

**IMPLEMENTATION OF EU SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN
THE ECONOMY OF UKRAINE**

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Introduction. In September 2015, the UN Summit on Sustainable Development was held as part of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly. This landmark event led to the adoption of a landmark document entitled Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this document, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 tasks were formulated, which became global guidelines for the development of UN member countries [1].

Ukraine joined this global process of sustainable development and established a strategic framework for its national development for the period until 2030. The main principle was the principle "Leave no one behind", which indicates the need to ensure equal opportunities for all citizens.

By decree of the President of Ukraine, the "Goals of sustainable development of Ukraine for the period until 2030" were adopted, which determined the directions of development for the country. The implementation of these Goals is important for Ukraine and includes such priorities as the health and well-being of the population, peace and security, economic development, social protection, a stable state, community development and many others.

The SDGs are not just a set of ambitious plans, they are systemically coherent and interdependent. Their goal is to address the causes of poverty and meet the universal development needs of all people. They cover economic development, social integration and environmental protection.

The Global Goals expand the overall spectrum of the Millennium Development Goals and cover new areas such as combating climate change, reducing economic inequality, stimulating innovation, supporting sustainable consumption and production, and ensuring peace and justice.

A special feature of the Sustainable Development Goals is their emphasis on concrete means of implementation, including the mobilization of financial

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resources, capacity development and the application of technology, as well as the importance of information and institutions for achieving results.

The Government of Ukraine presented the Voluntary National Review "Sustainable Development Goals: Ukraine", which defines the main indicators and tasks for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This report takes into account global development guidelines, principles of sustainable development and internal public opinion regarding the future development of Ukraine [2].

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals must include the integration of efforts for economic growth, social justice and sustainable resource use. This requires profound socio-economic transformations and new approaches to global partnership.

In September 2019, with the signing of the Decree of the President of Ukraine on SDGs for the period up to 2030, Ukraine undertook to adhere to the global goals of sustainable development and implement them nationally, taking into account the specifics of the country's development.

In 2020, the team of the independent analytical platform "VoxUkraine" conducted research on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national and regional levels in Ukraine. This study aimed to assess progress towards these goals and identify areas where additional efforts are needed.

The results of the study indicate that Ukraine has made some progress in implementing the SDGs, but there are also serious challenges and unresolved issues:

1. Social justice and economic inequality: the study showed that Ukraine has problems with reducing economic inequality and ensuring social justice. Uneven access to education, healthcare and other social services remains one of the main problems.

2. Health and well-being of the population: progress in improving population health indicators is revealed, but it is also shown that there are certain challenges in ensuring access to quality medical care and solving public health issues.

3. Promoting a peaceful and justice society: the analysis points to the need for more effective measures to ensure peace and justice in Ukraine, particularly in the areas of human rights, access to fair justice and the fight against corruption.

4. Economic development: Ukraine has the potential for further economic development, but it is important to ensure sustainable growth and the creation of decent jobs. It is also important to develop infrastructure and industry.

5. Environmental protection: the study of this issue indicates the need to improve the state of the environment and take measures to combat environmental problems, in particular air and water pollution.

Ukraine has made significant progress and achievements in fulfilling the goals of sustainable development. However, there are numerous challenges and

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tasks that still require attention and efforts. Ensuring greater social inclusion, economic growth and preservation of the environment are extremely important tasks for the future of Ukraine.

The State Statistics Service of Ukraine together with VoxUkraine and with the support of the United Nations Development Program in Ukraine conducted an assessment of the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in 2021 (fig.1) [3]. The assessment was carried out based on the methodology developed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and as part of the Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals. The results of the assessment show that Ukraine has taken a significant step towards achieving important social and economic goals in 2020, having started its journey in 2015. Among the main achievements, it is worth highlighting the fight against poverty and hunger, improving the state of public health, increasing the level of gender equality, ensuring access to clean water and proper sanitation, creating decent working conditions and promoting economic growth. These achievements lay the foundation for the sustainable development of cities and communities, the strengthening of peace and justice, as well as the development of strong institutions, which are important components for improving the quality of life of citizens and increasing Ukraine's influence on the international arena.

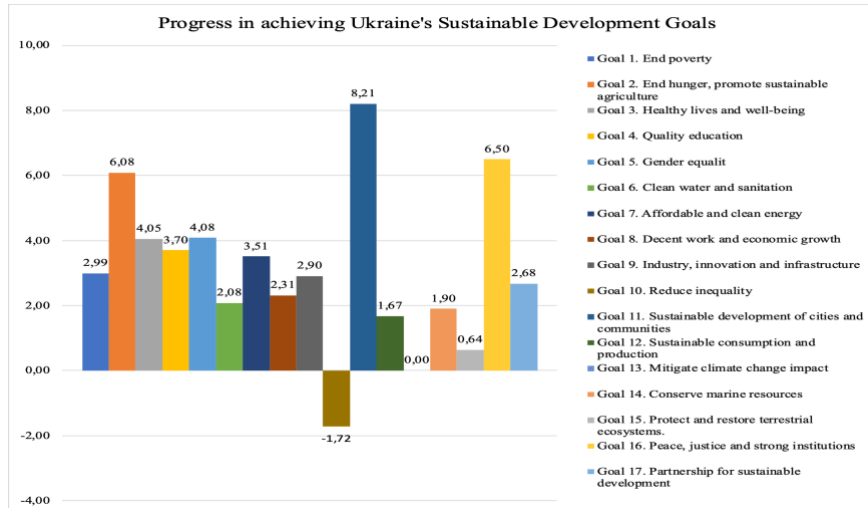


Fig. 1 – Progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine

Ukraine pays special attention to social and economic development, striving to improve the living conditions of its population and ensure sustainable economic growth. By continuing to work on these goals, Ukraine has the

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opportunity to strengthen its position on the world stage and ensure the well-being of its citizens. Implementation of these strategic tasks creates positive prerequisites for further growth and prosperity of the country.

Given the importance of each SDG, let's consider them in detail:

Goal 1: Eradication of poverty

Eliminating poverty is one of the main goals of sustainable development. Ukraine has made some progress in reducing poverty in recent years. However, there are problems with high unemployment and low incomes in certain regions, particularly in rural areas and in the occupied territories. It is necessary to increase social support and attract investments to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty (fig.2).

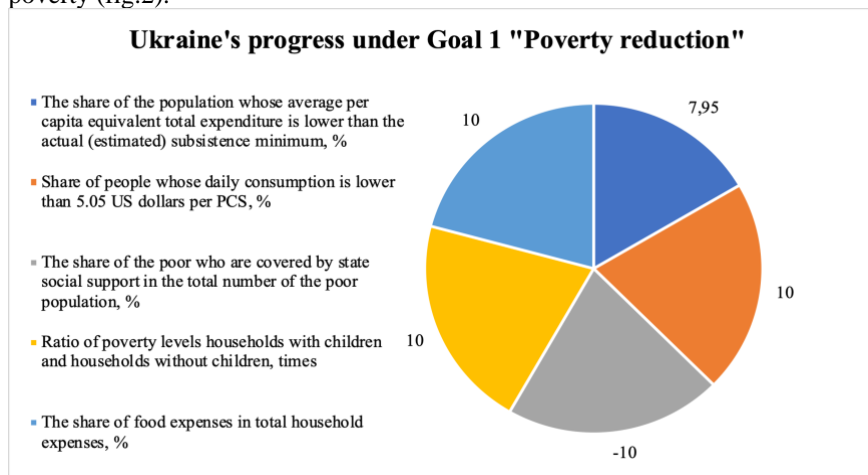


Fig. 2 – Ukraine's progress under Goal 1 «Poverty reduction»

Goal 2: Overcoming hunger and food security

Ukraine has a strong agricultural sector, but still faces challenges in ensuring safe and sustainable access to food. It is important to support agriculture, increase productivity and ensure product quality. It is equally important to develop programs of social assistance and nutrition for the most vulnerable sections of the population (fig.3).

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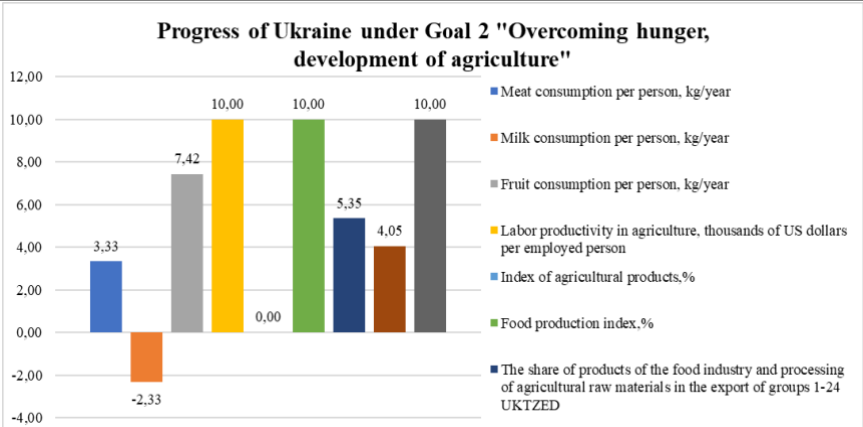


Fig. 3 – Progress of Ukraine under Goal 2 «Overcoming hunger, development of agriculture»

Goal 3: Health and well-being

The main problem in the field of health care in Ukraine is the low level of access to quality medical care and the lack of funding for the health care system. In particular, the health insurance system and access to quality medicines need reforms. Ukrainian society has a high incidence of some chronic diseases that require attention and preventive measures (fig.4).

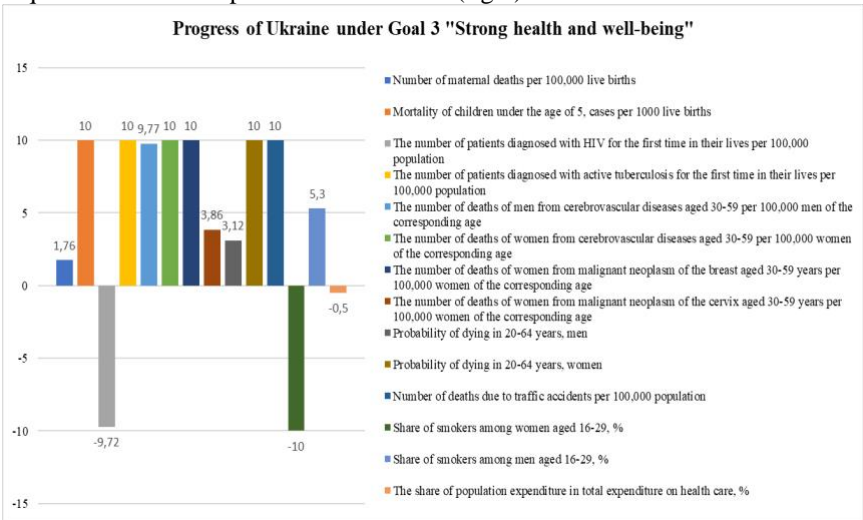


Fig. 4 – Progress of Ukraine under Goal 3 «Strong health and well-being»

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Goal 4: Quality education

Education in Ukraine has improved in recent years, but challenges such as insufficient funding and low quality of education still exist. In particular, the possibility of lifelong learning expands the general intellectual potential, which helps to cope with modern challenges. Equal access to affordable professional education, elimination of gender and material inequalities and guaranteed access to education are important elements of achieving the goals of sustainable development (fig.5).

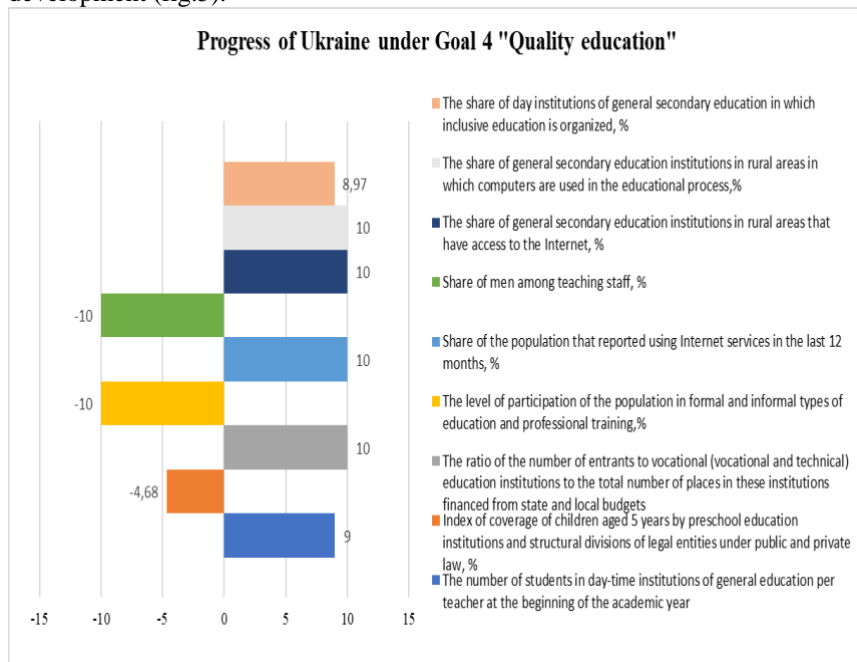


Fig. 5 – Progress of Ukraine under Goal 4 «Quality education»

Goal 5: Gender equality

Ukraine has a number of laws aimed at ensuring gender equality. However, certain stereotypes and cases of discrimination still exist in society, which prevent the achievement of full equality. It is important to continue to work on removing these obstacles and to actively carry out educational work to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality and expose stereotypes. In addition, it is important to ensure equal opportunities in all areas of life, including education, career development and participation in decision-making at various levels of society (fig.6).

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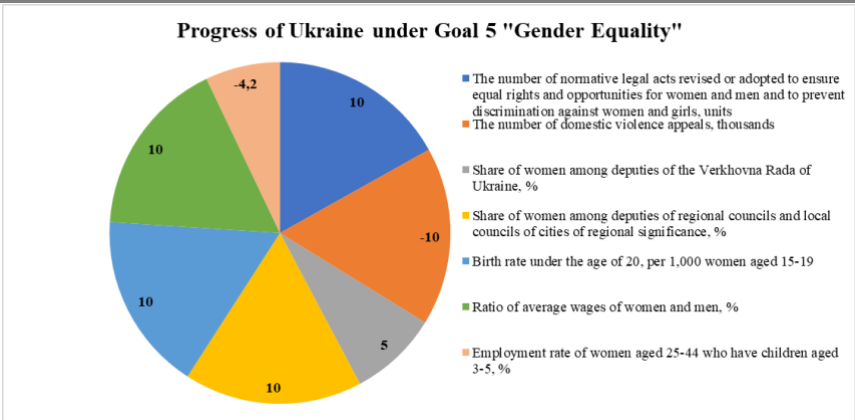


Fig. 6 – Progress of Ukraine under Goal 5 «Gender Equality»

Goal 6: Clean water and adequate sanitation

Ukraine has problems with providing clean water and sanitation for the entire population, especially in rural areas. Improving infrastructure and water supply is key to achieving this goal. Ensuring access to clean water is not only a matter of hygiene and health, but also an important component of sustainable development. This has a direct impact on people's quality of life, reducing morbidity, increasing productivity and overall community development (fig.7).

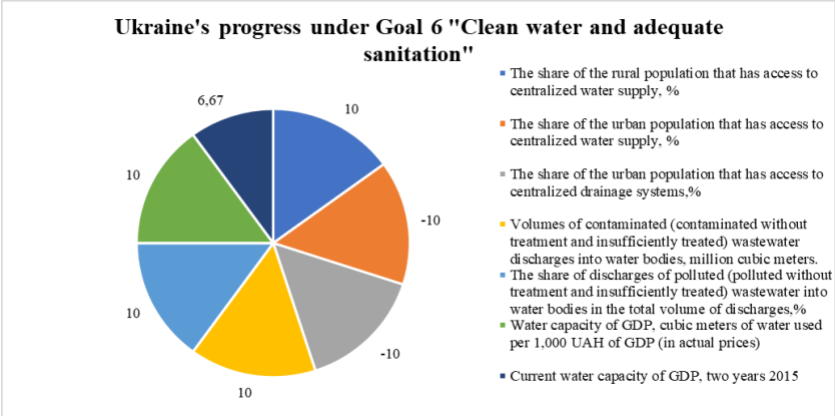


Fig. 7 – Ukraine's progress under Goal 6 «Clean water and adequate sanitation»

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Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

Ukraine is actively developing renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind energy. However, there are issues with energy efficiency and energy efficiency. To achieve greater sustainability and efficiency in the energy sector, it is important to reduce energy consumption in all areas, including industry, transport, and domestic needs. This can be achieved by modernizing the infrastructure and using more efficient technologies. Support for research and implementation of clean innovations in production and energy contributes to the reduction of emissions and environmental pollution. Improvement of the energy transmission and distribution system contributes to ensuring the stability and reliability of energy supply. Increasing attention to energy efficiency and the development of clean technologies are important steps to ensure sustainability and sustainable development of the energy sector in Ukraine (fig.8).

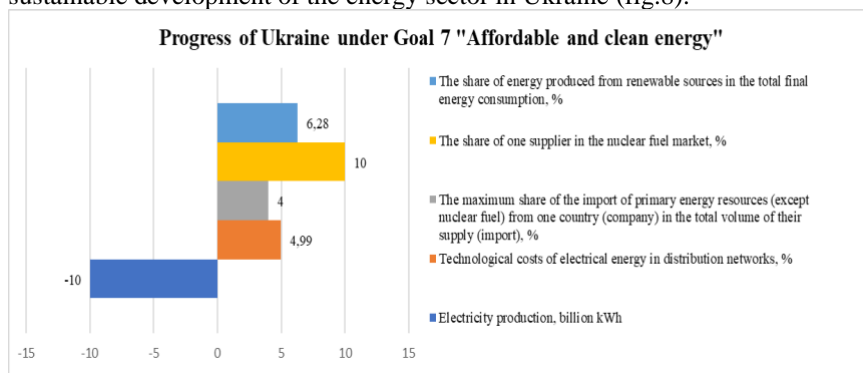


Fig. 8 – Progress of Ukraine under Goal 7 «Affordable and clean energy»

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Economic development and improving the welfare of the population are extremely important aspects in the framework of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. During the last decade, significant improvements in this direction have been noted in Ukraine. However, there are certain tasks that remain relevant, such as increasing labor productivity, introducing technological innovations in production, developing small and medium-sized businesses, improving their efficiency, reducing gender disparities in income and ensuring equal working conditions and opportunities for all, regardless of gender, age, nationality, etc. One of the main priorities for the state is raising Ukraine's rating in terms of business promotion and facilitating business conditions. Ukrainian companies are actively using the opportunities provided by the Goal "Decent work and economic growth" to implement their strategies in the field of human resources management. They focus on building the employer brand, improving the quality of working conditions, strengthening relations with their employees, and creating a corporate culture based on common values and goals (fig.9).

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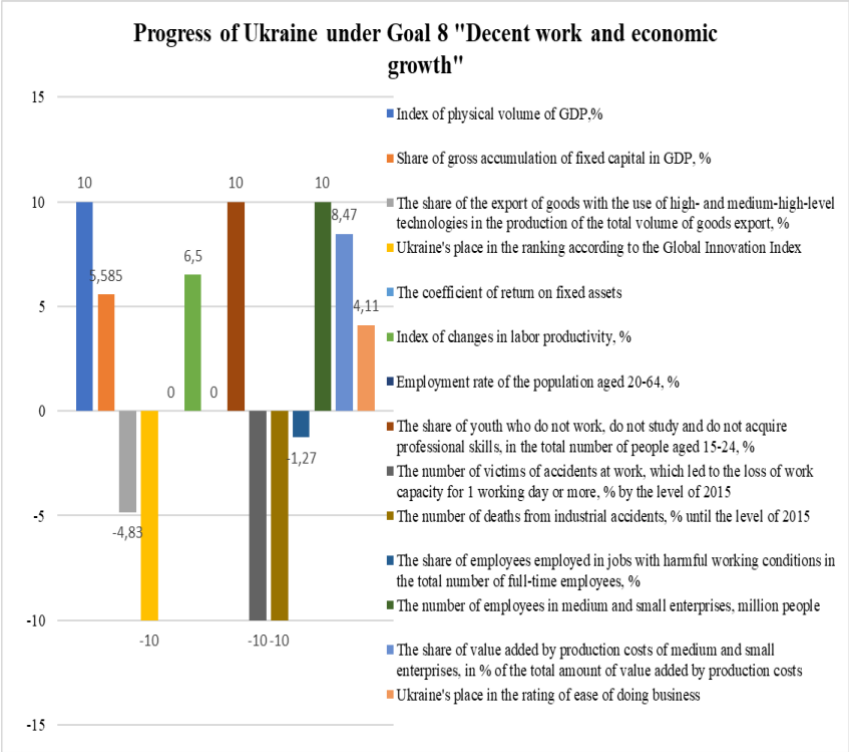


Fig. 9 – Progress of Ukraine under Goal 8 «Decent work and economic growth»

Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Ukraine has the potential to become an innovative leader in its region, but achieving this goal requires investment in research and development. Innovations can become an engine of economic growth and improvement of the quality of life of the population. A key component of success is the support of scientific research, the development of technological start-ups and cooperation between scientific institutions and business. In addition, the modernization of infrastructure and the development of the transport system are important steps to facilitate the exchange of goods and services. An efficient transport network promotes trade and supports economic development. Thus, investments in science, technology and infrastructure are important components of the strategy for achieving sustainable development of Ukraine and strengthening its position on the world stage (fig.10).

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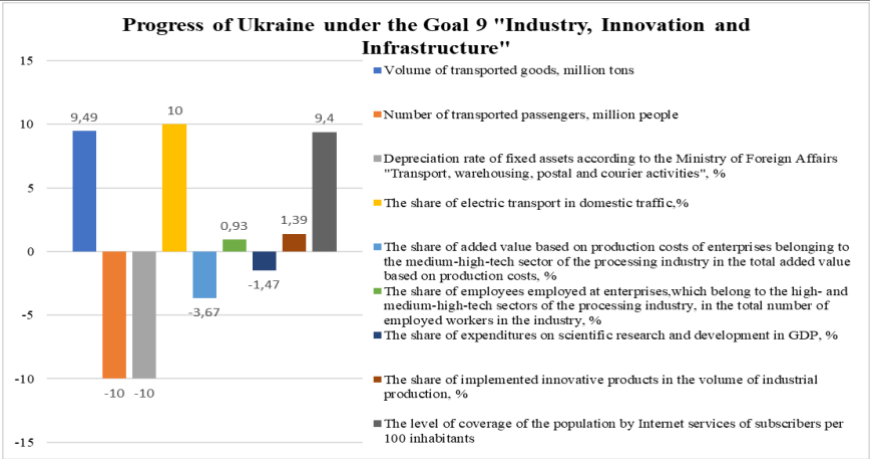


Fig. 10 – Progress of Ukraine under the Goal 9 «Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure»

Goal 10: Reducing inequality

Ukraine faces problems of inequality, especially between different regions and population groups. It is important to develop social support programs and promote the inclusion of all citizens in the processes of economic and social development. Goal 10 is key and has important implications for other aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals, such as poverty reduction, decent work and economic growth. Rising levels of inequality are largely linked to rural-urban disparities, discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, and inequality between indigenous peoples and migrants. Addressing issues related to reducing inequalities contributes to social justice and improving the quality of life for all citizens. Thus, Goal 10 is an important tool for creating a fairer and more equal society (fig.11).

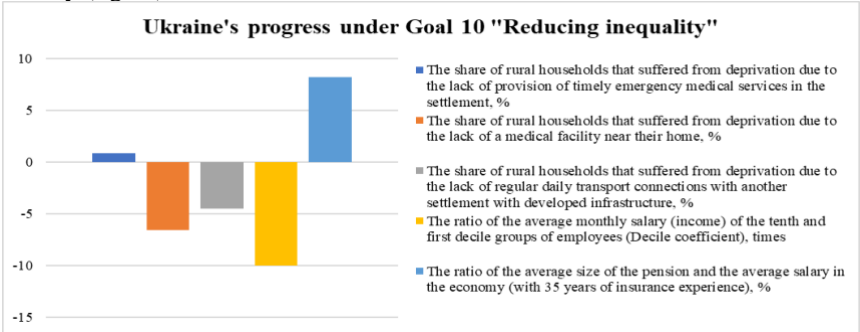


Fig. 11 – Ukraine's progress under Goal 10 «Reducing inequality»

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Goal 11: Sustainable development of cities and communities

Urban planning and community development are important components of sustainable development for the country. Ukraine needs to actively improve infrastructure in cities and other settlements in order to improve the quality of life of citizens and ensure the effective functioning of facilities. This includes the construction and modernization of roads, the introduction of modern communication and transport systems, as well as the development of comfortable spaces for living and working. Ensuring the availability of public transport is a key aspect of urban development. A developed and convenient public transport system allows city residents to move easily and quickly, reducing the use of private vehicles and emissions of harmful substances. In addition, it is important to consider the environmental impact of urban regions. It is necessary to introduce environmentally friendly technologies and solutions to reduce emissions and environmental pollution. The development of green areas and parks contributes to the creation of a healthy and comfortable environment for citizens to live in (fig.12). Therefore, the development of urban planning and infrastructure in Ukraine is an important step on the way to achieving sustainable development and improving the quality of life of the population.

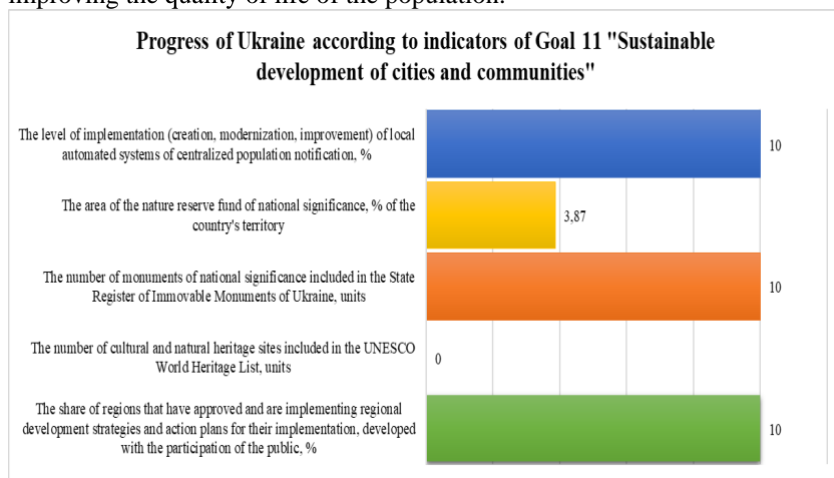


Fig. 12 – Progress of Ukraine according to indicators of Goal 11 «Sustainable development of cities and communities»

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

In Goal 12 "Ensuring sustainable consumption and production" Ukraine has its achievements and challenges. Ukraine joined international agreements and concluded its own agreements to limit the use of hazardous chemicals in production; Ukraine is actively investing in the solar and wind energy sectors to

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reduce dependence on coal energy; Events and educational campaigns help raise environmental awareness among the population, which leads to more responsible consumption; Ukraine implements modern technologies and standards to reduce the negative impact of industry on the environment.

Despite a number of positive achievements, many areas of the economy need modernization and increased energy efficiency, which will reduce resource consumption. It is advisable to pay attention to the disposal and processing of waste in order to reduce the environmental burden. There is also a need to improve legislation and implement a control mechanism for effective regulation of the sustainable consumption and production sector.

Ukraine is actively working to achieve Goal 12 and implement sustainable consumption and production practices, concentrating efforts and solving the challenges facing the country (fig.13).

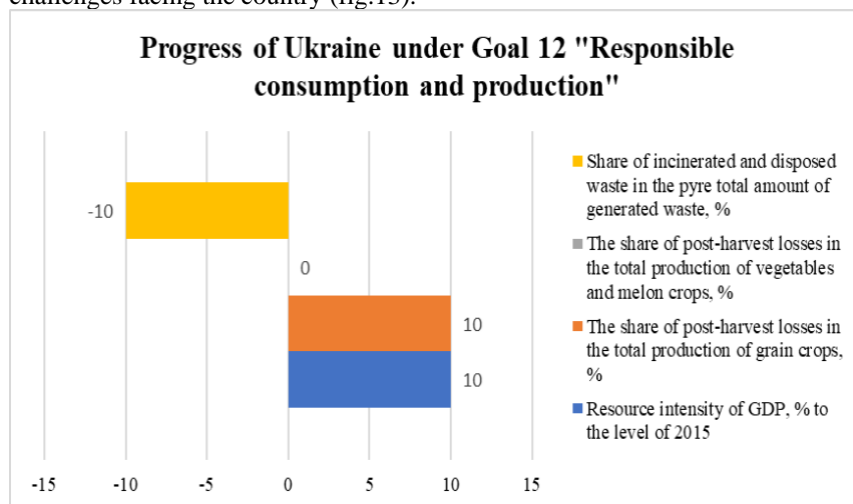


Fig. 13 – Progress of Ukraine under Goal 12
«Responsible consumption and production»

Goal 13: Climate change

Climate change is a global threat, and Ukraine should pay special attention to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. The development of renewable energy sources and energy conservation are important steps in this direction.

Goal 14: Conservation of marine resources

Ukraine has taken important steps in achieving the 14 SDGs. The country pays considerable attention to the protection of water resources and ensuring the population's access to clean water. Ukraine actively cooperates with international

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organizations and partners to improve water management and protect the marine environment. An important step was joining the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which helps regulate the use and protection of marine resources. Ukraine is also actively working to reduce pollution of water sources and create sustainable marine and coastal ecosystems. The country is improving the wastewater treatment system, implementing programs for the conservation and restoration of aquatic biological resources, and monitoring the state of the marine environment. The country recognizes the importance of sustainable use and protection of marine resources for future generations and continues to work towards achieving this Sustainable Development Goal (fig.14).

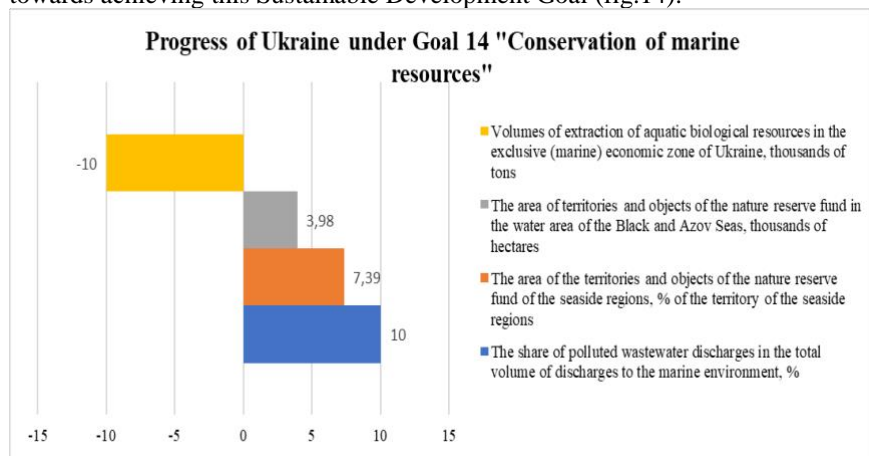


Fig. 14 – Progress of Ukraine under Goal 14
«Conservation of marine resources»

Goal 15: Protect terrestrial ecosystems

Protection of natural ecosystems and biodiversity is an important task for Ukraine, especially in conditions of growing pressure on natural resources, thus the country pays great attention to the 15 Goals of Sustainable Development, which is aimed at protecting ecosystems and preserving biodiversity. Measures are being taken in the country to restore and preserve forests, as well as combat landscape degradation. Achievements in this area include increasing forest cover, implementing programs to protect rivers and reservoirs, and promoting the conservation of rare species and their habitats. Ukraine develops scientific research and cooperates with international organizations to ensure sustainable use of natural resources and preservation of the natural environment for future generations (fig.15).

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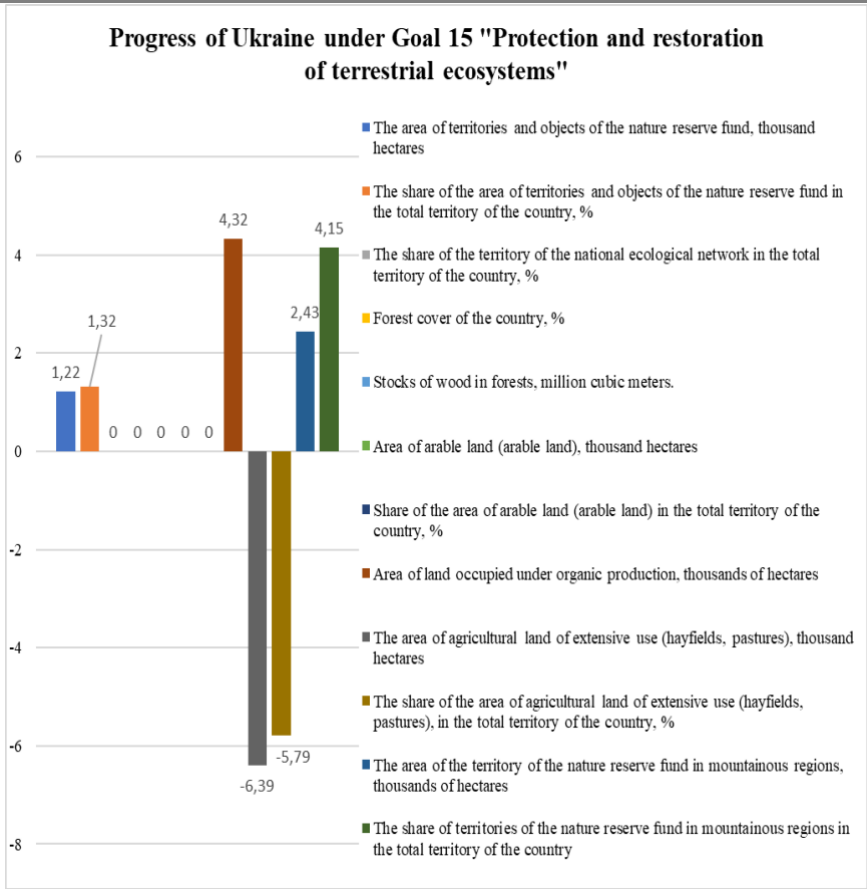


Fig. 15 – Progress of Ukraine under Goal 15 «Protection and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems»

Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

Ukraine faces challenges to peace and stability, particularly in connection with the military conflict on its territories. One of the key aspects of sustainable development is to ensure peace and security. Peace and justice are necessary prerequisites for achieving other sustainable development goals. Building just and inclusive societies based on human rights, the rule of law, good governance and effective institutions is an essential task for peace and security. Ukraine faces complex challenges in this context, such as achieving peace in its territories, rebuilding infrastructure damaged by the military conflict, and preventing possible new conflicts (fig.16).

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Fig. 16 – Progress of Ukraine according to indicators Goal 16 «Peace, justice and strong institutions»

Goal 17: Partnership to achieve goals

Cooperation with other countries and international organizations is important for achieving all the goals of sustainable development. Ukraine should actively interact with international partners and attract support to implement its obligations, however, the conflict in Ukraine represents a serious threat to global sustainable development. This crisis has become the biggest humanitarian disaster in Europe in recent decades. It is predicted that the global economic instability will lead to a reduction in the financing of the countries of the world and will significantly affect the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the 17th. In addition, the conflict affects international trade systems through the imposition of sanctions and other negative consequences. Macroeconomic stability suffered from these events, as noted by international organizations (fig.17).

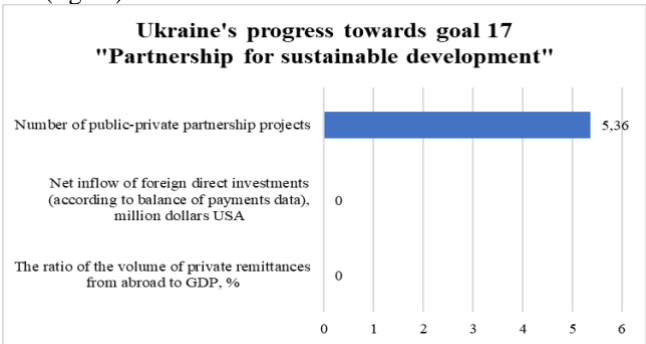


Fig. 17 – Ukraine's progress towards goal 17 «Partnership for sustainable development»

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Ukraine has made progress in achieving some of the sustainable development goals adopted by the UN by 2030. In recent years, some improvements have been made in the areas of poverty, education, health and the environment. In particular, Ukraine is actively developing renewable energy sources, taking steps to improve infrastructure and combat climate change. However, there are important challenges that require attention and decisive action. Among them are the fight against poverty and inequality, improving the quality of education, developing health and medical care, as well as ensuring access to clean water and proper sanitation. One of the biggest achievements was the significant reduction in poverty. Data from the 2021 Voluntary National Survey indicate a decline in the poverty rate from 58.3% in 2015 to 43.2% in 2018. However, these positive trends are currently under threat - UNDP forecasts indicate that if the conflict is extended for another year, up to 90% of the population of Ukraine may find themselves in a situation of poverty or vulnerability to it. In addition, Ukraine has to solve complex tasks in the context of the conflict, which affect peace and stability. An important part of achieving the Global Goals is cooperation with international partners and attracting international support. Ukraine should cooperate with the UN and other international organizations, as well as actively work on domestic policy reforms to ensure sustainable improvement in all spheres of life of the population and the environment.

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