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**NEW FORMS OF URBANIZATION
IN THE POST-PANDEMIC PERIOD**

Abstract

The article considers the current state of urbanization in Kazakhstan, the main trends in the development of urbanization in the world and in the Republic of Kazakhstan in the post-pandemic period are studied. The purpose of the article is to study new forms of urbanization processes in the post-pandemic period. When studying the processes of urbanization in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the world, a set of the following methods of economic research was used: monographic, program-targeted, logical. In the work on the study, such theoretical research methods as comparisons and generalizations, scientific abstraction and synthesis were also used. The negative consequences of quarantine measures taken by the governments of countries to combat the Coronavirus directly affect the economic development of countries and regions, and, accordingly, the development of cities and settlements, that is, urbanization processes. The article notes the instructions of the Head of State K. Tokayev from the Messages to the people of Kazakhstan in 2020, 2021 and 2022 regarding the resolution of various issues of regional policy, administrative-territorial reform and the development of the country's urbanization. It is also noted about a new approach to regional and territorial development, which will allow managing the process of urbanization, ensuring the phased "migration waves", avoiding overcrowding and social tension in large cities. Administrative and territorial changes will optimize the process of public administration, make it easier for citizens to travel to the regional center and back, and will contribute to more effective regulation of internal migration. All these initiatives and proposals of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan will soon give a strong impetus to the development of cities – new regional centers, strengthen their economy and competitiveness, which in turn gives the prospect of a good pace of urbanization growth in Kazakhstan.

Key words: economic development, urbanization, small and medium-sized cities, agglomeration, urban population, competitiveness, post-pandemic period.

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine measures introduced by governments have made significant changes in the development of various processes around the world, including urbanization

processes. Over the past two years, the economies of all countries have felt the negative impact of quarantine measures introduced to combat COVID-19. These negative consequences directly affect the economic development of the regions and the development of cities and settlements, that is, the processes of urbanization. Thus, in connection with restrictive actions in the field of migration processes, restrictions on the movement of the population, staff cuts in the main sectors of the economy that provide a greater share of jobs, the introduction of remote, remote or part-time work and other measures led to a recession in the economy, and as a result slowdown in urbanization.

As an important factor affecting the pace of urbanization, one can also consider the crisis in the construction industry, associated, among other things, with quarantine economic consequences. For example, 5,201 state facilities are currently under construction in Kazakhstan, 2,137 of which are financed from the state budget. At the moment, the construction of 286 state facilities has been suspended, the main reasons for non-fulfillment of obligations by construction companies are economic problems, weather conditions, etc.

Materials and methods

When studying new forms of urbanization processes, a set of the following methods of economic research was used: monographic, program-targeted, logical. In the work on the study, such theoretical research methods as comparisons and generalizations, scientific abstraction and synthesis were also used.

Main provisions

The article discusses the level and state of urbanization in the Republic of Kazakhstan for a given period, studied and summarized recommendations and measures for the development of cities, highlighted the main forms and trends in the flow of urbanization in the post-pandemic period.

The negative consequences of quarantine measures taken by the governments of countries to combat Coronavirus directly affect the economic development of countries and regions, and, accordingly, the development of cities and settlements, that is, the processes of urbanization. In the study on the impact of these consequences, the instructions of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan are mentioned, new approaches of the Kazakh government to regional and territorial development are considered, which will allow managing the process of urbanization, ensuring the phased nature of “migration waves”, avoiding overpopulation and social tension in large cities. As a result, identifies the main forms of urbanization in the post-pandemic period.

Results and discussion

Time has shown that various forecast and planning programs and targets for economic development adopted in the period up to 2020 should now be revised. There is no need to prove that the new revised development documents should take into account extraordinary, including natural, and man-made, and geopolitical events and opportunities.

It should be noted the economic and social effect of the decision of the Government on the early use of pension savings by the population. In addition to the fact that many Kazakhstanis became homeowners or paid off their mortgages, this revived the construction industry and the country's housing market.

In the Message of the Head of State Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev to the people of Kazakhstan dated September 1, 2021 “The unity of the people and systemic reforms are a solid foundation for the country's prosperity” special attention is paid to economic development in the post-pandemic period. The President pointed out the need to develop a law on the development of agglomerations and new standards for the integrated development of cities, which once again shows Kazakhstan's commitment to sustainable urbanization, the development of million-plus cities and cities – regional centers. In the same Message, Tokayev points out the need to solve development problems [1].

On the development of single-industry towns President K.K. Tokayev spoke, back in his Address of September 1, 2020, where he also spoke about a new approach to regional and territorial development, which will allow managing the process of urbanization, ensuring the phased “migration waves”, avoiding overcrowding and social tension in large cities [2].

Of course, it is still too early to draw conclusions about the demographic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, but it is certain that long-term forecasts for the continuation of the global urbanization process will continue. Thus, according to UN experts, in the next decade, the percentage of the urban population will increase from 56.2% in 2020 to 60.4% in 2030 [3].

The President pays special attention to the regional development of the country in the Address “NEW KAZAKHSTAN: THE PATH OF RENEWAL AND MODERNIZATION”, March 16, 2022, which raises the importance of an optimal administrative-territorial structure. In the Message 2022, the initiative of the President was put forward to form new regions in the country – Abay, Ulytau, Zhetysu. Since the time of the unification of the regions in the regions that have lost their regional status, the population has decreased and the quality of life has deteriorated. Administrative and territorial changes will optimize the process of public administration, make it easier for citizens to travel to the regional center and back, and will contribute to more effective regulation of internal migration. The center of the Almaty region will be the city of Kapshagai, the renaming of which to Kunaev also has a special meaning for all Kazakhstanis [4].

All these initiatives and proposals of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan will soon give a strong impetus to the development of cities – new regional centers, strengthen their economy and competitiveness, which in turn gives the prospect of a good pace of urbanization growth in Kazakhstan.

Now the level of urbanization in Kazakhstan is 59.4% higher than the average rate of urbanization in the world (54%).

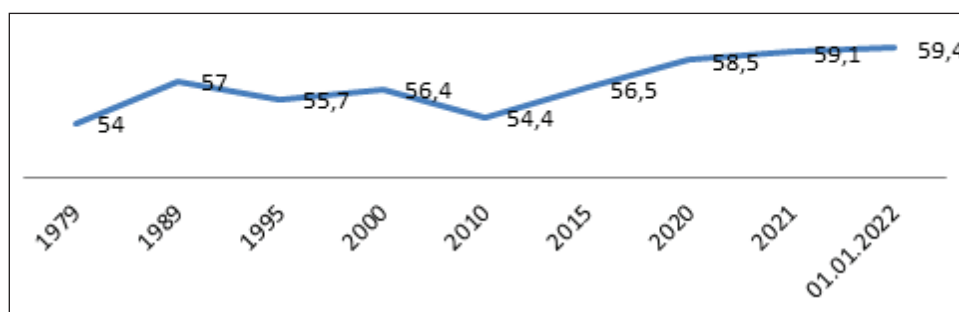


Figure 1 – Dynamics of the level of urbanization in Kazakhstan (%)

Note – Sources [7], [8], [9].

At the moment, Kazakhstan is experiencing a steady growth of the urban population, which shows a good level of urbanization. The urban population will increase annually by an average of 1.51% until 2050, which exceeds the growth rate of the total population. In terms of urban population growth in the context of regions, the regions with developed industry and large industrial potential are leading: Karaganda, Pavlodar, Aktobe [5].

Along with the growth of the level of urbanization in the Republic of Kazakhstan, approaches to city management have also changed. According to UNDP experts in the National Report on Human Development in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2019 “Urbanization as an Accelerator of Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Kazakhstan”, modern cities in Kazakhstan are developing on the basis of equality for all population groups and livability.

There is a gradual transition from the state centralized vertical management system to partnerships between local executive bodies and the urban community. One example of the implementation of inclusive city governance is the pilot projects of city budgeting with popular participation in Nur-Sultan and Almaty. These projects show the effectiveness of involving active citizens in city management [5].

Another development factor was the general introduction of digitalization in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The main areas for the implementation of Smart City standards are security, transport, housing and communal services, education, healthcare and city management.

In the context of supporting small and private entrepreneurship, strengthening ties in the format of “large cities – medium and small cities” can become an important area of urbanization policy. This will not only contribute to solving the country’s demographic and migration problems, but will also create conditions for a qualitatively new and territorially balanced economic growth.

A country’s ability to withstand the challenges of urbanization and successfully implement the models of spatial development discussed above will largely depend on the effectiveness of the

government's policy in the field of urban development. The urbanization policy should be holistic and include measures to create or establish systems for managing cities, city budgets, urban infrastructure, as well as to strengthen human resources and information potential in this area. It is also extremely important to establish a constructive dialogue with other countries on urbanization issues, which will allow taking into account the accumulated positive and negative experience, exchanging ideas, and developing common approaches in the field of urban development [6].

The main areas of activity to improve the system of urban governance should be its further development on the principles of strengthening local self-government and integrating urban communities into decision-making mechanisms and processes.

This, first of all, provides for raising the political status of local authorities and ensuring real decentralization of the management system, which is not limited to the practice of holding one-time elections. Local communities should be able to participate in decisions made by city governments through various means and mechanisms. Residents of cities should be provided with full and timely access to information, events and decisions of local government.

The government needs to reform the budget system in order to adapt them to current challenges and future urban development priorities. Thus, the main trends in the development of modern Kazakhstani cities are:

- ♦ effective integration of physical, digital and human systems to ensure a high quality of life;
- ♦ an integrated approach to the development of infrastructure, office and residential real estate, public spaces. At the same time, the development of urban public spaces has priority over commercial development;
- ♦ development of the economy of events, which allows for the gradual transfer of cities into the space of the post-industrial world [5].

If we talk about global trends in the course of urbanization processes in the post-pandemic period, we can note the following:

- ♦ The health of the population is becoming the main guiding principle in urban planning and management. Since it is overpopulation, and not population density, that is the main factor in the spread of the virus, solving the problem of overpopulation in cities and maintaining an acceptable level of hygiene in public places, places of residence and work, public transport are the main measures to contain the spread of the virus.

- ♦ Introduction of new urban innovations proposed by citizens, the emergence of public open spaces, pedestrian zones, bicycle routes, places for walking closed to vehicles, etc.

- ♦ Compact settlement, without overpopulation. Experience shows that compact settlement has improved the efficiency of service delivery during the Covid-19 pandemic, contributing to economies of scale in the provision of public services and infrastructure.

- ♦ Satisfying the special needs of all groups and strata of the city's population. The benefits of urbanization should be received by all groups of the urban population.

- ♦ Support sustainable consumption, reduce the impact of climate change and ensure inclusive prosperity and opportunity for all. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted normal consumption patterns, reduced air travel, and hampered supply chains, all of which should act to reassess countries' growth and consumption patterns.

- ♦ Greening cities and the environmental value of urbanization for all, the inclusiveness of settlements.

- ♦ Prioritization of the needs of the most vulnerable groups of the population. Means creating opportunities for representing their views and interests and prioritizing consideration of their needs and making decisions on any issues.

- ♦ Social value of urbanization. Transition from solving problems of equality of opportunity to solving problems of equitable distribution of opportunities. The redistribution mechanisms are designed to equitably and more effectively use resources, skills and opportunities, with a focus on providing the most vulnerable in society with the highest level of support. This applies to the provision of housing, education, transport or other municipal services.

- ♦ Accounting for gender inequality in the implementation of policies at the city level. It implies taking into account the gender dimension in all decisions in the public sphere, planning and management.

- ♦ Development of a concept for the integration of migrants. Migrants can be an integral part of the socio-economic development of the city. This requires the implementation of effective integration programs in the form of housing, employment, education and health, safety and security, social support and the creation of a sense of belonging to the local community among migrants.

- ♦ Innovations and technologies in city management. Technological breakthroughs and new ways of managing cities are an important factor in dynamic urbanization, they lead to a rethinking of social relationships, the labor market and leadership practices.

- ♦ The main task of the smart city concept is to focus on the needs of people. Residents of the city are the main consumers and a significant resource of the city. Technology-based smart city initiatives must be people-centered and people-driven. – Use and build-up of scientific potential by local authorities in the field of effective management, implementation and regulation of the use of technologies.

- ♦ Creation of a favorable institutional environment for the effective realization of the potential of urbanization. Decentralization of power gives more opportunities to local authorities to implement sustainable development policies, adequate funding for investing in the development of the city.

- ♦ Accurate assessment of financial needs for urban investment. Needs and funding sources may vary from country to country.

- ♦ Stable diversified funding sources, improved revenue generating opportunities, innovative funding mechanisms and instruments. Local authorities should use the full potential of the city to find innovative solutions to increase and diversify their own sources of income.

- ♦ Using the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity to introduce the latest and necessary measures for renewal. The pandemic has brought to light the old problems of urban settlements, the need to maintain public health, hygiene and sanitation, highlights the need to eradicate the urban poor and improve housing and infrastructure [3].

Conclusion

Effective management of urbanization processes requires political and economic instruments and mechanisms, including important bridging institutions to manage demand for land, investment in infrastructure to connect certain areas, and improve the effectiveness of targeted government intervention

Of great importance in this regard is the renewal of the system of urban management, planning and institutions. Despite decentralization, municipal authorities need to be given appropriate support, incl. budget. It is important to move to a new vision and planning principles, getting rid of the traditional practice of master plans.

Urbanization policy should also be oriented towards achieving sustainable development, which includes expanding economic opportunities, reducing inequality and poverty, and ensuring environmental sustainability. In general, the transformation of the role and economic potential of cities requires a holistic strategy.

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ПАНДЕМИЯДАН КЕЙІНГІ КЕЗЕҢДЕГІ УРБАНИЗАЦИЯНЫҢ ЖАҢА ФОРМАЛАРЫ

Андатпа

Мақалада Қазақстандағы урбанизацияның қазіргі жағдайы қарастырылып, әлемде және Қазақстан Республикасындағы урбанизацияның постпандемиядан кейінгі кезеңдегі негізгі даму тенденциялары зерттелген. Мақаланың мақсаты – пандемиядан кейінгі кезеңдегі урбанизация процестерінің жаңа формаларын зерттеу. Қазақстан Республикасындағы және дүние жүзіндегі урбанизация процестерін зерттеу кезінде экономикалық зерттеудің келесі әдістерінің кешені пайдаланылды: монографиялық, бағдарламалық-мақсаттық, логикалық. Зерттеу жұмысында салыстыру мен жалпылау, ғылыми абстракция және синтез сияқты теориялық зерттеу әдістері де қолданылды. Коронавируспен күресу үшін елдердің үкіметтері қабылдаған карантиндік

шаралардың жағымсыз салдары елдер мен аймақтардың экономикалық дамуына, сәйкесінше қалалар мен елді мекендердің дамуына, яғни урбанизация процестеріне тікелей әсер етеді. Мақалада мемлекет Басшысы Қ.Тоқаевтың 2020, 2021 және 2022 жж. арналған Қазақстан халқына Жолдауларындағы өңірлік саясаттың түрлі мәселелерін шешу, әкімшілік-аумақтық реформа және елдің урбанизациясын дамытуға қатысты тапсырмалары мен жарлықтары атап көрсетілген. Сондай-ақ, урбанизация процесін басқаруға, «көші-қон толқындарын» кезең-кезеңімен қамтамасыз етуге, ірі қалалардағы толып кетуді және әлеуметтік шиеленісті болдырмауға мүмкіндік беретін өңірлік және аумақтық дамуға жаңа көзқарас туралы атап өтілді. Әкімшілік-аумақтық өзгерістер мемлекеттік басқару үдерісін оңтайландырып, азаматтардың облыс орталығына және кері қатынауын жеңілдетеді, ішкі көші-қонды тиімді реттеуге ықпал етеді. Қазақстан Республикасы Президентінің осы бастамалары мен ұсыныстарының барлығы жақын арада қалалардың – жаңа облыс орталықтарының дамуына күшті серпін береді, олардың экономикасы мен бәсекеге қабілеттілігін нығайтады, бұл өз кезегінде Қазақстандағы урбанизацияның жақсы қарқынын қамтамасыз етеді.

Тірек сөздер: экономикалық даму, урбандалу, шағын және орта қалалар, агломерация, қала халқы, бәсекеге қабілеттілік, пандемиядан кейінгі кезең.

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НОВЫЕ ФОРМЫ ПРОТЕКАНИЯ ПРОЦЕССОВ УРБАНИЗАЦИИ В ПОСТПАНДЕМИЙНЫЙ ПЕРИОД

Аннотация

В статье рассмотрено современное состояние урбанизации в Казахстане, изучены основные тенденции развития урбанизации в мире и Республике Казахстан в постпандемийный период. Целью статьи является изучение новых форм протекания процессов урбанизации в постпандемийный период. При изучении процессов урбанизации в РК и мире применялся комплекс следующих методов экономических исследований: монографический, программно-целевой, логический. В работе над исследованием были использованы такие теоретические методы исследования, как сравнение и обобщение, научная абстракция, синтез. Негативные последствия карантинных мер, предпринятых правительствами стран для борьбы с коронавирусом, напрямую воздействуют на экономическое развитие стран и регионов и, соответственно, развитие городов и поселений, то есть процессов урбанизации. В статье отмечаются поручения и указы Главы государства К. Токаева из Посланий народу Казахстана 2020, 2021 и 2022 гг., касающиеся решений различных вопросов региональной политики, административно-территориальной реформы и развития урбанизации страны. Также отмечается новый подход к региональному и территориальному развитию, который позволит управлять процессом урбанизации, обеспечить поэтапность «миграционных волн», избежать перенаселенности и социальной напряженности в крупных городах. Административно-территориальные изменения оптимизируют процесс государственного управления, упростят гражданам проезд до областного центра и обратно, будут способствовать более эффективному регулированию внутренней миграции. Все эти инициативы и предложения Президента РК дадут в скором времени сильнейший толчок развитию городов – новых областных центров, укрепят их экономику и конкурентоспособность, что, в свою очередь, даст перспективу хорошему темпу роста урбанизации в Казахстане.

Ключевые слова: экономическое развитие, урбанизация, малые и средние города, агломерация, городское население, конкурентоспособность, постпандемийный период.