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## **FEATURES OF GUARANTEEING SOCIO-ECONOMIC SECURITY IN UKRAINE**

The current stage of Ukraine's development is characterized by a high level of uncertainty and an increase in systemic risks, which is due to globalization processes, digital transformation and, above all, military aggression by the Russian Federation. In such conditions, the socio-economic security of the state acquires critical importance as the basis of the stability of society and a prerequisite for sustainable development. The exacerbation of socio-economic problems, in particular the growth of poverty, demographic losses, and increased income inequality, indicate the presence of deep imbalances in the functioning of the national economy. The war significantly complicated these processes, causing the destruction of infrastructure, reduction of production, migration processes and a decrease in the standard of living of the population. In this context, there is a need to form a new paradigm for ensuring socio-economic security, focused on the person, his needs and opportunities for self-realization.

The socio-economic security of the state is a complex category that reflects the level of protection of the economic and social interests of society from internal and external threats. It includes such components as the standard of living of the population, the demographic situation, the quality of social services, employment, income of the population and other indicators.

Social security, in turn, is defined as the state of protection of the vital interests of a person, his rights and freedoms, as well as opportunities for self-

realization. [2]. It is the basis of economic stability, as it forms human capital, which is a key factor in economic development. Among the key threats to the socio-economic security of Ukraine, the following can be distinguished: armed aggression and its consequences; demographic crisis; increasing poverty; shadow economy; income inequality; low level of social protection; insufficient development of institutions. Armed aggression of the Russian Federation caused significant losses of human potential, increased internal and external migration, destruction of economic ties, a decrease in the standard of living of Ukrainians, deterioration of the demographic situation, etc. (Fig. 1). This, in turn, negatively affects all components of socio-economic security.

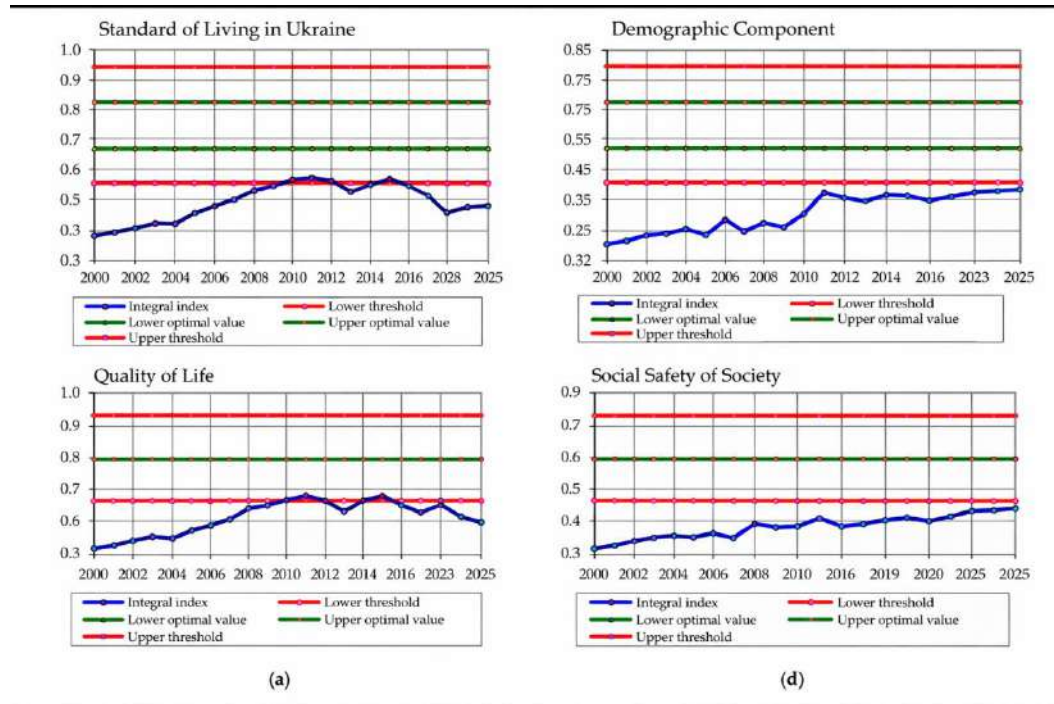


Fig. 1. The dynamics of integral indices encompass the following key aspects: (a) standards of living, (b) demographic trends and factors, (c) quality of life, and (d) the social security and safety of society.

Source: compiled based on [1; 3]

For an objective assessment of the level of socio-economic security, it is

advisable to use integral indices based on a system of indicators. An important element is the determination of threshold values that allow identifying: critical state; crisis state; safe state; optimal state. The concept of a “homeostatic plateau” assumes the existence of an optimal range of indicator values within which the system functions most effectively [1]. Going beyond these limits indicates the emergence of threats and the need for management intervention.

The figure 1 provides a thorough and multidimensional analysis of socio-economic development in Ukraine, structured around four interconnected components: (a) Standard of Living, (b) Demographic Dynamics, (c) Quality of Life, and (d) Social Safety. Each component captures the trends of an integrated index over time, together with thresholds and optimal benchmarks that mark the boundaries for safe, critical, and desirable development levels. This framework facilitates a comprehensive assessment of national resilience, illustrating how each subsystem contributes to the broader framework of socio-economic stability and sustainability.

In Panel (a), the Standard of Living index reveals a trajectory characterized by oscillations within a generally moderate range. Despite some growth phases, the index consistently falls below the lower optimal threshold, indicating that while foundational living conditions are sustained, they remain inadequate to support prolonged socio-economic stability. The observed cyclical pattern of gains followed by declines highlights the system's susceptibility to external shocks and internal vulnerabilities within the economic context. These trends suggest persistent disparities in income levels, consumption capacity, and access to essential services, which collectively hinder the resilience of the socio-economic system to crises.

Panel (b) focuses on the Demographic Component, which exhibits a gradual but persistently low upward trend. The integral index remains considerably below both threshold and optimal levels, reflecting ongoing demographic challenges such

as population shrinkage, aging trends, migration dynamics, and a diminished labor force. Despite minor positive developments in select periods, the overall trajectory underscores a structural fragility in Ukraine's demographic landscape. These limitations present significant barriers to economic expansion and social cohesion, highlighting an urgent need for targeted demographic and labor policies to mitigate risks associated with imbalances in population dynamics.

In Panel (c), the Quality of Life index demonstrates patterns of moderate variability amid intermittent improvements followed by declines. Similar to the Standard of Living component, this index consistently remains below the optimal range, signifying that essential dimensions such as access to healthcare, education quality, environmental sustainability, and fundamental social services remain underdeveloped. Lastly, Panel (d) examines Social Safety structures, which exhibit relatively greater stability compared to the other domains. Nevertheless, this index too lags behind the desired optimal benchmarks. While foundational mechanisms for public welfare and safety are operational, they lack the necessary systemic robustness to support heightened societal resilience against economic and social perturbations.

Taken together, these four components paint a picture of a socio-economic system that operates within a limited growth paradigm. None of these dimensions achieve their optimal potential, underscoring systemic constraints that hinder sustainable development. This calls for an integrated governance approach that prioritizes adaptive strategies to bolster the overall security and resilience of Ukraine's socio-economic infrastructure. The integration of dynamic indices for each sustainable development component, analyzed alongside their corresponding thresholds and deviations from optimal levels, offers valuable benchmarks for advancing sustainable development strategies. The visualization provided in Figure 2, titled "Imbalances in the Components of Ukraine's Social and Economic Security from the Perspective of Sustainable Development," encapsulates temporal

behavioral patterns in key socio-economic indicators. By incorporating historical data alongside forward-looking trends, this framework enables a nuanced understanding of fluctuations in core components of socio-economic security. The graphical trends depict an evolving yet unbalanced system marked by fluctuations that stem from internal structural transformations and external disruptions such as economic crises or geopolitical instabilities. These insights underscore the necessity for a proactive policy design focused on mitigating vulnerabilities and aligning development pathways with long-term sustainability objectives.

Figure 2 highlights the imbalances within Ukraine's socio-economic security through the lens of sustainable development. It combines both historical and forecasted data, typically distinguished by solid and dashed lines, to offer a comparative perspective.

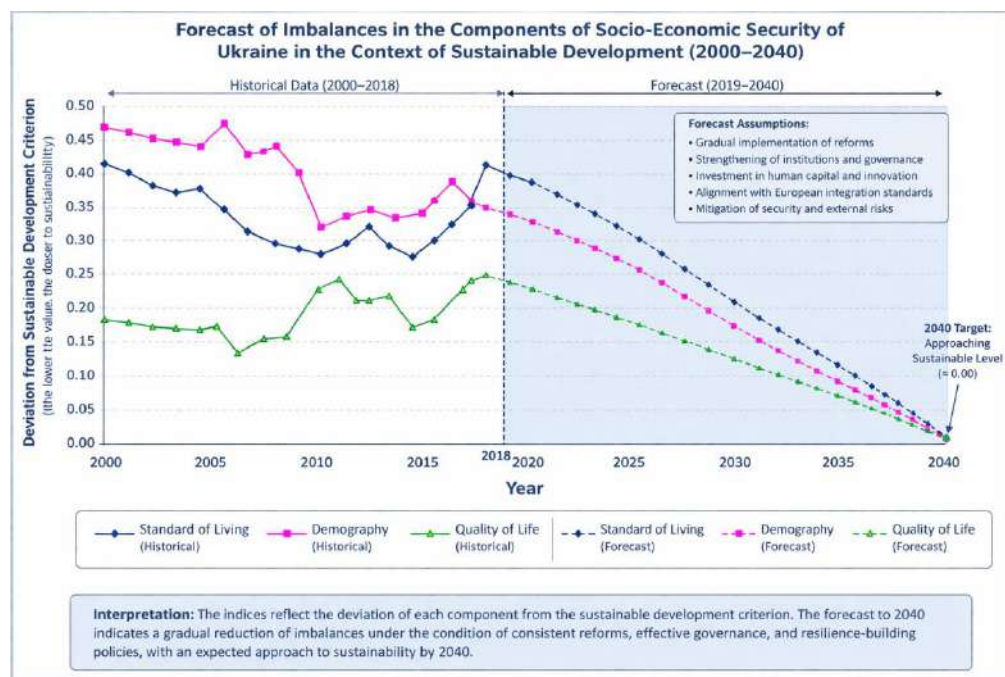


Fig. 2. Imbalances in the components of Ukraine's social and economic security from the perspective of its sustainable development.

Source: compiled based on [1; 3]

The historical trends illustrate real-world fluctuations in socio-economic indicators, showcasing cycles of progress and regression. Meanwhile, the forecasted trajectories suggest a gradual alignment toward more balanced values by 2040, indicating the potential efficacy of sustainable development policies. However, the varying slopes and amplitudes of the curves reveal notable disparities among different components. This suggests that recovery and adaptation are progressing unevenly across various sectors, signaling asymmetries in their respective adjustment processes. The broader insights drawn from this figure underscore the critical need to address systemic imbalances among Ukraine's key socio-economic components to achieve sustainable security. Although the projected trends signal movement in a stabilizing direction, persistent disparities underline the importance of coordinated policy interventions, institutional synergy, and forward-looking strategic planning. The visualization ultimately reinforces that sustainable development extends beyond mere economic growth—it necessitates the harmonization of social and economic factors to build resilience, and inclusivity.

Based on the analysis, the following conclusions have been drawn: 1. Social security plays a pivotal role in the economic stability of the state, directly influencing societal stability, the population's quality of life, and the nation's potential for economic growth. 2. The current state of Ukraine's socio-economic security is marked by systemic imbalances, particularly in living standards, demographic trends, and the quality of social services. These issues are further exacerbated by ongoing military challenges. Employing integral indices and threshold values provides an objective means to evaluate security levels, highlight critical areas, and establish evidence-based recommendations for state policy. 3. Adaptive management models and strategic planning are validated as essential tools for safeguarding socio-economic security. These approaches enable a dynamic response to both external and internal threats while facilitating the

development of effective future scenarios. 4. Sustainable socio-economic development in Ukraine can be achieved only through alleviating the disparities among key components of its social and economic security. This requires executing robust state policies, aligning with European standards, and improving the efficiency of social protection systems for the population.

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