An extended abstract of the paper:

COMPETENCE OF COMMUNITIES IN TERMS OF THEORETICAL AND APPLIED IDENTIFICATION

In the article the configuration of territorial community capacity was substantiated in terms of theoretical and applied identification, its components were clarified, and their ratio was outlined. Internal and external capacity of the community was determined, the main components of each part were described.

**Keywords:** community, capability, configuration, internal capacity, external capacity

**Problem setting.** The concept of the reform of the local government and territorial organization of power in Ukraine, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in April 2014, is aimed at strengthening the legal, organizational and financial capacity of the local communities. However, most of the newly formed united communities are still receiving subsidies from the state budget, i.e. are unable to solve local issues independently. This indicates the problem of ensuring the capacity of communities and actualizes the research.

**Recent research and publications analysis.** In recent years the cornerstone concept is the ability of local communities, which is outlined in almost all the documents related to decentralization and local government reformation. The majority of publications related to this subject are mainly devoted to the financial functioning of communities, as well as to the legal capacity of communities. However, the complex studies of the capacity of local communities in the context of scientific discourse haven’t been conducted yet.
Paper objective is to determine the configuration of the concept of “the capacity of local communities” from the perspective of its theoretical and applied identification.

Paper main body. The methodology of forming capable communities approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on April 8th, 2015 no.214 (with amendments) defines as capable those “territorial communities of villages (towns, cities) which, as a result of voluntary union, are able on their own or through the respective local authorities to ensure appropriate level of service, particularly in education, culture, health, social security, housing and communal services, taking into account human resources, financial support and infrastructure of an administrative territorial unit”.

In semantic terms the ability of the community is indeed the ability to perform the functions assigned by the law directly to the community and local governments to ensure its vitality and development. But from a scientific point of view it needs to be clarified from where exactly this ability is formed; identified the factors that affect it; justifies its content etc.

Thus, the fundamental concept should consist of setting the adequate tasks and finding the opportunities of their implementation, based on the potential of a particular community as a complex of resources. It should be noted that the potential of the community in this context should be investigated in two aspects: 1) from the perspective of forming the potential – available sources and perspectives ways of their utilization; 2) from the perspective of existing powers that could manage all kinds of community resources. In other words, the ability of the community depends not only on the quantity and quality of resources that it possesses (internal factors), but, to the same extend, on the limits of allocation rights – narrow or wide (external factors). Therefore, the configuration of the community ability can be presented in a synthesized form of internal and external capacity, outlining their components and determining the interrelation between them.

Internal ability is represented by territorial communities and includes the following components: legal, material and ecological, organizational, economic, investment, financial, infrastructural, social, and public.
External ability is actually a reflection of government policy regarding the local communities, the ratio of centralization and decentralization, economic and social development of the country, contentment and balance of the state budget, the overall level of civil society. External ability of the community has the following components: legislative, political, administrative, territorial, macroeconomic, financial (public), municipal, societal.

The impact of external components for internal ability of communities, which turns out to be significant very often, can be both positive and negative.

Conclusions of the research and prospects for further surveys. Decision on the communities uniting process must be preceded by a comprehensive assessment of the potential members of the communities by comparing the components of their internal abilities. An important role in this state should be played by a formal institution that regulates the social relations by issuing law acts that are obligatory for all the parties. This synergy of interaction between state and society makes it possible to provide the real ability of local communities. In this regard, further research should be conducted to improve the mechanisms of interaction between state and society in respect of ensuring the ability of communities to resolve the local issues.