability, is a key factor in the long-term development of regions.
7	Gunnar Myrdal	Cumulative-causal	Economic growth is concentrated in central territories, increasing inequality, if policies are not provided to redistribute benefits to the periphery.
8	Fabrizio Barca	Endogenous (locally-oriented)	Development should be based on unique local resources, knowledge and civic engagement to ensure the resilience and adaptability of regions.
9	Michael E. Porter	Cluster (innovative-technological)	The competitiveness of regions increases thanks to specialized clusters, where enterprises, science and the state interact, creating an environment for innovation.
10	Gro Harlem Brundtland	Ecologically-sustainable	Sustainable regional development is achieved only through a balance of economic efficiency, social justice and environmental responsibility.
11	Walter Christaller	Spatial-functional	Territorial development is based on a hierarchical structure of central places, which provides the logic of functional placement of services and population.
12	August Lösch	Spatial-functional	An effective economy of regions is formed through the optimal placement of production and transport in accordance with market geography and logistical flows.

Source: compiled by the authors based on the data [1; 2; 4; 5; 6; 8; 10; 11; 13; 15; 17; 18]

ories reveals deep methodological divergences among approaches that differ in their philosophical foundations, degree of state intervention, and perception of spatial equilibrium. The neoclassical approach, developed in the seminal works of Smith A. *"The Wealth of Nations"* [1] and Friedman M. *"Capitalism and Freedom"* [2], asserts that economic growth is a function of market competition and the rational allocation of production factors. Within this paradigm, the *"Solow conditional convergence model"* is interpreted as a natural process of regional equalization. However, Anderton R., Di Lupidio B., and Jarmulska B., in their study *"The impact of product market regulation on productivity through firm churning: Evidence from European countries"* [3], demonstrate that even in liberalized environments, sustained growth is typical mainly of regions with high human capital, which casts doubt on the universality of the model and highlights its excessive abstraction.

The Keynesian approach, articulated in Keynes J.M.'s *"The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money"* [4], was conceptually expanded by Rosenstein-Rodan P. in *"Problems of Industrialization of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe"* [5] and by Hirschman A.O. in *"The Strategy of Economic Development"* [6]. Unlike the neoclassical model, this approach views development as a function of deliberate state intervention aimed at creating growth poles. Empirical evidence from contemporary studies, particularly by Frick S.A. and Rodríguez-Pose A. [7], supports the thesis that spatially oriented investment indeed generates cumulative effects. However, unlike Keynes's normative model, they note that excessive resource concentration leads to peripheral dependency, forming an asymmetric development trajectory that contradicts the declared goals of equilibrium.

The institutional approach, proposed by North D.C. in *"Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance"* [8], introduces a paradigmatic shift from exogenous stimuli to the endogenous quality of the "institutional environment". In the work of Filip M. D. and Setzer R. [9], devoted to the analysis of European regions, it is empirically proven that differences in growth rates correlate with the level of transparency, legal certainty, and capacity of state institutions. Thus, even the most sophisticated planned or market strategies turn out to be institutionally determined and, consequently, vulnerable under weak governance architectures.

The cumulative-causal approach, formulated by Myrdal G. in *"Economic Theory and Underdeveloped Regions"* [10], develops the idea of asymmetric economic growth as a self-reinforcing process. It contradicts the neoclassical assumption of automatic regional equalization, since growth not only concentrates but is directionally biased toward already strong centers. Contemporary case studies from the Global South, particularly the analysis of growth pole strategies [7], confirm that without strict state coordination, the spillover effect is often unattainable or short-lived. Thus, causality in this model represents not merely an economic regularity but a structural inequality institutionalized through policy.

The endogenous approach, outlined in Barca F. policy report *"An Agenda for a Reformed Cohesion Policy"* [11], establishes the paradigm of "place-based development", according to which strategy must consider local assets, social capital, and territorial specificity. Shenoy A., in *"Regional development through place-based policies"* [12], confirms the effectiveness of this approach in the case of Indian states and demonstrates its capacity to transform local economies under weak centralization. Unlike the cumulative-causal model, the endogenous strategy does not assume polarization but rather encourages a multiplicity of growth points. However, its reliance on the capacity of local actors often reduces its scalability and raises questions about effectiveness without top-down support.

The cluster approach, substantiated by Porter M.E. in "Clusters and the New Economics of Competition" [13], interprets regional development as the result of functional interconnections among business, science, and government. In the study by Kosfeld R. and Mitze T., *"Research and development intensive clusters and regional competitiveness"* [14], it is noted that high-tech clusters foster not only innovation but also overall regional productivity. At the same time, the authors emphasize potential oligopolization and unequal access of smaller players to the innovation ecosystem. In this aspect, the cluster logic reproduces the weaknesses of concentration-driven models.

The environmentally sustainable approach, formulated in *"Our Common Future"* by Brundtland G.H. [15], extends beyond economic expediency and advocates for the integration of social and environmental parameters into spatial planning processes. The study by Davidescu A.A., Strat G., and Paul A. *"Romania's South-Muntenia Region, towards Sustainable Regional Development"* [16], confirms the effectiveness of ESG integration in long-term growth but highlights implementation barriers due to high capital intensity, the need for cross-sectoral coordination, and institutional inertia. This approach contrasts with neoclassical efficiency by shifting the focus to sustainability, which under global challenges becomes increasingly relevant.

The spatial-functional approach, based on the theories of Christaller W. *"Die zentralen Orte in*

Süddeutschland" [17] and Lösch A. *"Die räumliche Ordnung der Wirtschaft"* [18], proposes the optimization of population and infrastructure distribution based on the hierarchy of centers and functional zones. Modern GIS solutions enhance this approach by providing tools for highly precise planning models. However, its application presupposes technical capacity and institutional alignment of strategies across levels of government, which often poses challenges in public administration practice.

Comparing these approaches in terms of theoretical foundations, empirical validity, and policy feasibility demonstrates that none of the models provides a comprehensive response to the challenges of regional development. Neoclassical and cluster models emphasize efficiency but often reinforce inequality. Keynesian and causal approaches advocate intervention but face fiscal constraints. The institutional school provides the foundation for implementing any strategy, while the endogenous and ecological paradigms reflect the need for a new framework of sustainability and localization. It is precisely at the intersection of these approaches that the basis for synergistic models emerges capable of combining economic rationality, social inclusiveness, and environmental responsibility.

The next step is to define the specific features of scientific approaches to regional development in the system of public administration, (see Figure 1).

Analyzing the data in Figure 1, it is evident that the regulatory paradigms of regional development differ significantly in their emphasis on the role of the state, the market, and local initiatives. The neoclassical approach prioritizes the principles of a free market and minimal state intervention in economic processes, where the competitiveness of actors and the mobility of capital and labor are expected to independently smooth territorial disparities [1, 2]. Within this framework, the main focus is placed on creating favorable conditions for private business protection of property rights, stable legislation, deregulation, and tax incentives so that, through agglomeration effects and market self-regulation, growth becomes tied to efficient regions [3].

In contrast, the Keynesian approach emphasizes the active role of the state in development and planning, being based on the use of the multiplier effect of public investment and targeted financing of "growth poles" or "development centers" [4–6].

The classical formulation of this approach stresses that strategically increasing public expenditure on transport and social infrastructure in key regions stimulates the development of surrounding territories through the spillover effect of identical capital and technologies [7]. In other words, government programs supporting production, as well as the construction of factories, roads, and housing, create a multiplier of demand and employment that acts as a growth driver, around which industrial clusters gradually form, transmitting benefits to the periphery.

The institutional approach, meanwhile, focuses less on the scale of budgetary injections and more on the quality of legal and organizational frameworks [8; 9]. From this perspective, regional strengthening occurs through the establishment of a transparent system of institutions and norms rule of law, independent judiciary, anti-corruption mechanisms, decentralization of power, and accountability of local authorities. Improving bureaucratic efficiency, developing public-private partnerships, advancing digitalization, and introducing training programs for civil servants are intended to ensure the predictability of the legal environment and strengthen investor confidence. The analysis shows that this approach requires an "organic combination of economic and social development", where the main task of local institutions is to reflect the interests of the regional population as fully as possible. Institutional reforms aim to make regional development both economically and socially sustainable by removing administrative barriers and stimulating civic participation. However, this approach is often criticized for its slowness and labor intensity [9].

The cumulative-causal (or growth-pole) theory of development stands out for its focus on the feedback loop between growth in leading regions and their peripheries [10; 11]. This approach assumes the creation of specialized central poles (industrial clusters or innovation hubs) around which key resources and technologies concentrate [6; 7; 12]. State policies are oriented toward targeted investment in transport corridors and special economic zones that connect these poles and their surrounding territories. According to this concept, every job or enterprise in the core generates multiple related jobs in adjacent regions through improved supply and demand effects. The drawback of this model lies in the potential deepening of peripheral dependency on the core, as peripheral areas often remain passive beneficiaries without developing their own productive base [10].

Fundamentally different from the above are the so-called endogenous and cluster approaches, which emphasize local dynamics and partnerships [11; 13]. The endogenous approach highlights the importance of a region's internal potential, especially through independent community development strategies, the multiplication of local innovation hubs, networks of small and medium-sized enterprises, and agricultural cooperatives. It relies

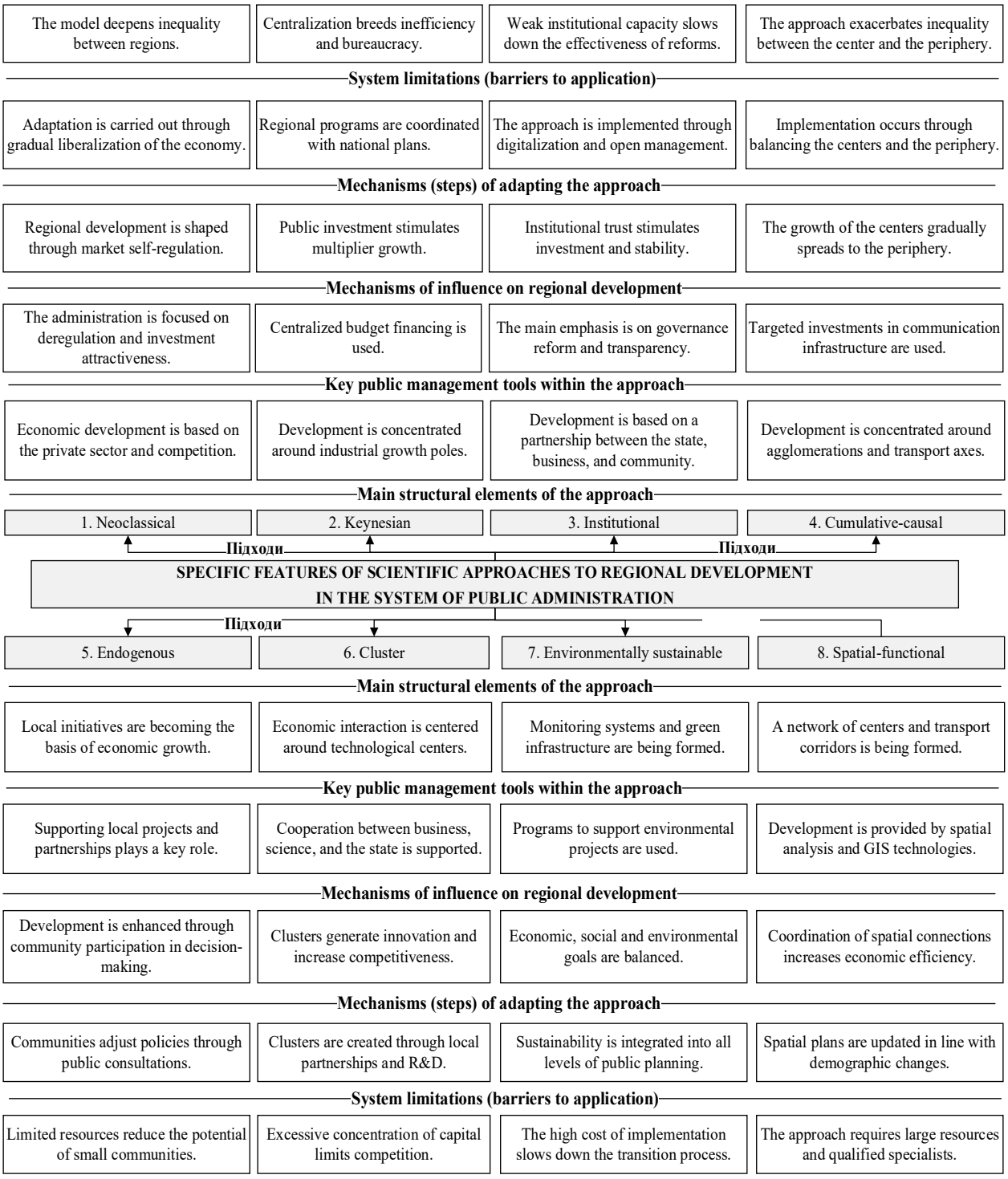

Figure 1 – Specific features of scientific approaches to regional development in the system of public administration

Source: compiled by the authors based on the data [1–18]

on local institutions universities, competence centers, municipal enterprises and community self-organization through forums, grant programs, and partnerships between authorities and civil society [12]. This "bottom-up" development often contributes to greater economic self-sufficiency, stronger social cohesion, and enhanced flexibility in crisis response.

The cluster approach, closely related to the endogenous one, places greater emphasis on technological and innovation linkages [13; 14]. Clusters are formed as integrated networks of interconnected enterprises, research institutions, and service companies within a specific sector. In the context of public administration, this implies stimulating research and educational centers, sup-

porting scientific projects, constructing technology parks, and facilitating cooperation between universities and businesses. Through the synergistic effect of such interactions, knowledge and investment are concentrated within the region's specialized niche, attracting talent and capital, reducing transaction costs, and driving innovation. Nevertheless, the approach also has its weaknesses, as it is highly dependent on dominant players and risks evolving into an oligopoly [14].

The environmentally sustainable approach recognizes that modern regional development must occur in a "balanced and comprehensive" relationship between economic, social, and environmental factors [15; 16]. This entails the introduction of strict environmental standards, support for renewable energy projects, "green" initiatives, and punitive measures for polluters. Such policy focuses on ensuring the long-term competitiveness of regions that provide a safe and comfortable living environment [16].

The spatial-functional approach places systematic territorial planning at the core of regional policy [17; 18], where coordination of practice and policy determines the spatial organization of settlement and production activity. Zoning laws, master plans, transit corridor projects, and logistics hub development establish a clear hierarchy of centers and define transport and infrastructure linkages among them. Through well-designed spatial planning, the state aims to optimize logistics flows, reduce transportation costs, expand market and service accessibility, and prevent chaotic urbanization.

Thus, each of the considered approaches highlights its own set of drivers and mechanisms of regional growth. Neoclassical and Keynesian models diverge in their stance on the degree of state intervention [1; 4], institutional approaches emphasize the importance of governance quality [8], cumulative-causal and spatial-functional concepts focus on the interconnections between cores and peripheries [10; 17], while endogenous, cluster, and sustainable development approaches view regional growth as a result of deep local processes and principles of environmental responsibility [13; 15]. Ultimately, effective territorial development policy typically requires a complex balance of these opposing yet complementary ideas [11; 12].

Having examined the above data in Table 1 and Figure 1, it becomes appropriate to develop the conceptual components of the "Hybrid-Synergistic Approach to Post-War Regional Development of Ukraine" within the system of public administration (see Figure 2).

The presented "Hybrid-Synergistic Approach to Post-War Regional Development of Ukraine" in Figure 2 proposes a new architectonic framework for state policy in which spatial recovery is viewed as an integrated process of enhancing the internal potential of territories and building networked interaction among the state, business, and communities (in the format of joint regional clusters for agro-processing, logistics hubs, and technological industrial parks). Unlike traditional centralized models, the new governance system aims to establish a balance between self-regulated local development centers and national coordination structures, enabling dynamic regional renewal without losing the unity of the national space.

The essence of the proposed concept lies not in the mechanical combination of governance levels, but in the creation of an organizational field capable of generating mutual reinforcement effects, where each region functions as a node of shared development (through partnership programs between local producers, banking institutions, and educational centers), rather than as an isolated competitive space. The proposed approach assumes that economic self-sufficiency cannot be achieved without spatial harmony. Therefore, the endogenous logic of growth will be aligned with spatial-functional balance, where the role of territories is determined not by administrative boundaries but by their capacity to generate added value, knowledge, and innovation (through the development of local startup ecosystems, artisanal technoparks, and manufacturing innovation platforms). In this context, governance acquires an analytical dimension, as digital systems of monitoring and forecasting form new models of decision-making based on causal relationships among social, economic, and environmental processes.

At the legal level, the new regulatory and legislative framework must lay the foundation for deep integration of regional, spatial, and digital governance, ensuring harmonization of legislation on decentralization, spatial planning, and sustainable development, while legally securing digital territorial identification (for business registration through a unified regional platform, integration of investment data, and real-time tracking of land plot status). Such normative modernization will not merely align policies formally but will form a unified regulatory environment in which every institutional level is connected to a shared digital system of data and analytics. Unlike current mechanisms, where public-private partnerships are limited to individual projects, the new regulatory approach will transform them into continuous interaction (through the creation of joint investment councils, regional business agencies, and digital supervisory boards) for decision-making structures based on real digital performance indicators.

At the organizational level, the hybrid-synergistic approach will create a system of regional

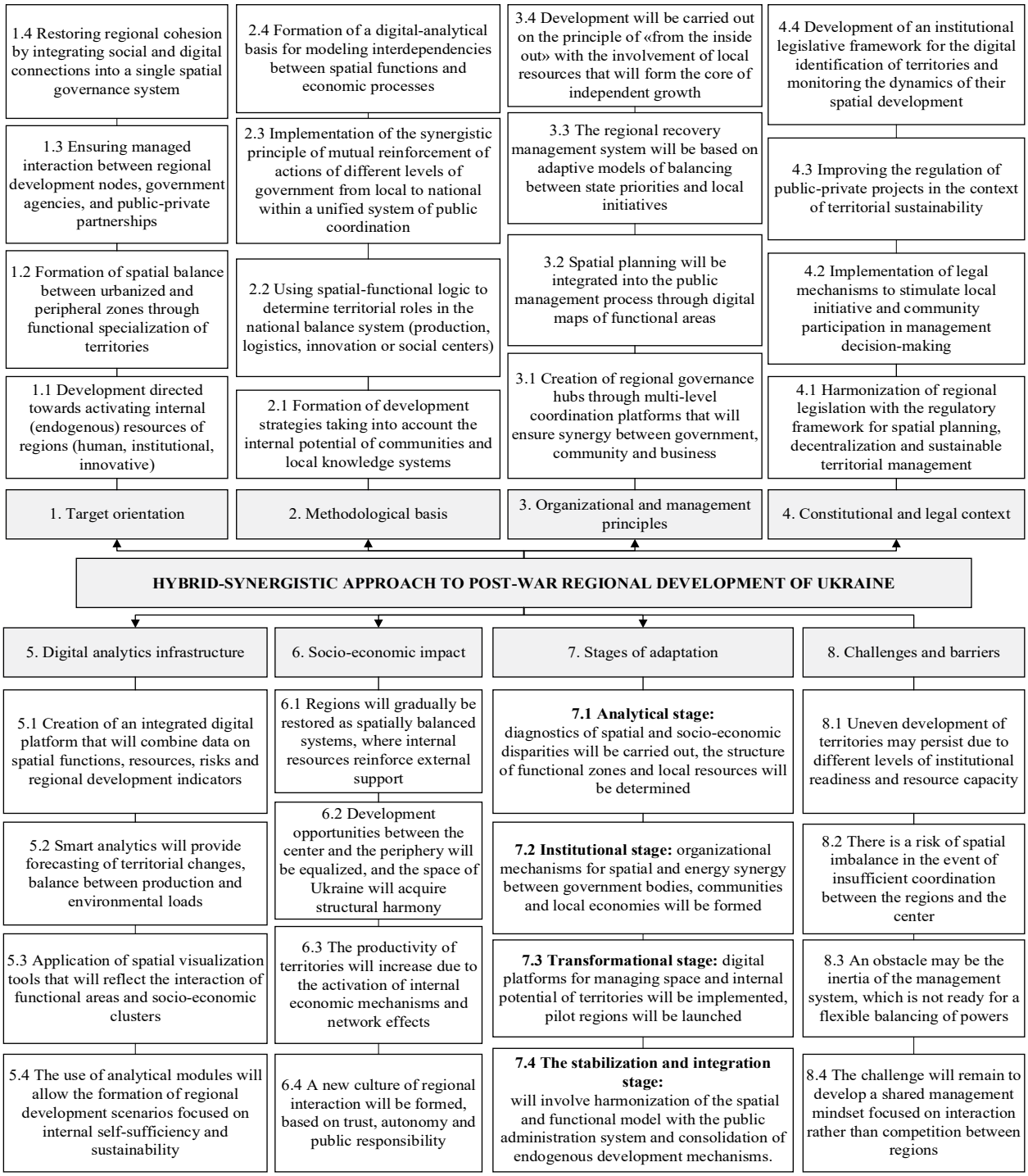

Figure 2 – Hybrid-Synergistic Approach to Post-War Regional Development of Ukraine

Source: formulated independently by the author

governance nodes functioning as multilevel coordination platforms that combine analytical autonomy with integration into state policy. This model will establish a new managerial ecosystem where digital maps of functional land use become the main tool of strategic planning (for the placement of industrial zones, energy facilities, and transport logistics), while adaptive balancing algorithms ensure dynamic consistency between national priorities and local initiatives. Compared to classical governance methods based on vertical subordination, the new architecture will introduce horizontal linkages capable of transforming information flows into mechanisms of public co-governance (through open monitoring panels, regional development councils, and integrated advisory offices).

A key role in the functioning of the updated system will be played by the digital-analytical infrastructure, which will integrate spatial, economic, and social data within a single platform

where each development indicator acquires a measurable trajectory over time. Smart analytics will make it possible to track the balance between production and environmental loads, develop adaptation scenarios for territories in response to climate change, migration dynamics, and market trends (in agricultural production, transport logistics, and energy networks). This infrastructure will serve both as a means of data visualization and as a management forecasting tool, transforming the decision-making process.

The socio-economic effect of the new approach will be that regions function as interconnected spaces of development, where internal resources are strengthened not through external subsidies but through integration into networked chains of collective growth (within interregional trade-production alliances, small business cooperation networks, and export-oriented entrepreneurship support platforms). Gradually, this will build a spatially balanced state in which centers and peripheries do not compete but mutually reinforce the dynamics of recovery. Compared to current practices focused on compensating losses, the future policy will emphasize investment in the self-reproduction capacity of territories, shifting the logic of public administration from support to development.

Implementation of this model will require successive stages of adaptation. Initially, a deep diagnosis of spatial and socio-economic disparities will be conducted (using analytics on labor migration, investment activity, and community digital readiness) to build the structure of functional zones and local resources. The next step will involve creating organizational mechanisms for energy synergy among authorities, communities, and businesses (through the establishment of regional energy cooperatives, business incubators, and social entrepreneurship centers), followed by the stage of digital governance transformation, within which pilot regions with integrated planning models will be created. The final phase will consolidate new mechanisms within the legal and institutional system of the state, ensuring a transition toward stable functioning of the renewed spatial development model. Despite its potential, the main challenges will remain institutional inertia and uneven territorial readiness to adopt new governance standards. However, through the introduction of digital tools, the development of an analytical culture, and the strengthening of inter-level cooperation, these barriers can be overcome (through training programs for local administrators, business strategy laboratories, and open regional forums).

The new hybrid-synergistic approach will renew the foundations of regional policy and create the prerequisites for the modernization of public administration mechanisms.

Conclusion. Based on the results of the conducted research, a classification of scientific approaches to regional development within the system of public administration was carried out, and their conceptual differences were identified according to the criteria of state intervention, spatial organization, and the role of local initiatives. It has been proven that none of the classical approaches provides a comprehensive solution to the challenges of post-war development and reconstruction of Ukraine, which has determined the need to form a new "hybrid-synergistic approach". The proposed approach will make it possible to combine the elements of institutional, endogenous, cluster, and spatial-functional perspectives, aimed at creating an integrated system of regional development management using digital and analytical tools. Future research directions will focus on the empirical verification of the proposed approach's effectiveness, the development of a methodology for assessing synergistic effects between levels of governance, and the improvement of the regulatory and legal framework for the digital transformation of regional policy.

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СУЧАСНА КОНЦЕПЦІЯ ПІСЛЯВОЄННОГО РЕГІОНАЛЬНОГО РОЗВИТКУ УКРАЇНИ КРІЗЬ ПРИЗМУ ГІБРИДНО-СИНЕРГЕТИЧНОГО ПІДХОДУ

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Анотація. У роботі було здійснено системно-теоретичне узагальнення наукових підходів до регіонального розвитку в контексті формування нової управлінської парадигми післявоєнного відновлення України. Розкрито методологічну трансформацію від неокласичних і кейнсіанських моделей до інституційного, ендогенного, кластерного та просторово-функціонального підходів, визначено їхні обмеження щодо інтеграції економічних, соціальних, екологічних і цифрових чинників у єдину систему публічного управління. Проведено порівняльний аналіз теоретичних шкіл за критеріями державного втручання, ролі локальних ініціатив і механізмів просторової рівноваги, що дозволило ідентифікувати дефіцит системності та міжрівневої координації у чинних моделях розвитку. У результаті запропоновано авторську концепцію гібридно-синергетичного підходу, який базуватиметься на поєднанні інституційної якості, кластерної взаємодії, ендогенного потенціалу та просторово-функціональної збалансованості територій. Сформований підхід передбачатиме перехід від централізованої політики компенсацій до інтегрованої системи зростання, що забезпечуватиме баланс між саморозвитком регіонів, державним стратегічним плануванням і цифровою аналітикою. Особливу увагу приділено правовим та організаційним аспектам реалізації концепції даного підходу шляхом гармонізації законодавства про децентралізацію, просторове планування, сталий розвиток і цифрову ідентифікацію територій, створення спільних інституцій публічно-приватного партнерства та цифрових платформ управлінського моніторингу. На основі структурного синтезу доведено, що майбутнє впровадження гібридно-синергетичного підходу створить підґрунтя для формування інтегрованої архітектури регіональної політики, орієнтованої на взаємопідсилення економічних, соціальних і екологічних ефектів. Отримані результати сформують науково-методичну основу для подальшої емпіричного аналізу синергетичних зв'язків між рівнями управління та оптимізації нормативно-правового забезпечення регіональної політики України.

Ключові слова: регіональний розвиток, політика регіонального розвитку, підходи, післявоєнне відновлення, публічне управління, гібридно-синергетичний підхід, цифровізація.

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