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## **Legal Frameworks for Public Management and Restoration of Conflict-Affected Territories**

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**Summary: 1. Introduction. - 2. Materials and Methods. - 3. Results. -  
4. Discussion. - 5. Conclusions.**

### **1. Introduction**

In the modern world of dynamic socio-economic development and uncertainty, issues of legal governance in the restoration of territories are becoming increasingly relevant, especially in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war, which results in significant destruction of territories, loss of human lives, and a notable decline in residents' quality of life. Post-conflict, the legal restoration of territories will become an urgent task. Effective legal frameworks and public administration in the restoration process are crucial for ensuring sustainable and harmonious development in the affected areas. However, the legal challenges in managing the development of territories for restoration are complex and multifaceted. The lack of effective legal strategies and mechanisms for cooperation between different stakeholders can lead to inadequate restoration and insufficient socio-economic development. Insufficient attention to legal aspects in the public administration of the rehabilitation process can lead to misuse of resources, lost opportunities to create favorable conditions for residents, and an increased risk of worsening the situation in the region. Thus, the study of public governance mechanisms in the context of the development of territories for restoration becomes an urgent and important issue for ensuring sustainability and prosperity in post-conflict areas.

Research in this line is quite actively developing. The papers by leading Ukrainian researchers have already outlined the main ways to solve these issues, but a number of problems related to the optimal use of resources and mechanisms for involving the public in managing the restoration of

territories remain unresolved. N. Martynovych et al.<sup>1</sup> investigate the process of restoration of Ukraine after the war and propose special reconstruction regimes aimed at stimulating the sustainable development of territories. The researchers consider mechanisms for involving various social groups in management decisions and analyse the implementation of innovative approaches in the restoration process. Although the study points out the importance of interaction between different social groups, it does not analyse exactly how this happens in practice and how this process can be improved. In addition, the study does not detail the issues of efficient use of resources and funding opportunities for the restoration of territories.

L. Khrystenko and M. Tkachenko<sup>2</sup> investigate the organisation of post-war reconstruction and development of agribusiness in territories with a special management regime. The researchers analyse tools that contribute to the restoration and sustainable development of the agricultural sector in the post-war situation. However, the paper does not detail the issues of adaptation of strategies to specific agricultural regions, which may differ in their natural, climatic, geographical, and economic specifics. Moreover, the researchers did not analyse the possibilities of cooperation between the agricultural sector and other sectors of the economy to promote its sustainable development, and also did not consider the impact of national policy and regulation on the development of the agricultural sector after the war.

A. Danylenko and V. Venger<sup>3</sup> examine the process of development of the real sector of the Ukrainian economy in the context of restoration after the war. The paper analyses key aspects and strategies of restoration and offers recommendations for the sustainable development of territories. Analysis of this study indicates that the authors did not consider differences in the level of development and needs between different regions of Ukraine, which may affect the effectiveness of restoration. It is also worth noting that the paper does not highlight the importance of introducing the latest technologies and digital solutions for effective recovery.

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\*\* Il contributo è stato sottoposto a *double blind peer review*.

<sup>1</sup> N. Martynovych – E. Boichenko – M. Dielini, *Rebuilding of Ukraine after war: Special restoration regimes and stimulation of sustainable development of territories*, in *International Review for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development*, 11(4) (2023), pp. 54-70.

<sup>2</sup> L. Khrystenko – M. Tkachenko, *The question of the organisation of post-war reconstruction and development of agribusiness in the territories with a special management regime*, in *Economic Herald of the Donbass*, 1(71) (2023), pp. 47-54.

<sup>3</sup> A. Danylenko – V. Venger, *Development of real sector of Ukrainian economy in the framework of the post-war recovery*, in *Finance of Ukraine*, 6, pp. 7-32 (2022).

N. Denysenko<sup>4</sup> and B. Lomachynsky<sup>5</sup> analyses various ways and strategies for restoring the economic potential of territories at the local level. The paper highlights the importance of updating economic infrastructure after crisis events and offers practical recommendations for the effective restoration of territories. The researcher considers various recovery scenarios, including the development of industrial complexes, the reform of the agricultural sector, and the promotion of entrepreneurship. However, the study neglects the importance of interaction with the public and various stakeholders for the successful restoration of territories and also does not analyse the possible risks and negative impacts that may arise during the restoration process.

The study by M.M. Mykolaichuk and O.V. Lesyk<sup>6</sup> is devoted to an analytical review of tools that contribute to the development and restoration of the territories of Ukraine after the military conflict. The researchers examine various methods and strategies that can be used to promote sustainable development in affected areas. However, there is not enough information about the impact of legal and regulatory aspects on the processes of restoration and development of territories. In addition, there was no analysis of how government and power structures can support and promote the development and restoration of territories at the community and local community levels.

N.O. Kondratenko et al.<sup>7</sup> consider theoretical and methodological aspects of strategic planning for the development of Ukrainian regions. The paper examines the basic principles and approaches to strategic planning and development of regional economies. However, the study did not analyse how external factors can influence the implementation of regional development strategies, as well as consider opportunities and approaches to optimal use of resources for the implementation of strategic goals.

The purpose of this study is to systematize and develop the most effective approaches to public management of territory development for their restoration. The main objectives of the study include:

- Analysing the current state and determining the level of damage to the affected areas.

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<sup>4</sup> N. Denysenko, *Recovery prospects of the economic development of the territories*, in *Municipal Economy of Cities*, 5(179) (2023), pp. 2-8.

<sup>5</sup> B. Lomachynsky, *Ukrainian and international experience of formation of information competences by means of library practices*, in *Society. Document. Communication*, 8(3) (2023), pp. 22-33.

<sup>6</sup> M.M. Mykolaichuk – O.V. Lesyk, *Tools for the development and post-war reconstruction of the territories of Ukraine: An analytical review*, in *Problems of Modern Transformations*.

<sup>7</sup> N.O. Kondratenko – N.F. Chechetova – L.V. Obolentseva – O.M. Krasnonosova, *The theoretical and methodological bases of strategic planning for the development of Ukrainian regions*. *The Problems of Economy*, 2(52) (2022), pp. 93-99.

- Study of positive international experience in restoration and development of the territory in similar situations, with the identification of success factors.
- Identification of key areas and recommendations for improving the public administration system in the field of restoration and development of the territory.

## **2. Materials and Methods**

To solve the tasks of the study, a set of various methods and materials was used to analyse public management of territories for restoration and to devise approaches to improving such management of the development of territories for restoration. In particular, such methods as statistical data analysis, comparative method, and population surveys were used.

Statistical analysis is an important method for assessing the current state and determining the level of damage in the affected areas. This method involves careful accounting and analysis of numerical indicators. The first step was to collect available statistical data that relate to the level of damage to the territories of Mykolaiv and Kherson Oblasts. The data obtained were aggregated and processed, including the following aspects: economic indicators; the number of people who left these territories; the state of infrastructure; and overall indicators of environmental damage. The analysis of statistical data helped to identify key factors affecting the level of damage and losses, and to develop forecasts for the further development of these territories.

Comparative analysis is a powerful tool for studying positive international experience in the restoration and development of territories. Lebanon and Bosnia and Herzegovina were selected as comparative case studies based on several key criteria. First of all, both countries had experience in recovering from large-scale military conflicts, which provided an opportunity to study successful reconstruction strategies. The second criterion was the presence of significant international assistance in the reconstruction process, which allowed us to assess the impact of external assistance on the effectiveness of reconstruction. The third criterion included an analysis of economic and political stability after conflicts, which allowed us to explore different approaches to ensuring sustainable development and stability. Finally, an important factor was the experience of social rehabilitation and support for internally displaced persons, which made it possible to compare measures to integrate affected communities.

Population surveys are an important method for collecting data and obtaining feedback and opinions from citizens on certain issues, including the effectiveness of the public administration system in the field of restoration and development of territories. The study was aimed at analysing the ideas and opinions of residents of the Kherson and Mykolaiv

Oblasts regarding the prospects and problems of development of their regions after military conflicts. The survey was conducted online on the basis of a specially created web-based questionnaire platform “Typeform”. Respondents were attracted through social networks and forums, one of which was the forum of Regional Civil Support Coordination Centres. In total, about 500 questionnaire forms were completed.

The questionnaire was anonymous and included a series of questions aimed at examining respondents’ opinions and views on key aspects of the restoration and development of their territories (Appendix A). In particular, the questionnaire was aimed at assessing the current state of infrastructure and social services in the region, determining priority areas for development, and identifying possible obstacles to restoration and development.

The results were subjected to statistical analysis and comparison to identify key trends and views. The results of the study provided a valuable contribution to the development of recommendations for public administration and regional development in the Kherson and Mykolaiv Oblasts. A wide range of materials was used to conduct the study of public management of the development of territories for restoration. In particular, these are laws that regulate the processes of restoration and development of affected territories. Also, analytical and statistical reports related to the affected territories, their economic condition, and social indicators. In addition, questionnaires were processed that were used to collect primary data during the study, as well as their own research data, namely the results of the survey. The use of a whole range of methods provided a comprehensive picture of the situation and created a basis for further analysis and development of recommendations for improving the public administration system in the field of restoration and development of territories.

### **3. Results**

Due to military conflicts and emergencies, which are accompanied by the destruction of socio-economic infrastructure, the issue of legal restoration and development of the affected territories is of particular importance. These situations require an integrated legal approach and effective resource management to restore the economic, social, and environmental aspects of the territories. A comprehensive legal framework is essential to ensure that restoration efforts are conducted in a structured and accountable manner. Analysis of the current state of the affected territories is a critical stage in the study of legal governance and public management of the development of these areas. This legal analysis identifies basic needs and priorities, ensuring that restoration initiatives comply with national and international legal standards, human rights laws, and environmental

regulations. It also involves the creation of legal mechanisms for stakeholder collaboration, resource allocation, and the enforcement of laws to prevent exploitation and ensure equitable distribution of resources.

With the increasing intensity of the military conflict, the factors influencing the demographic situation have changed: the mechanical movement of the population has become of paramount importance. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees<sup>8</sup>, more than 6.9 million Ukrainians have left their country since the beginning of the Russian aggression. In terms of age distribution, the largest proportion of refugees are persons aged 18 years and older, in particular, those aged 35-59 years – 55%. Persons of retirement age in this contingent – 16%, in the total number of refugees (including persons under the age of 18) – only 12%. Since military operations do not stop, the destruction of housing stock continues, and in some localities, there are practically no habitable buildings left.

Thus, it is not advisable to expect refugees to return to these territories before housing and social infrastructure are restored, and the longer this process takes, the smaller the proportion of them may return. Notably, forced migration is the main, but not the only factor in population decline. Outside of migration processes, population dynamics are affected by an increase in mortality, both among people directly involved in combat operations and among those who remained in the conflict zone. The analysis of demographic indicators shows a high activity of migration processes among the population, in particular, the departure of young professionals and the able-bodied contingent to other regions<sup>9</sup>.

The study of economic indicators reveals a significant decline in gross domestic product (GDP) and production volumes, especially at the regional level. Agriculture, industry, and transport infrastructure have suffered the most serious losses. The results indicate that the regions are losing significant economic activity. Since the beginning of the conflict, deficits in the state budget have significantly increased, which, according to various experts, may range from 25 to 35% of GDP by the end of 2022, even when considering international grants in budget revenues. From a legal perspective, these economic challenges necessitate the implementation of robust legal frameworks to manage and mitigate the financial impact of the conflict. This includes the formulation of laws and regulations aimed at fiscal recovery, such as emergency economic legislation to regulate budget deficits, manage public debt, and allocate international financial aid effectively.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

<sup>9</sup> T. Rendiuk, *Forced migration in the extraordinary conditions of the Russian-Ukrainian war and its negative consequences for the gene pool of Ukraine*, in *Folk Art and Ethnology*, 3(395) (2022), pp. 5-14.

Legal mechanisms must also be put in place to ensure transparency and accountability in the utilization of these funds to prevent corruption and misuse. Laws supporting the rehabilitation of agriculture, industry, and transport infrastructure are crucial. These could include tax incentives for businesses rebuilding in affected areas, legal protections for investments in reconstruction projects, and regulations to streamline the approval processes for infrastructure projects. International trade laws and agreements might also need to be revisited to support economic recovery through enhanced trade relations and market access. The legal system must address the protection of workers' rights in these sectors, ensuring fair labor practices and safe working conditions as industries rebuild. The results of the analysis of economic indicators show changes caused by military aggression, which also relate to the volume of consumption of goods and services by the population. The longer and larger the military operation, the greater and drastic changes are observed in this area<sup>10</sup>.

As a result of Russia's full-scale aggression on the territory of Ukraine, more than 350 thousand objects and a million m<sup>2</sup> of residential, educational, medical, and sports infrastructures were destroyed. Thousands of kilometres of road and railway tracks, airports, ports, were damaged. Some of these objects can be restored, but some of them have been completely destroyed. Nowadays, according to the calculations of the Kyiv School of Economics, direct infrastructure losses exceed USD 113.5 billion<sup>11</sup>. The largest part of these losses falls on the housing stock. As a result of the hostilities, 131300 residential buildings worth USD 47.8 billion were destroyed or damaged. Especially serious consequences were suffered by the Mykolaiv Oblast, where 4047 private houses and 835 apartment buildings were destroyed. Significant destruction also occurred in educational institutions in the territories under temporary occupation.

In particular, 22 institutions were destroyed in the de-occupied Kherson Oblast, of which 14 were schools. Other establishments were damaged by 50 to 90%. Educational institutions in rural areas received the most damage, and their resources and facilities were looted. Statistical analysis shows significant destruction in housing communal services and

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<sup>10</sup> D. Rizzi – G. Ciuffo – M. Landoni – M. Mangiagalli – C. Ionio, *Psychological and environmental factors influencing resilience among Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons: A systematic review of coping strategies and risk and protective factors*, in *Frontiers in Psychology*, 14 (2023), 1266125.

<sup>11</sup> <https://kse.ua/about-the-school/news/as-of-november-2022-the-total-amount-of-losses-caused-to-the-infrastructure-of-ukraine-increased-to-almost-136-billion/>

infrastructure. Disruption of communication networks, electricity, and water supply seriously affected the daily life of the population<sup>12</sup>. According to information from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine<sup>13</sup>, more than 2200 cases of environmental violations have already been recorded since the beginning of the conflict. The total environmental damage exceeded UAH 1373 billion, which is more than EUR 37.4 billion. Mainly affected air due to burning of petroleum products and forest fires, which caused damage in the amount of UAH 927 billion. A third of the forest fund has already suffered from the actions of the invaders. According to the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine, the number of emissions exceeded 67 million tonnes<sup>14</sup>. It is important to note that the assessment of environmental damage differs between organisations, since there is no access to part of the territory, and some areas still require detailed research. For comparison, in 2021 and 2020, this number was only 2.2 million tonnes per year. Today, Russian aggression has led to the destruction of 3 million hectares of forests in Ukraine, which is almost a third of the country's forest fund. Some of them are already lost forever. Russia has turned fertile chernozems into the most explosive-contaminated land in the world. About a third of the territory of Ukraine will require mine clearance, which will take at least 10 years. The forests of Kherson Oblast were most affected by the fires, especially on the Kinburn Peninsula. Analysis of environmental indicators shows that despite the fact that a significant number of polluting enterprises are not working due to the war, the environmental situation is only getting worse.

The results of the statistical analysis of the current situation and the level of damage to the affected areas, especially in Kherson and Mykolaiv Oblasts, indicate the complex impact of the military conflict on the socio-economic development of these regions. Each country has its own unique history, political landscape, and cultural characteristics. The study of the experience of countries that have experienced military conflicts allows understanding how various factors can influence the processes of recovery and development of territories. In the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lebanon, the study of their experience provides an opportunity to

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<sup>12</sup> T. Klynina – O. Isaikina, *USA Think Tanks: Strategy and informational influence in the globalized media space*, in *Society. Document. Communication*, 8(3) (2023), pp. 66-75. <https://doi.org/10.69587/sdc/3.2023.66>

<sup>13</sup> <https://mepr.gov.ua/6-lystopada-mizhnarodnyj-den-z-poperedzhennya-ekspluatatsiyi-navkolyshnogo-pryrodnogo-seredovyshha-pid-chas-voyen-ta-zbrojnyh-konfliktiv/>

<sup>14</sup>

<https://www.facebook.com/rp.gov.ua/posts/pfbidoXjMTJiXvdsSohDoEix175xMvGDBdeqAYF3AFE5Dh7YFSqXpEpEUEX41k3Ag1EMWNI>

consider the specific aspects of post-conflict reconstruction in the Middle East and South-Eastern Europe region (Table 1). This allows developing more adapted and effective strategies for the restoration and development of the affected territories of Ukraine.

**Table 1.** Results of a comparative analysis of the experience of the countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lebanon

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>
Restoration of infrastructure and housing stock	Passive approach to the restoration of internal cities and villages. The main attention was paid to the reconstruction of the housing stock, but the main municipal communications and engineering networks were not actively restored.	Much attention was paid to the reconstruction of cities and municipal infrastructure facilities. However, due to the complex political context, it was difficult to agree on restoration strategies and allocate resources.
Social programme and public support	Paying attention to internally displaced persons and affected citizens. Public organisations and international charitable foundations played an important role in providing the necessary resources.	As a result of a complex internal conflict, the effectiveness of social support was limited. The resource allocation system was less efficient, which led to problems for citizens.
Conflict resolution and political stability	After the war, the active participation of international mediators and international public organisations contributed to the settlement of the conflict and the establishment of political stability.	The difficult political situation and the existence of numerous conflicts make it difficult to establish stability and reform the country.
International assistance and cooperation	The active participation of international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and sponsor countries has been important in reconstruction and development.	The international community has provided assistance, but political instability and the existence of various geopolitical interests have complicated the restoration process.

*Source: systematised by the authors based on S. Bandžović<sup>15</sup> and R.F. Sapienza<sup>16</sup>.*

Success factors:

<sup>15</sup> S. Bandžović, *The phenomenon of fragile states: Bosnia and Herzegovina*, in *Journal "Historical Views"*, IV(6) (2021), pp. 338-355.

<sup>16</sup> R.F. Sapienza, *'TragiCIMICal': An attempt at civil and military cooperation in Lebanon*, in: *The Politics and Policies of Relief, Aid and Reconstruction: Contrasting Approaches to Disasters and Emergencies*, London, 2012, pp. 211-235.

1. International cooperation and support. In the 1990s, after the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, international organisations provided significant financial and technical assistance to restore the country's infrastructure and economy. International sources of funding, such as state donors, the World Bank, the European bank for reconstruction and development, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), have made significant contributions. For the period from 1996 to 2005, the total amount of assistance for the post-war reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina was USD 9 billion. Therefore, the involvement of international partners and organisations has had a significant impact on the success of the recovery.
2. Taking into account the needs and opinions of the population. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a number of agreements have been concluded between the government and the public, and a set of rules has been introduced for public consultations at the state level. In particular, there are rules for the preparation of draft laws, approved by the Council of Ministers on September 7, 2006<sup>17</sup>. All initiatives that come from the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other public bodies are carried out in close partnership with the public and various organisations that are not part of the public sector. Active participation and consultation with the local population has become an important element in prioritising and planning recovery.
3. Public engagement and mobilisation. After the end of the Lebanese civil war, public engagement and mobilisation became a key element of the country's reconstruction. A large number of public organisations and non-profit foundations have become actively involved in the recovery process. One example is the organisation "BeitelBaraka", which provides assistance to the poor and vulnerable groups of the population. They provide housing, food, medical and financial assistance to those who need it most. In addition, they launch projects for professional training and skills development for those who lost the opportunity to work due to the war. Collaboration with non-governmental organisations, businesses, and other non-profit organisations has helped ensure faster and more efficient recovery.
4. Providing a legal and regulatory framework. Since the end of the Lebanese Civil War, the establishment of an effective legal and regulatory framework has become one of the important prerequisites for the country's reconstruction and stabilisation. Lebanon has implemented constitutional reforms to align the political system with the new post-war realities. This included the distribution of power between different religious

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<sup>17</sup> R. Kazansky – M. Musladin – I. Ondrejmkova, *Bosnia and Herzegovina: From war to negative peace*, in *Security Dimensions*, 35 (2021), pp. 50-64.

communities, which was a key aspect of the country's stabilisation, so the presence of an effective legal environment contributes to the implementation and control of rehabilitation measures<sup>18</sup>.

5. Consideration of environmental aspects. After the war, a significant part of the territories in Bosnia and Herzegovina needed to be restored due to serious environmental damage. This included the restoration of contaminated water bodies, cleaning and reclamation of ecologically damaged areas. Government and non-governmental organisations actively collaborated to control emissions and pollution, especially in the area of military conflicts. Proper consideration and management of environmental aspects have ensured sustainable recovery.

In general, a comparative analysis of the experience of the countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lebanon provides important guidance for implementing successful practices in the reconstruction and development of territories that have survived military conflict.

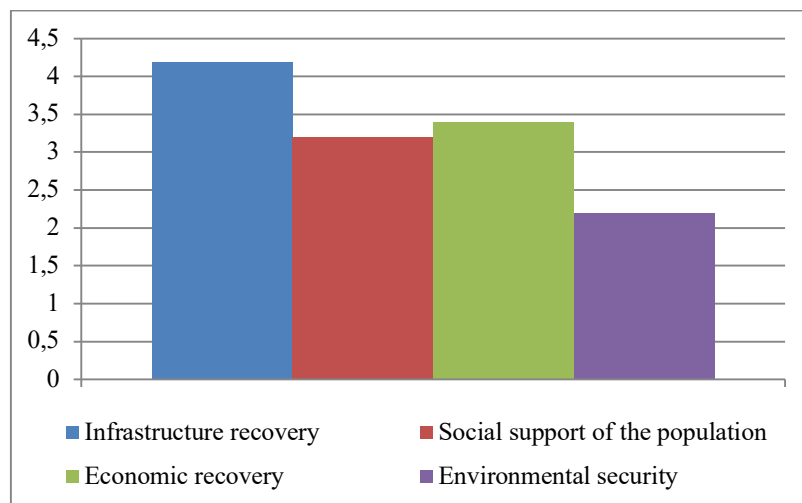
The results of the population survey became a critical component of the study, providing direct feedback and assessments from those who have directly experienced or are currently experiencing the restoration of territories after the conflict. This feedback is essential for identifying key areas for improving the legal and public administration framework in the field of restoration and development of territories. One of the primary aspects of the survey was Question 4, which focused on the legal directions of restoration of the affected territories. Specifically, respondents were asked to choose 4 out of 10 categories that they consider most important in the legal recovery process.

The survey results underscore the need for a legally sound public administration system that ensures the protection of human rights, equitable distribution of resources, and adherence to legal standards in restoration efforts. This includes the development of legal mechanisms for public participation, ensuring that the voices of the affected populations are heard and considered in the decision-making process. Legal frameworks must also be established to protect vulnerable groups, enforce environmental regulations, and ensure the transparent and accountable use of financial resources in the recovery process. The results showed that the majority of respondents identify the most priority areas: infrastructure restoration (85% of respondents chose this area), social support (became important for 70% of respondents), economic recovery (about 68% consider this area effective), environmental safety (became important for 45% of respondents) (Figure 1).

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<sup>18</sup> D. Naor – E. Lewin, *The 1982 Lebanon War 40 years on*, in *Israel Affairs*, 28(3) (2022), pp. 413-427.

Infrastructure recovery in the context of recovery and development of affected areas includes a set of measures aimed at restoring and improving the main infrastructure. This category includes such elements as road networks, bridges and tunnels, communications (power grids, water supply, sewerage), and other engineering objects. In addition, the restoration of housing stock is a critical aspect of the reconstruction and development of affected areas after conflicts. Housing stock plays a significant role in providing decent conditions for the population and affects the quality of life and social stability. The first step in infrastructure restoration of housing stock is to assess the damage. This requires a detailed survey of the affected buildings and determining the level of damage. Engineering inspections, damage assessment, and technical inspections are used for this purpose. Based on the damage assessment, a recovery plan is developed that defines priorities, resources, and deadlines for restoration work. This plan should consider the needs of residents and comply with safety and efficiency standards. In general, these infrastructure works are aimed at creating conditions for the normal functioning of communities and enterprises, which is a key step in the restoration and development of territories after military conflicts.



**Figure 1.** The most priority areas for the restoration of affected territories

Social support for the population in the context of the restoration and development of affected territories encompasses a set of legally mandated measures and programs aimed at improving social well-being, quality of life, and supporting vulnerable groups. Key legal aspects of social support include expanding and improving access to basic social services, such as health care and education, through enforceable regulations. It is essential to provide free medical care and rehabilitation for those affected by the conflict, as stipulated by humanitarian law and national health policies.

Legal provisions must ensure financial assistance, pensions, compensation, and other forms of social payments for all categories of the population, thereby safeguarding economic rights. Employment laws and regulations should focus on job creation, vocational training, and job search support for the unemployed and affected individuals, reinforcing their right to work and social security.

Economic recovery is a critical stage in the development and reconstruction of affected areas after military conflicts or natural disasters. This process necessitates the implementation of legal frameworks and regulations to facilitate the restoration and development of economic sectors and infrastructure, thereby creating favorable living and working conditions for the population. The primary legal aspect of economic recovery involves the restoration of industry and agriculture, including the operation of enterprises, factories, agricultural facilities, and other industrial facilities that were damaged during the conflict or occupation. A significant legal stage of economic recovery is the creation of new jobs, which involves the development of programs and projects aimed at creating new employment opportunities for the local population.

This requires labor laws and employment regulations to ensure fair wages, safe working conditions, and protection of workers' rights. The legal framework should also support the development of small and medium-sized businesses, which are essential for economic revitalization. State support for small and medium-sized businesses can be codified through tax incentives, grants, and loans, as well as legal protections to encourage entrepreneurship and investment. Legal mechanisms should also be in place to ensure transparency and accountability in the distribution and use of state support.

Analysis of the experience of foreign countries shows that it is also effective to create a favourable investment climate, that is, to develop policies and programmes aimed at attracting investors and supporting the business environment. After the end of the military conflict, it will also be advisable to use the cultural and historical heritage of the territories for the development of tourism and the creation of new opportunities for economic activity. Effective economic recovery requires an integrated approach and cooperation between government agencies, public organisations, and enterprises. In addition, it is important to consider the characteristics and needs of each specific territory in order to maximise the positive impact of the economic recovery.

The environmental safety of the affected areas is critical to ensuring the health and viability of residents, and for the sustainable development of these areas. The main aspects of ensuring environmental safety are primarily environmental monitoring, i.e., systematic collection and analysis of data on air, water, soil, and other environmental components. In addition to monitoring, it will be important to assess environmental

risks. This includes analysing the health effects of certain factors (such as pollutants, radiation). The removal of military remnants and unexploded ordnance is one of the most complex and important operations in the process of environmental recovery after a military conflict. This activity is aimed at the destruction and safe disposal of explosive objects that may remain in the affected areas after the hostilities. The process requires a high level of professionalism, technical means, and compliance with strict safety standards. Military conflicts also often lead to contamination of water sources. Therefore, effective cleaning and restoration of water reservoirs is crucial for providing the population with clean drinking water and preserving water reservoir ecosystems.

Analysing all of the above, it should be noted that as a result of the study, it was revealed that the process of restoration and development of affected territories after a military conflict is a complex and multifaceted task. In such circumstances, it should be considered that recovery requires the government and public organisations to implement comprehensive strategies and programmes aimed at restoring infrastructure, rehabilitating the population, and ensuring environmental safety. In particular, the following recovery methods are proposed:

1. Creation of intersectoral working groups. Such groups can bring together representatives of various sectors of the economy, public organisations, and qualified specialists. The activities of such groups will be aimed at promoting economic recovery and stabilisation in areas affected by the war, precisely through the development of programmes to encourage entrepreneurship and provide financial support for small and medium-sized enterprises, conducting training for local entrepreneurs and specialists in the field of business management.
2. Involvement of international experts. The government can cooperate with international experts and organisations with experience in crisis recovery. Experts can analyse the current state and provide recommendations on ways to recover. They can develop strategies, recommend certain technologies, and provide estimates of the necessary resources. It is important to transfer knowledge and experience to local government and public organisations for further independent implementation of the recommendations.
3. Creating a Recovery Fund. Sources of funding for the Recovery Fund should be identified. This can include state budget funds, international donor funds, charitable contributions, and other sources. The creation of a Recovery Fund involves the development of the legal status and structure

of the fund. It is also advisable to create a monitoring group that will be responsible for managing the Recovery Fund.

4. Creation of public control mechanisms. It would be useful to establish a specialised body that would develop mechanisms to enable the public to participate in monitoring and monitoring recovery activities. Namely, the organisation of public meetings and forums where representatives of the local population have the opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas on the restoration and development of their territories; conducting surveys and questionnaires of the population.

5. Creation of environmental recovery agencies. These structures will include representatives of the authorities, as well as qualified specialists from the public. The task of the agencies will be to work on restoring environmental indicators directly in the territories affected by military operations and military occupation. The environmental agency should have a clear legal framework and defined powers in the field of environmental protection activities, including a system for monitoring the state of the environment.

These measures can serve as concrete steps in the implementation of comprehensive strategies for the effective recovery of territories after crisis situations.

#### **4. Discussion**

The results of the study demonstrated that the legal governance of the restoration and development of territories in Ukraine is an urgent issue exacerbated by military conflicts and emergencies. Specifically, it was revealed that an effective system of public administration, underpinned by a robust legal framework, is crucial for the successful restoration of the affected territories. Special attention must be given to the legal roles and responsibilities of public organizations and local authorities in implementing recovery programs. The ability to collaborate and coordinate the actions of different stakeholders is legally significant in enhancing recovery processes. This includes establishing legal mechanisms for cooperation and communication between various entities, ensuring that all actions are conducted within the bounds of the law. Among the key conclusions of the study is the recognition that effective public administration necessitates the legal consideration of the specifics of each case and the coordination of actions between all participants in the process. Legal instruments should also be in place to facilitate public participation, protect human rights, and ensure transparency and accountability in the use of resources.

Particular attention was paid to ensuring that the sample for the survey was demographically and geographically representative of the general population affected by the Russian-Ukrainian war. For this purpose, respondents from different age groups, genders, and socioeconomic categories were involved. Geographical representativeness was ensured by covering residents of both urban and rural areas of Kherson and Mykolaiv regions. This allowed us to obtain more accurate and comprehensive data on the impact of the conflict on different segments of the population and to formulate recommendations that meet the needs of different groups of affected communities.

The political context plays an important role in the implementation of the proposed recommendations for the recovery of the affected regions. On the one hand, a stable political situation can facilitate the effective implementation of recovery strategies by providing the necessary support from state institutions, international organizations and donors. The political will of the government to implement reforms and cooperate with civil society can also significantly accelerate the recovery process. Political instability, corruption, and lack of clear coordination between different levels of government can be serious obstacles. Conflicts of interest, bureaucratic obstacles, and insufficient funding can delay or even stop the implementation of important projects. In addition, political manipulation and a lack of transparency in decision-making can lead to inefficient use of resources and discontent among the local population.

In addition, it is important to ensure transparency and openness in the work of public bodies, which will help increase public confidence in the decisions made. It is noted that similar problems of public management of the development of territories for restoration are being investigated both in Ukraine and abroad. Some researchers focus on the social aspects of recovery, in particular, demographic shifts and migration processes. Other studies are aimed at analysing economic indicators and factors influencing their recovery.

S.Z. Isayev and G.S. Rufullazada<sup>19</sup> analyse the processes of regulating rehabilitation measures in the territories liberated from occupation. The study aims to identify the main aspects and effective methods of managing restoration work. In particular, attention is paid to the consideration of social, economic, and environmental factors, which is worth agreeing with, because these factors affect the recovery process. The authors also highlight the role of regulators and organisations in this process. Comparing the results of this study with the conducted research, certain common aspects can be noted. Both studies share the importance of regulating the process

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<sup>19</sup> S.Z. Isayev – G.S. Rufullazada, *The processes of regulating the restoration activities in the territories liberated from occupation, in Construction Economics and Management*, 2(23) (2023), pp. 56-61.

of restoring territories that survived the occupation. Both studies consider the social, economic, and environmental requirements necessary for successful recovery. However, it is worth noting that each study has its characteristics in the methodology and approaches to analysis.

L.O. Zhylynska et al.<sup>20</sup> consider the application of the concept of a “smart city” to solve problems of restoration and development of urban life in the post-conflict territories of Ukraine. The authors consider the potential of modern technologies and “smart” solutions for improving infrastructure, social services, and economic development in such territories. This theory can be useful in the recovery process, but it is necessary to focus on the more critical elements of recovery first. Analysis of the results of this study indicates that both studies are aimed at introducing an important aspect of the restoration of post-conflict territories, namely, the use of modern technologies to improve living conditions. While the study focused more on the restoration and development of public administration in the field of restoration and development of territories, the authors’ study examines the overall impact of the concept of a “smart city” on various aspects of urban life. Both approaches can complement each other in the context of implementing effective strategies for the reconstruction and development of post-conflict territories.

J.M. Pages Madrigal<sup>21</sup> considers the issue of preserving cultural heritage as a strategy for restoring conflict areas. The researcher analyses how the preservation and restoration of cultural objects and heritage can contribute to the restoration of socio-cultural and economic stability in conflict regions. In other words, both studies explore an important aspect of the restoration of post-conflict territories, namely, the role of cultural heritage in this process. However, the approach to solving these issues is different. The researcher’s paper focuses on the preservation of cultural heritage as a key strategy, which should be disagreed with, because the restoration of cultural heritage cannot be considered a key strategy after the end of hostilities. Therefore, the study focuses on the analysis of international experience and infrastructure restoration, and the restoration of cultural heritage is considered as an additional strategy.

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<sup>20</sup> L.O. Zhylynska – H.Yu. Kucherova – O.V. Tarasevych, *Application of the “smart-city” concept to the solution of the problems of reconstruction and development of the spheres of city life in the post-conflict territories of Ukraine*, in *Economics and Law*, 4(59) (2020), pp. 51-58.

<sup>21</sup> J.M. Pages Madrigal, *Heritage preservation as strategy for recomposing conflict territories*, in *Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs*, 5(2) (2021), pp. 252-264.

R. Bayramov et al.<sup>22</sup> analyse conceptual approaches of social sciences to regional planning of transport infrastructure in the occupied territories. They consider the importance of developing strategies and plans in the context of emergencies and military conflict to ensure the effective functioning of transport networks and the restoration of destroyed roads. Comparing the results of this study with those carried out, it can be noted that both consider an important aspect of the restoration and development of territories that survived the conflict. However, approaches to regional transport planning differ depending on the specific conditions and needs of the territories. The researchers focus on conceptual approaches of social sciences, which can be an auxiliary tool in the restoration and development of territories.

A.D. Sadik<sup>23</sup> conducted a multidimensional analysis to ensure effective governance in countries that have survived the war. The researcher analyses various aspects of management in the context of military conflicts and offers a comprehensive approach to ensure effective management after military events. The current study, in contrast to the author's research, is aimed at investigating the effectiveness of the public administration system in the restoration and development of territories after the military conflict in Ukraine. The researcher's paper focuses on multidimensional analysis and considers various aspects of management. This approach can be useful in identifying the most important aspects that need attention in the context of military conflicts.

U. Yildirim<sup>24</sup> and J. Lameh et al.<sup>25</sup> examines the impact of military conflict on environmental systems. The researcher uses ethnography and art to analyse these interactions in Middle Eastern countries that have experienced military conflict. The study focuses on the relationship between people and the environment in the context of military conflict, in particular, on environmental aspects. Both studies explore the consequences of a military conflict, but from different approaches: the researcher is more focused on the interaction between humans and nature,

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<sup>22</sup> R. Bayramov – C. Rahimov – A. Sharifov – A. Hamidov, *Social sciences conceptual approaches to regional transportation planning in occupied territories*, in *Norwegian Journal of Development of the International Science*, 84 (2022), pp. 32-39.

<sup>23</sup> A.D. Sadik, *Multidimensional perspective analysis to ensure effective governance in war-torn countries*, in *RUDN Journal of Public Administration*, 10(1) (2023), pp. 102-115.

<sup>24</sup> U. Yildirim, *War-torn ecologies: Human and more-than-human intersections of ethnography and the arts*, in: *War-Torn Ecologies, An-Archic Fragments: Reflections from the Middle East*, Berlin, 2023, pp. 1-25.

<sup>25</sup> J. Lameh – G. Bouillass – M. Saidani – B. Yannou, *Digitalisation for a territorial circular economy: Towards an integrated platform*, In: *CONFERE22: 29ème colloque des Sciences de la conception et de l'innovation*, Basel, 2022, pp. 30-37.

while the conducted research is more focused on the analysis of the management of territories after a military conflict.

T.L. Cyrus<sup>26</sup> analyses the relationship between regional trade agreements and military conflicts. The researcher uses survival techniques to assess the likelihood of conflict in the context of regional trade agreements. This can be useful for the research being conducted, since analysing the impact of trade relations on conflict is important for recommendations on public administration in conflict situations and territory reconstruction. For example, if the researcher shows that certain types of trade agreements contribute to reducing the likelihood of military conflict, which is worth agreeing on, then this can be an important indicator for developing strategies for the restoration and development of affected areas. Moreover, the results of both studies can be used to analyse and formulate recommendations for the effective management of territories in the context of conflict and after its completion.

R. Konrad et al.<sup>27</sup> investigate the humanitarian response of basic associations during military conflict. They analyse the role and contribution of organisations on the ground in humanitarian work and logistics during the war. This study addresses the aspect of humanitarian assistance and the contribution of basic associations during military conflict. Comparing the findings with the conducted study, it can be noted that both studies focus on humanitarian responses to conflict situations. The quality and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and the role of non-governmental organisations in providing this assistance are key aspects of both studies. However, the ability of public organisations to influence the situation may vary depending on the context of the conflict and access to resources.

In general, public management of the development of territories for restoration is a complex and multifaceted process that requires a responsible and research approach. Effective cooperation between all parties, incorporating innovative approaches and considering the best international practices can greatly facilitate the reconstruction process and contribute to the sustainable development of the affected territories.

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<sup>26</sup> T.L. Cyrus, *Conflict or cooperation: A survival analysis of the relationship between regional trade agreements and military conflict*, in *Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy*, 28(3) (2022), pp. 195-223.

<sup>27</sup> R. Konrad – S. Sorokotyaha – D. Walker, *Humanitarian response by grassroots associations during a military conflict*, in *Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management*, 14(6) (2023), pp. 140-159.

## **5. Conclusions**

The results of this study confirmed that successful public management of territorial restoration is grounded in an integrated legal approach that encompasses economic, social, environmental, and cultural aspects. A crucial element is the active participation of public organizations and the local population, supported by legal frameworks that ensure their involvement in management and strategic decision-making processes. Establishing transparent and legally effective mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of reconstruction projects is vital.

The analysis of international experience has become an important source for identifying key success factors in the reconstruction and restoration of affected territories. Comparing the results of international examples, it was determined that integrated strategies, consideration of environmental aspects, international support, and cooperation between different levels of government and public organisations are important success factors. In turn, the results of the population survey confirmed that the active participation of the local population is a key factor in the success of the restoration of territories.

After analysing international experience and considering the conclusions of the survey, specific strategies and measures were identified that will contribute to the successful restoration and sustainable development of territories after crises. Ensuring access to education and health services must be legally guaranteed, with laws in place to protect the right to education and healthcare for all residents.

The general conclusion of the study is that public management of the development of territories for restoration requires an integrated approach and the consideration of the versatility of the influence of factors. The recovery process is a complex and long-term task that requires planning, coordination, and cooperation of all stakeholders. For further research in the field of public management of the development of territories for restoration, it is recommended to pay attention to quantitative and qualitative analysis of the effectiveness of implemented strategies in practice. This will allow us to assess how much the decisions taken contribute to achieving the goals set and improving the lives of residents. In addition, an important area of further research is the investigation of the impact of various management models on the sustainability of territorial development in the context of restoration after crises.

**Abstract:** The objective of research is to analyse and evaluate the legal frameworks and effectiveness of public administration mechanisms in the context of post-crisis territory restoration, drawing on international experience, and to develop legally sound strategies and methodologies for the restoration of Ukrainian territories affected by the military conflict. The paper employs a set of methods, including statistical data analysis, comparative legal analysis, and population surveys. The study reveals that the successful implementation of restoration programs necessitates a comprehensive legal approach that addresses the needs of various stakeholders: local communities, businesses, public organizations, and government bodies. Special attention is given to legal mechanisms for involving the public in decision-making processes related to the development of territories for restoration. Legal adaptability facilitates a faster response to new challenges and reliably ensures the sustainability of development. The findings will provide a legal foundation for sustainable social and economic development in affected areas.

**Keywords:** legal and regulatory framework, legal mechanisms, social support, strategy flexibility, infrastructure rehabilitation, territorial communities.

**1. Appendix A**

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STUDYING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TERRITORIES AFTER A MILITARY CONFLICT**

**Thank you for participating in our research! Your contribution is very important.**

**1. General information**

Your age group:

- under 18 years old
- 18-30 years old
- 31-50 years old
- 51 and older

Place of residence (city/village, oblast): \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Relevance of the topic**

How do you assess the current state of development in your region?  
(Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 – very bad, 5 – very good).

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

What do you think are the main challenges facing your region in the context of reconstruction and development?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Development prospects**

Choose 4 categories of the most priority ways to restore the affected territories:

- infrastructure recovery;

- international cooperation;
- economic recovery;
- technological development;
- social support;
- environmental security;
- restoration of the agro-industrial complex;
- introduction of innovative technologies;
- energy rehabilitation;
- cultural restoration.

#### **4. Recommendations**

What activities or programmes do you consider most effective for the restoration and development of your region? (Please name 2-3 recommendations).

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **5. Do you actively participate in the community or other initiatives aimed at improving your region?**

- Yes
- No
- Participated before

#### **6. How would you assess the level of satisfaction with the work of local governments and public services in your region?** (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 – very dissatisfied, 5 – very satisfied).

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

**Thank you for your contribution to the research! Your answers will help us understand and improve public administration in this important area.**