



SECURITY PASSPORT OF UKRAINE - 2019: RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2020

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GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project "Security Passport of Ukraine 2019: regional and national dimensions" is a continuation of the initiative launched in 2017 by the international organization "Center for International Security" and the National Institute for Strategic Studies with the support of the NATO Information and Documentation Centre in Ukraine. Also, the official partners – Ministry for Veterans Affairs, Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Institute for the Advanced Training of Workers of Television, Radio and Press were involved to the project activities. The aim of the project is studying security situation in different regions of Ukraine, creating a risk map for each of them based upon information received, and developing recommendations for an adequate response to current threats.

During the implementation of the project, an expert group has already researched the situation in 16 regions of Ukraine. In 2019, the study was conducted in Mykolaiv, Volyn, Sumy, Chernivtsi, Donetsk and Luhansk regions (in the latter two cases, a restudy of the situation was made to compare with the results of 2017 and 2018).

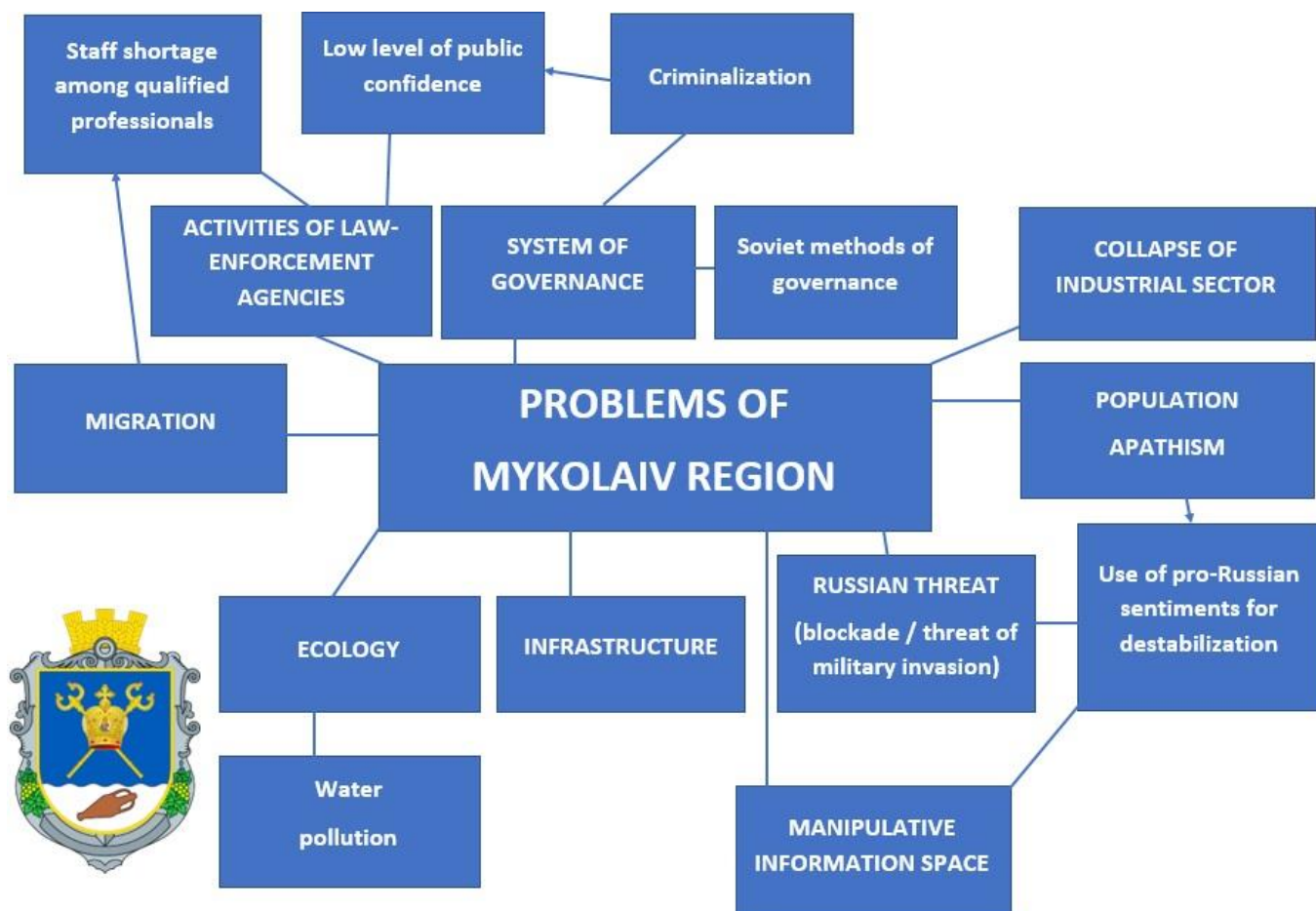
The fieldwork stage included quantitative and qualitative sociological research (employing a questionnaire and focus groups with experts). The sampling quota was based upon sex and age, and was targeted at key informants within the population of the regions in which the research was conducted, including representatives of law enforcement agencies, the civil service, civil society and the education sector. In total, 1058 questionnaires were processed. The organization that implemented the survey is the Center for Applied Research (<https://cpd.com.ua>).

Following the regional stages, roundtable discussions were organized also with representatives of local authorities, law enforcement agencies and public activists.

The regional security passports of Ukraine were developed on the basis of the Global Peace Index (GPI), revised and adapted by experts of the Center for International Security and the Center for Applied Sciences. As a result, a qualitatively new formula for assessing the security situation in certain territories was created, based upon 12 quantitative and 34 qualitative indices, which provided an objective view on the situation.

MYKOLAIV AND MYKOLAIV REGION

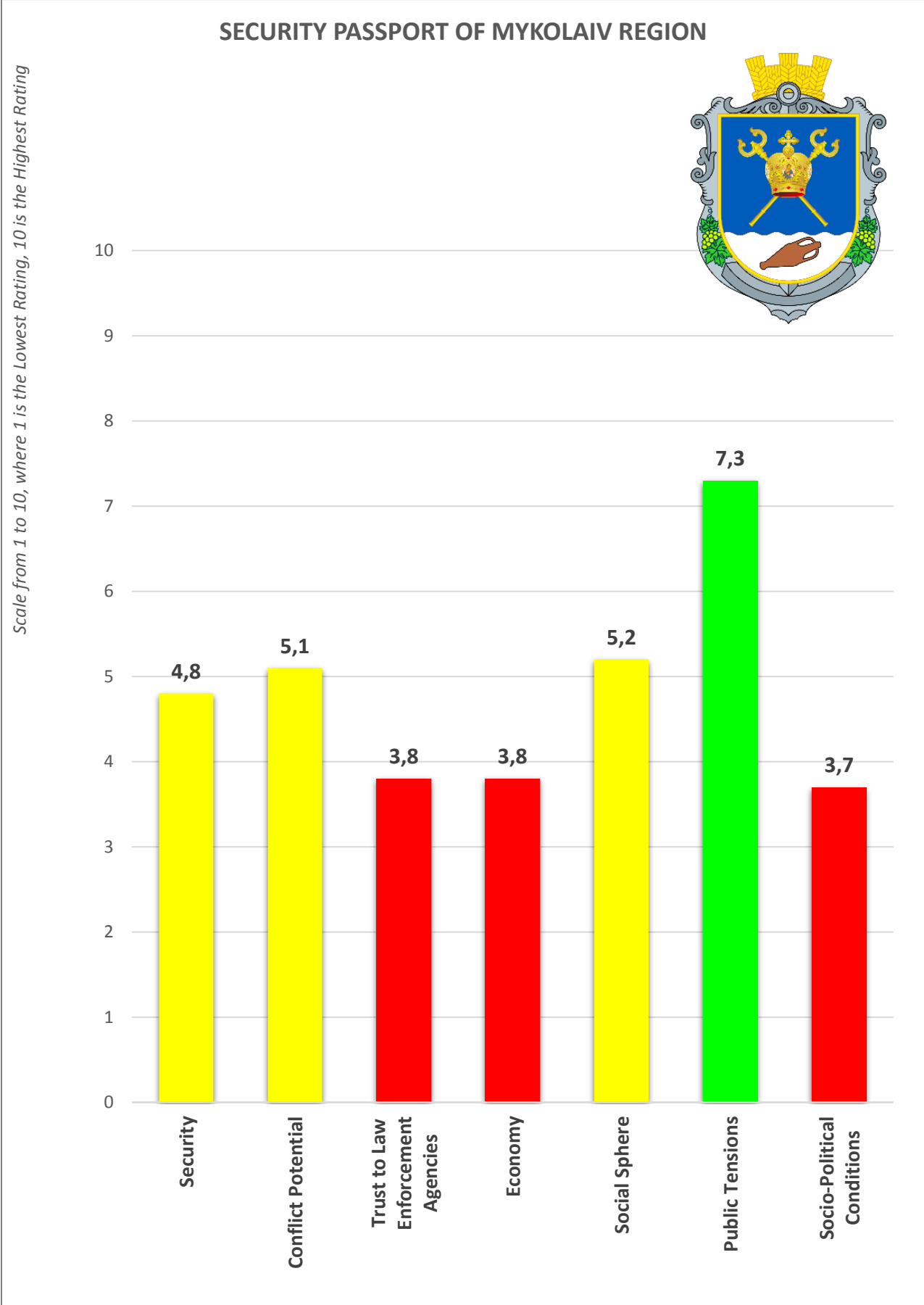
Mykolaiv Oblast is a region in southern Ukraine. The region is traditionally characterized by relatively popular pro-Russian orientation, Soviet ideology and values, weak sense of Ukrainian identity. Economically Mykolaiv Oblast is an agrarian region, but some cities depend on other industries (Mykolaiv is characterized by a high level of shipbuilding development; Yuzhnoukrainsk is built to service an NPP).



Mykolaiv has the following challenges to its security:

- **Migration.** Labor migration of Ukrainian citizens from the Mykolaiv region results from decline of industrial production, namely shipbuilding industry, which accounts for 50-55% of jobs. According to statistics, 39% of respondents wish to go to work abroad or already have gone. Unskilled workers mainly migrate to Poland and the skilled ones migrate to Germany and China. The Okean (Ocean) Shipyard (Mykolaiv shipbuilding plant) was one of the main employers in its sphere. It went bankrupt in 2013 as a result of deliberate actions of its owners. That fact increased staff shortage among qualified workers of the region.

- **Infrastructure.** The state of infrastructure is poor in comparison with neighboring regions. However, current initiatives to develop the international airport in Mykolaiv are criticized. The people are concerned about disastrous state of the regional transport infrastructure and roads in the city, which is the transport hub of the region. Apart from that, the issue of stable connection of the region with other Ukrainian regions is unresolved. The problem is more complicated because lack of resources and bureaucratization continue to hinder further development of infrastructure.
- **System of governance in the region.** There is a lack of cooperation and communication between the regional public administration and the local authority. The administration does not convene sessions in the cities of the region. The regional public administration is in conflict with mayor's office of Mykolaiv over land ownership and budget (30% of respondents say political problems are the most common in the region). In addition, the population is concerned about the convergence of former local authorities with criminality.
- **Manipulative information space.** A considerable part of the region's population is Russian speakers with Russian origin and is vulnerable to pro-Russian propaganda given the widespread access to the Russian information space in the region. According to the survey, 51% of the population considers the prohibition of Russian TV channels and social networks in Ukraine to be a mistake, which only leads to citizens' rights restriction. According to this, the potential risk in the region remains the proliferation of pro-Russian sentiments among the population, which can be used by interested political forces and used for socio-political destabilization.
- **Environment.** Water pollution is one of the biggest problems of the region. Due to the absence of water treatment facilities in Pervomaisk, there is an unnatural color of water. A task to create the regional plan for recycling was set till the end of 2020. However the problem remains relevant because of the lack of financing on implementation. Since 1993 there has been an initiative to build a garbage recycling plant, but no practical measures have been taken by authorities yet.



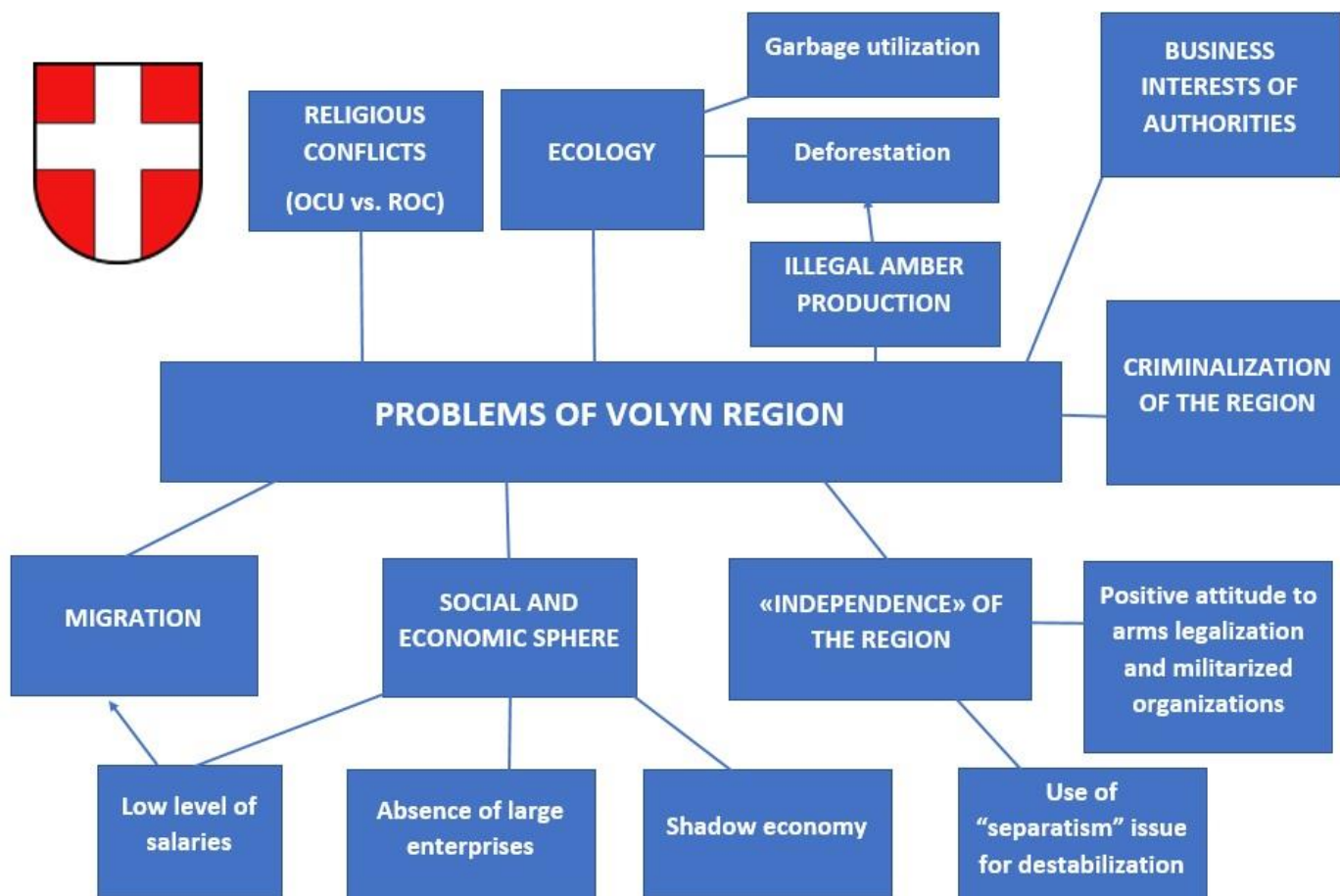
RECOMMENDATIONS:

In order to improve the security situation in Mykolaiv region it is proposed to:

- Increase the number of jobs by reviving the region`s shipbuilding field, which would reduce migration of qualified specialists.
- Conduct transparent investigation of the activities of the former owners of the plant “Ocean” and ensure just competition for its purchase, which would be an essential prerequisite for further creation of job opportunities in the region.
- Restore and develop the region`s transport infrastructure include the repair and maintenance of roads, further development of air connection between regional centers and the engagement of low-cost companies.
- Organize on a regular basis field meetings of Regional State Administration in the cities of the region in order to increase the effectiveness of interaction between the regional administration and local authorities.
- Increase the funding of local TV channels and other mass media outlets within the target program to spread Ukrainian content.
- Put the issue of water treatment facilities on the Regional State Administration`s agenda and provide proper funding thereto.
- Request the Ministry of Energy and Environmental Protection, the specialized international organizations as well as environmental Ukrainian and foreign NGOs to engage their experts in the theoretical elaboration of the regional plan for waste management. Following the theoretical part consider applying for grants to practically fulfil the plan.
- Allocate the appropriate site for the construction of the garbage recycling plant and hold competition among the potential investors.

LUTSK AND VOLYN REGION

Volyn region is a northwestern frontier region of Ukraine bordering Belarus and Poland. The agrarian sector is a leading sector of the economy, and the region has high recreational potential.



The main challenges of the region are the following:

- **Religious tensions.** They are manifested in the opposition to the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate. The religious issue is one of the concerns of the population. According to the survey, 38% of the population recognizes the existence of religious problems. Religious tensions often grow into an information conflict that undermines the national security of the state.
- **Economic problems.** The low level of wages is due to the absence of large enterprises, on the one hand, and the predominance of informal employment - on the other. The problems are compounded by the fact that the budget of Lutsk City Council is not sufficiently filled due to the practice of business registration in other regions. There are also barriers to investment in the region.
- **Migration.** Due to its borderline location and high unemployment, the region is

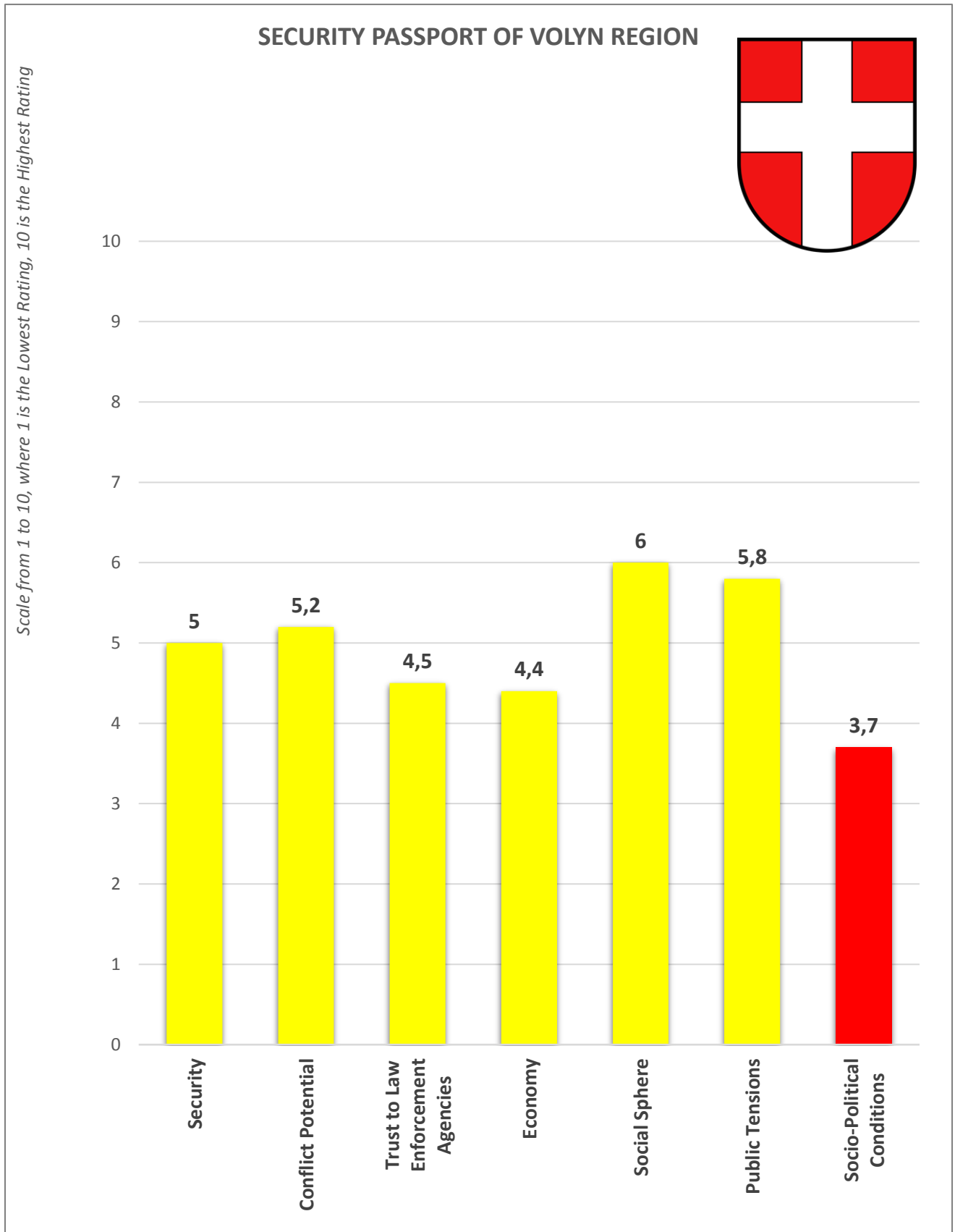
characterized by a negative migration balance. The outflow of young people to neighboring Poland is observed due to the unattractiveness of higher education institutions. The Polish nationality of many residents of Volyn region makes it easier for them to go to permanent residence within the framework of the Polish national program "*Karta Polaka*" (**Polish Card**).

- **"Independence" of the region.** According to sociology data, the problem of separatism for Volyn in comparison with other western regions is significant. About 14% of respondents in the region see the prerequisites for implementing the "LNR" and "DNR" scenario. This is facilitated by the geographical position, which forms an independent self-identification, equidistant from the centers (Kyiv, Lviv). 7 of the 40 separatist cases in Ukraine relate to the region. This problem is exacerbated by the use by some groups of the issue of "separatism" to destabilize the region, as well as the positive attitude of the population towards the legalization of weapons.
- **Environmental problems.** About half of the population negatively assesses the state of the environment. The region has the following environmental threats: air pollution through industrial wastes, natural landfills, problem of garbage sorting. The situation is worsening due to the low level of environmental education of the population. Illegal deforestation, which is often caused by illegal amber production, is also a major problem.

The Lutsk City Council places the main responsibility for emissions and sustainable stench on the Gnidavsk Sugar Factory. The City Council has withdrawn responsibility for this problem, as the plant is registered outside Lutsk. However, there is an alternative view that the factory bears no real blame for the pollution. It is currently fighting for it as a source of tax revenue between the city government and the local government where it is registered. Therefore, accusations against the enterprise may be an element of it.

In recent years, there has been a significant shallowing of Shatsk lakes, especially lake Svitiaz. It is not possible to determine the exact cause of this process, but the most likely version is considered to be the construction of the Chostyslavskiy quarry in the territory of neighboring Belarus.

- **Criminalization of the region.** The main threat of criminogenic character in Volyn is drug trafficking. The increase in the number of drug addicts on the street affects the sense of personal safety of the population and its level of trust in law enforcement agencies. It is worth noting that in the mining district of Novovolynsk, drug trafficking has led to high rates of AIDS.



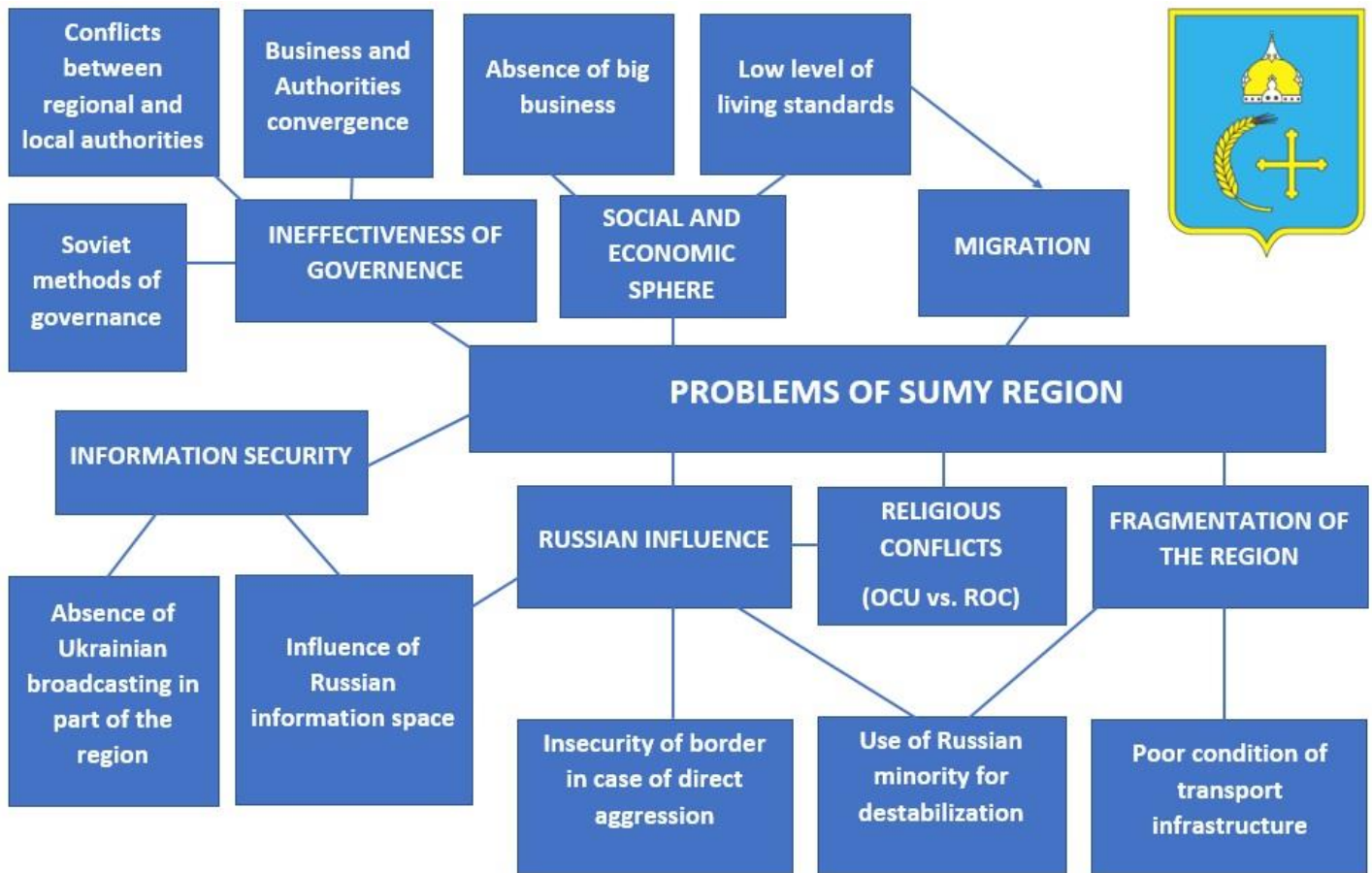
RECOMMENDATIONS:

For solving current problems in the region it is recommended to:

- Conduct an information campaign on religious tolerance. The purpose of this campaign is to prevent the deepening of the religious hatred.
- Hold Investment forums with participation of both Ukrainian and foreign businesses to increase the investment attractiveness of the region and to create large enterprises. This, in turn, will increase official business activity and raise the average wage in the region.
- Promote the practice of social entrepreneurship, which will potentially provide access to work for vulnerable sections of the population (such as ATO veterans) and, accordingly, increase the number of jobs.
- Establish partnerships with universities of neighboring countries and introduce the practice of double diplomas for students to increase the attractiveness of higher education in the region. An increase in jobs will therefore reduce labor migration.
- Effectively control the illegal arms trafficking in the region and to take measures aimed at increasing public confidence in law enforcement agencies.
- Strengthen the use of “soft power” among the local population by promoting patriotic and European values, the idea of the unity of the country through informative, entertaining, cultural events both for the general public and for specific audiences.
- Initiate an independent investigation into the causes of the emissions and stink associated with the Gnidavsk Sugar Factory and take appropriate action.
- Increase the level of environmental awareness among the population and initiate the establishment of sorting stations; to resume discussions on the construction of a waste recycling plant.
- Initiate cross-border cooperation and exchange of information in the field of ecology with the Belarusian side.
- Develop at the legislative level clear mechanisms for the legalization of amber production and deforestation, licensing; increase the level of responsibility and punishment for illegal activity.

SUMY AND SUMY REGION

The Sumy Oblast is a frontier region with huge untapped industrial capacity. It is fragmented historically and ethnically.



The following threats are common for this Oblast:

- **Russian threat.** The Oblast is located on border with the Russian Federation that adds risk of danger in case of escalation of armed conflict. The problem of civil protection is also an issue, as the system of threat warning is insufficiently developed. Defense buildings and protective shelters are in poor condition. Furthermore, the operational readiness of frontier buildings on the Russian-Ukrainian border was only about 30% in 2019.

The geographical and mental closeness to Russia promotes sympathy of the population to Russian retirement benefits, prices, transport infrastructure etc. However, separatism problems in the region in general are not notable. Only 18% of the population considers that there are prerequisites for the “DNR/LNR”-scenario. There are claims made to the regional authorities about the inactivity in the field of neutralizing the Russian influence in the region. Decentralization processes deteriorate problems even more: when creating

amalgamated hromadas, the pro-Russian forces control authority bodies in some of the newly formed territorial unities (the results of the parliamentary election in single-mandate districts prove this fact).

- **Information security.** In some cities and villages of the region there is no coverage of the national television broadcasting or there is a poor one. Thus, the population receives information from local channels. Such situation provokes increase in demand for content of the Russian media, which is available and popular in the border area.
- **Ecological problems.** Not the whole population observes existing ecological problems. According to research, only 27% of respondents assessed the ecological situation negatively. This issue is generally connected to two problems. The first one is river and atmospheric pollution (by the industrial plant “Guala Closures Ukraine LLC”). The second one is a lack of possibilities to recycle pesticides. On the one hand, there are no enterprises that could solve that problem. On the other hand, the local authority does not support the development of a regional plan for utilization.
- **The inefficiency of authority bodies.** The local regional government consists of medium-sized businessmen who do not enjoy high public confidence. The locals are concerned about promoting big business of their interests through arrangements with city officials. Instead, small businesses and ordinary citizens do not get into the city government. Fight against corruption and investigations of financial crimes are ineffective, though there is enough budgeting.

There is a conflict of interest between the local and regional authorities, demonstrating the tendency towards deterioration. The reason is the insufficient cooperation between the mayor of Sumy and the Regional State Administration. Projects on digitalization are realized in the region, but only through pressures on the government from public activists and NGOs. Consequently, the majority of population (about 70%) trusts public activists, while the trust to local authority bodies is estimated at 2.6 points out of 10.

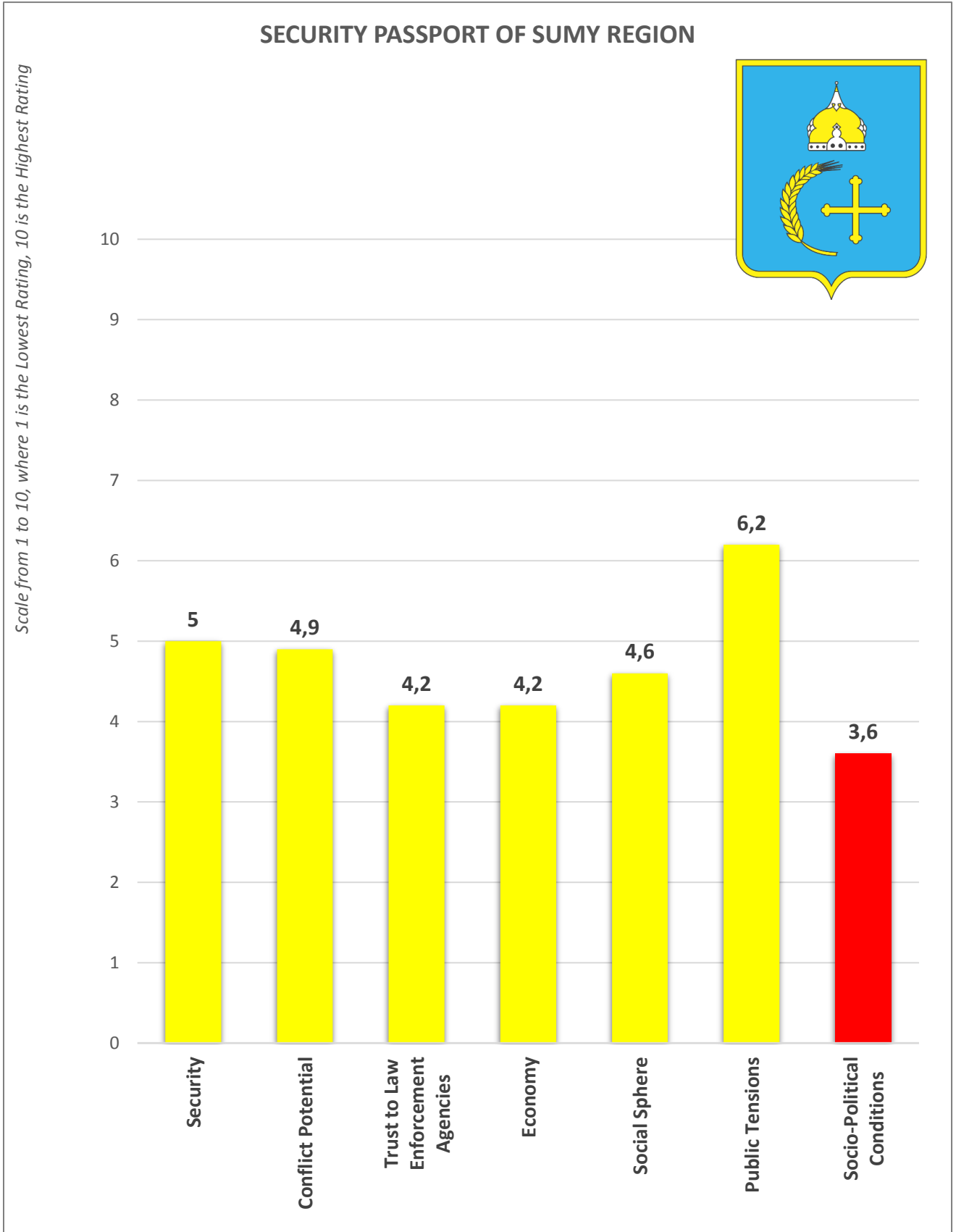
- **Religious conflicts.** There are some conflicts based on the divergence of religious views in the region, there is a conflict between the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and the Russian Orthodox Church. The especial influence of the Moscow Patriarchate is observed, therefore the vast majority of Sumy inhabitants do not move willingly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

Escalation of the conflict occurs due to confrontational position of Moscow Patriarchate (refuse to perform a funeral service over the lost soldiers of the Anti-Terrorist Operation). At the same time, according to sociological surveys, only 17% of Sumy Oblast's population perceives religious conflict as a problem of their region, proving that citizens are not almost interested in religious issues.

- **Economic conditions.** Sumy Oblast does not have a huge amount of big enterprises, industry works ineffectively. There are oil and gas fields in the Oblast, but their exploitation is limited either. The basic means of production in almost all industries represented in the city of Sumy are worn out on average by 60% and more.

Investment and innovation activity is not a strength area of Sumy (according to assessments of different rating groups, Sumy is among the group of cities with average investment attractiveness). The dynamics of the infrastructure in Sumy is generally assessed as positive. However, the problem of the low quality of roads and poor condition of the city transport, connected to corruption, as well as poor condition of Sumy airport, remains unsolved.

- **Migration.** The problem of migrations remains topical for the region. 63% of surveyed Sumy residents are going to work abroad or already have such experience. Even though the migration to Russia has weakened, it has not totally disappeared: Sumy residents go to work not just to Moscow, but also to other regional centers like Rostov, Belgorod. Western direction has become more popular within the last years: locals usually go to work to Poland or Czech in the form of “commuting”. What is more, there is a problem with youth migration in the region; after school, young people study in Kyiv or abroad. Under these conditions, the problem of a shortage of specialists of certain professions (teachers, doctors) becomes characteristic for the remote settlements of the region.



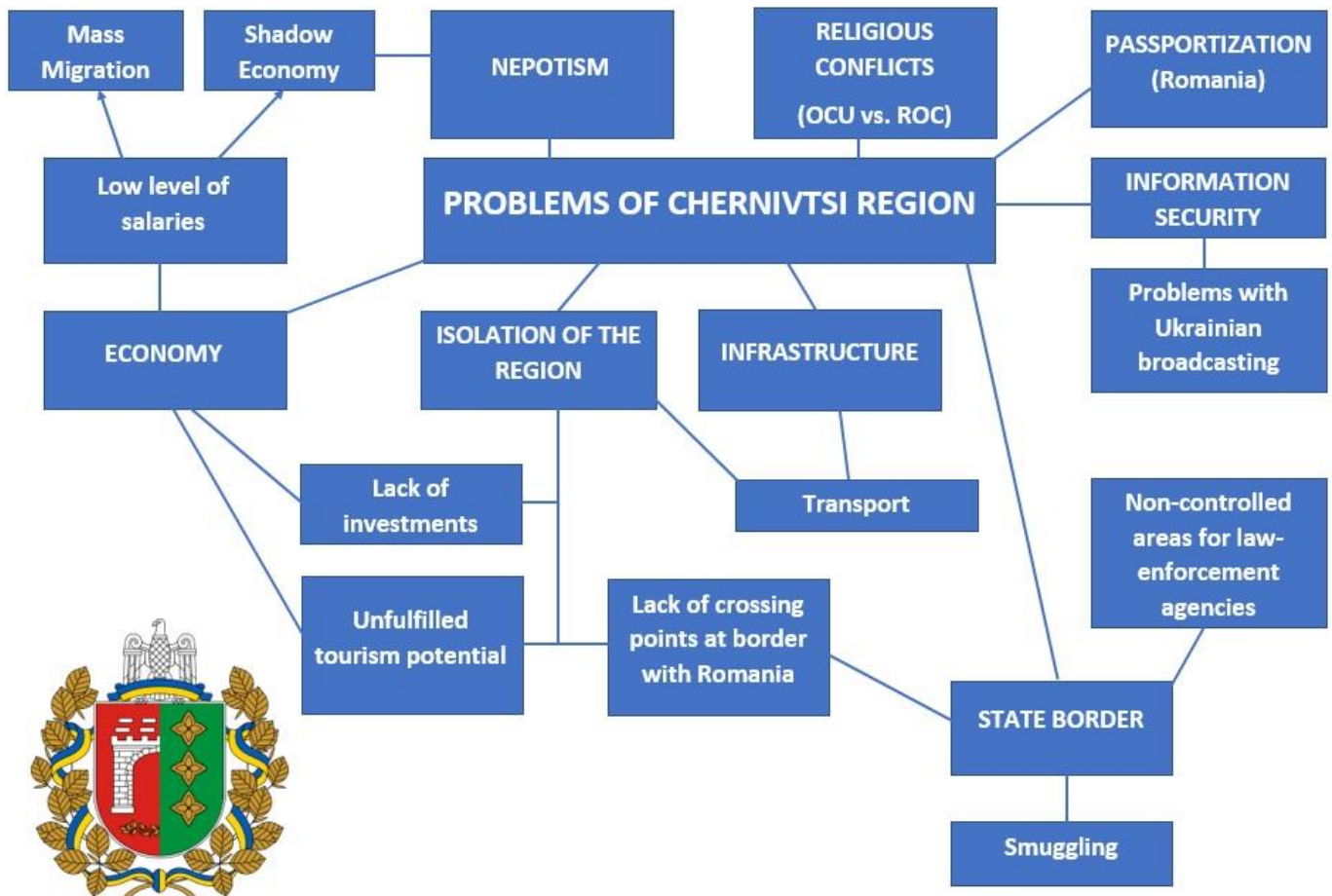
RECOMMENDATIONS:

To improve the security climate of the Sumy Oblast and neutralize the negative influence of certain factors on its development, we proposed to:

- Modernize the protective shelters for civilians in the event of an escalation of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.
- Provide transparent and urgent realization of the project of arrangement and strengthening of the state border with the Russian Federation, avoid inefficient distribution of funds and control their expenditure.
- Provide full coverage of Ukrainian television broadcasting in the region;
- Conduct an educational process on ecology, media campaigns to inform about the existing problems and possible ways of their resolving.
- Investigate the negative impact of local businesses on the region's environment.
- Promote the idea of developing a single regional strategy to combat the environmental threat.
- Arrange public events to propagate a tolerant attitude to all religions and religious groups.
- Engage public activists and representatives of NGOs in cooperation with the local authority.
- Put on the agenda the question of renovating the public transport in Sumy.
- Establish a commission to monitor the repair process of the Sumy airport specified in the State Target Program for the Development of Ukrainian Airports.
- Raise the prestige of regional universities through implementing a larger number of academic mobility programs, double diplomas, etc., to reduce the level of migration among young people.

CHERNIVTSI AND CHERNIVTSI REGION

Chernivtsi region is a multi-ethnic agrarian border region, far removed from the traditional state centers (Kyiv, Lviv), which has considerable unrealized tourist potential.



It is characterized by the following problems:

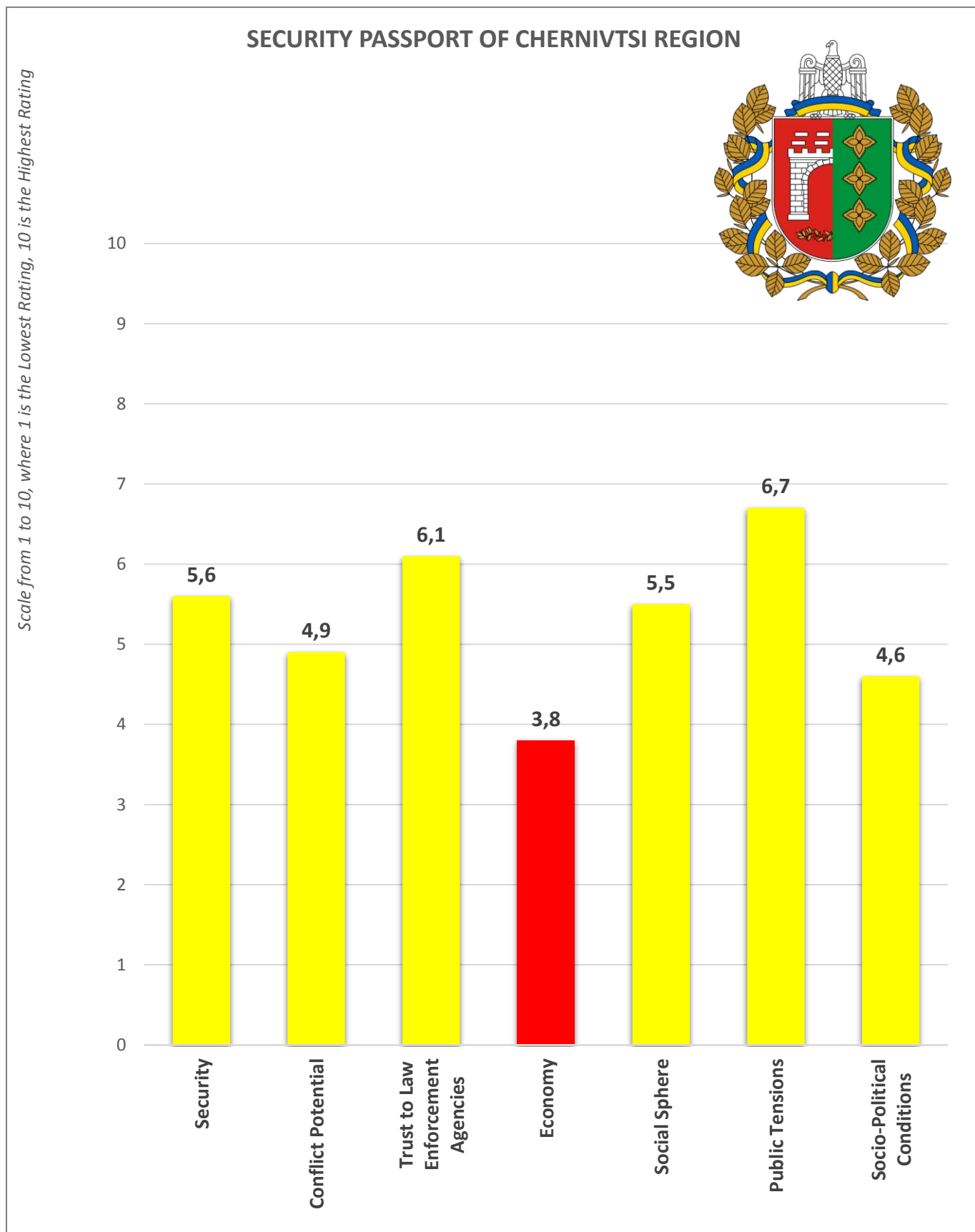
- **Smuggling and insufficient control of borders.** Some regions of a border-zone of the Chernivtsi region are characterized by the problem of the actual uncontrolled part of these territories of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies due to the lack of quality road traffic. These territories are under the influence of the local groups which are engaged in smuggling. The lack of the state control of them creates threat for the whole region. Smuggled goods, mainly tobacco products, come from both Romania and Moldova. The problem is aggravated by the lack of a sufficient number of official crossing points, especially at the Ukrainian-Romanian border. Ukraine has declared its intention to increase the number of check points and modernize existing ones, but nothing has been done in practice. Instead of the eight upgraded crossing points that were planned to be established in cooperation with the EU, only two have been completed by 75%.

- **Migration.** The issue of low average wages leads to an outflow of staff abroad, however, the problem of labor migration is not so crucial for Chernivtsi region, since people return and invest their earnings in the region, setting up small or medium-sized business enterprises. The mass departure of young people is not connected with educational purposes.
- **Transport infrastructure.** The region has significant transit potential, but it is difficult to reach the region from other parts of Ukraine. Border status has not been fully implemented due to a limited number of crossing points at the border.
- **Lack of investment and unfulfilled tourism potential.** A local government pays little attention to the region because of poor economic performance. There is no prospect of investing in the region and therefore investment attractiveness is reduced, which in turn affects the unrealized tourism potential of the region. The local government pays not enough attention to promoting of this segment of business activity.
- **Nepotism.** The region has problems of clanship and nepotism in the public administration. Residents of the region note the presence of local oligarchs who have great authority and influence in specific territories.
- **Religious contradictions.** The Moscow Patriarchate has traditionally a significant influence in the region. Religious contradictions are associated with the creation of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, the transition of communities from the Russian Orthodox Church, and conflicts over the control of religious buildings. The property issue is a top priority, but there are also incidents related to the Moscow Patriarchate's appeals to the population not to participate in the war in the east and refusal to sing the lost soldiers.
- **Problems with Ukrainian broadcasting.** Not all areas of the regions have access to the Ukrainian information space because of a broadcasting problem. The main source of information for the population is the Internet; there are no independent media in the region.
- **Ethnic diversity and identity issues.** The region is characterized by ethnic diversity – there are a lot of Hungarians, Romanians, Slovaks and Moldovans, who mentally belong to the neighboring countries. Generally, there is no basis for the ethnic conflicts in the region. However, the Law of

Ukraine "On Education" in 2017 has become the subject of contradictions between the national minorities and the Ukrainian authorities.

Certain actions by the Romanian authorities, including the financing of Romanian schools, the issue of textbooks in Romanian and the issue of ethnic passports to Romanians contribute to the blurring of Ukrainian national identity in the region.

- **Ecology.** Due to increased exploitation of water resources, there is an increase in the level of environmental pollution. This issue and the assessment of man-made threats are not given sufficient attention. There is no clearing of the coastal strip, no waste recycling plant, as a result of which household waste gets into the rivers. In addition, the problem of deforestation remains relevant for the region.



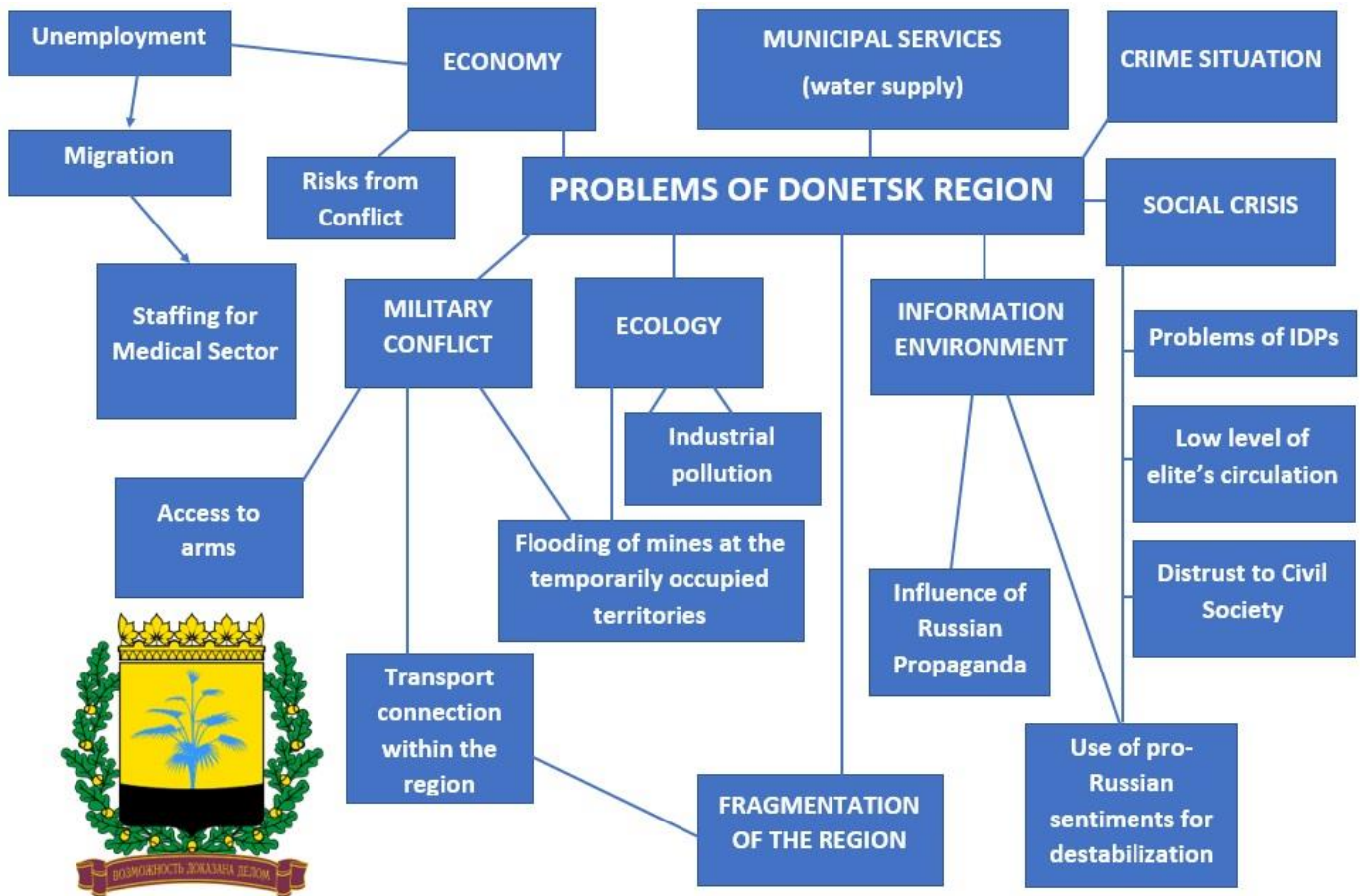
RECOMMENDATIONS:

In order to improve the security situation in Chernivtsi region it is proposed to:

- Improve road traffic within the oblast to allow law enforcement to access all areas of the region.
- Increase the economic motivation of border guards and increase accountability for corruption in the performance of official duties to ensure reducing smuggling.
- Return to the national agenda the issue of the establishment and modernization of the crossing points on the Romanian-Ukrainian and Moldovan-Ukrainian borders.
- Develop a project to create a transport corridor through the territory of the region in order to increase its investment attractiveness.
- To carry out a number of cultural and entertaining events (festivals, exhibitions, etc.), as well as to work on creation and promotion of the brand of the region (following the example of Lviv) in order to fully realize the tourist potential of the region.
- Ensure full coverage of all-Ukrainian television within the oblast by building appropriate infrastructure (enhancing transmitter capacity).
- Develop a national policy strategy for national minorities and use its provisions in the implementation of national policy in the region.
- Implement the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context on the issue of water exploitation in the region.

BAKHMUT AND DONETSK REGION

Donetsk region is located in the east of Ukraine with the large industrial potential that was destroyed in the result of Russia's aggression. Today, a third of the region's territory remains uncontrolled by Ukraine.



The key problems of the region are:

- **Information environment.** The influence of Russian propaganda in view of access to the Russian information environment of a large part of local population remains a peculiarity of the region. According to the assessments of the region's conflict potential, the threat of local separatism is considerably above average. 54% of respondents consider the prohibition of Russian TV channels and social networks in Ukraine as a mistake which restricts citizens' rights. Moreover, people in the region have little trust to Ukrainian media.
- **Environment issues.** Environmental conditions are different across the region. For instance, the environmental situation in Bakhmut is under control: in cooperation with a German company a landfill plant has been constructed. The landfill plant in Kramatorsk is about to be

finished soon, and 4 waste segregation factories are being built in other parts of the region. Furthermore, the strategy on waste segregation has been adopted. Dust collectors have been installed at many industrial facilities to reduce air pollution.

However, the overall environmental situation in another locality remains complicated and challenging. This is particularly true for Mariupol. 59% of respondents consider the environmental state of the region to be adverse. The flooding of mines, which are no longer in operation, might be a serious threat to the region's environment, as the repercussions of such flooding will be disastrous: the contamination of fresh water and land subsidence.

- **Economics.** There are significant economic issues, because of the hostilities in the region. Since the outbreak of Russia's aggression the investment attractiveness dramatically dropped, and the economic potential of Donetsk region was disrupted. For example, before the conflict started there had been 15 companies with foreign capital operating in Bakhmut, but nowadays most of them were closed. Some enterprises were adversely influenced by the loss of the Russian market and the market of temporarily occupied territories at which they were oriented. The support of small and medium-sized business cannot make up for the losses resulting from the production decline. The shut-down of enterprises enhances unemployment leading to labor migration. Young people up to 25 years see no prospects in the region and head for Poland and the Czech Republic to work. The Russian vector of external migration, which had been dominant before the conflict, is still popular, though lost its significance.

There is also a considerable staff shortage in the medical sphere and shortage of young professionals. However, there are positive developments: medical infrastructure of Bakhmut was upgraded, as many dispensaries were modernized. The local medical municipal institution of primary level is in top 10 of medical institutions in Ukraine. Besides, the merger of three local hospitals yielded positive results and increased the quality of medical services.

- **Municipal services (water supply).** In Bakhmut, there is a problem with the quality of communication systems as well as with the water

procurement debts of the city services. The latter is exacerbated by delayed compensation of the sources expended. For instance, it is expected that Bakhmut receive from the highest authorities 37 million UAH, while its debt amounts to roughly 20 million UAH.

- **Crime situation.** The crime situation in the region has not changed. Police launch projects on crime prevention. The problem of domestic violence, either physical or psychological, is evident and pointed out by 44% of the surveyed. Deteriorating living standards, declining incomes as well as post-traumatic syndrome of soldiers returning from the war zone are the reasons of such situation.
- **Social crisis.** A large number of IDPs are registered in Bakhmut, though the real number of displaced people permanently resident in the unoccupied territory is significantly lower. There are difficulties with the counts of persons returning to permanent residence in the occupied settlements. For example, in Bakhmut, there are 75,000 local people, but there are 40,000 IDPs, which have been registered in the city during the entire conflict period. (Currently, there are actually about 17,000 displaced people).

Passenger flow through the demarcation line is intense, with up to 250 thousand people crossing it each month. This creates additional strains on the social infrastructure of Ukraine-controlled areas of Donetsk region. At the same time some people make use of the situation and make money mainly by setting exorbitant prices for goods.

The region's population has a low level of trust both in central and regional authorities. There was almost no personnel change in local authorities following the developments of 2014, which carries with it the risk of preserving the current clan system and corruption practices. Representatives of central authorities rarely pay visits to Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

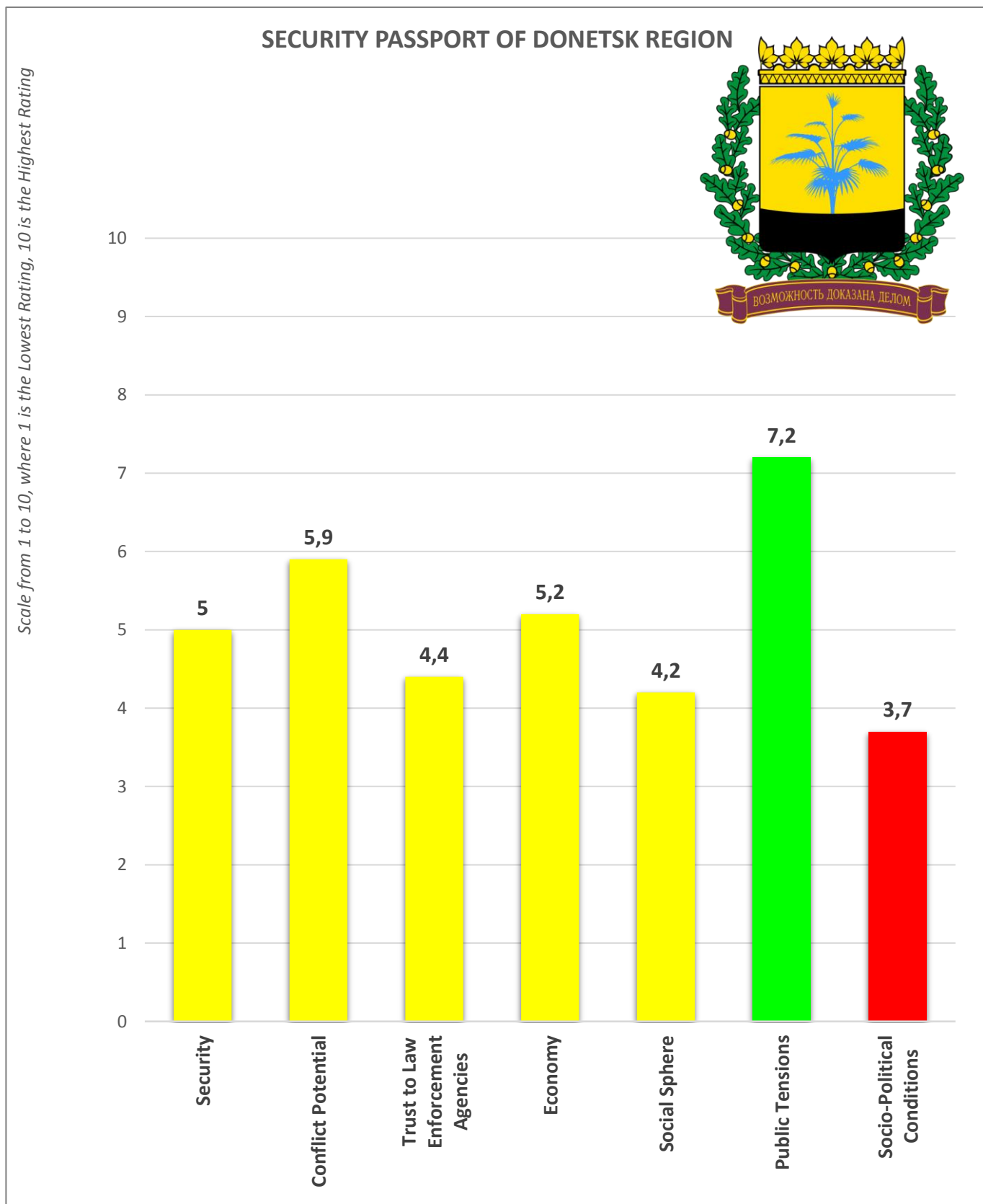
- **The systemic challenges in public sector:**
There is a traditionally low level of civic engagement in the region. Grant funds are mainly allocated to the organization of trainings which not always have high efficiency doesn't arouse interest in a local public activists. In the region, there is no competition environment for the development of civil society, and citizens' boards within local

authorities are often formal in nature. , According to the survey 59% of the population does not trust civil organizations.

- **Transport connection within the region.** Hostilities of 2014-2016 led to the infrastructure destruction. Due to the disruption of railways, many routes, which would previously connect big cities and areas of the region, were canceled.

It is necessary to launch railway routes between stations situated not far from the demarcation line.

- **Attitude towards militarized organizations** in the region is overwhelmingly negative. They are considered to be the main source of tension and destabilization of the society.
- There is a controversial attitude among the population to the idea of **the legalization of weapons**: 28% of the surveyed support this idea.



RECOMMENDATIONS

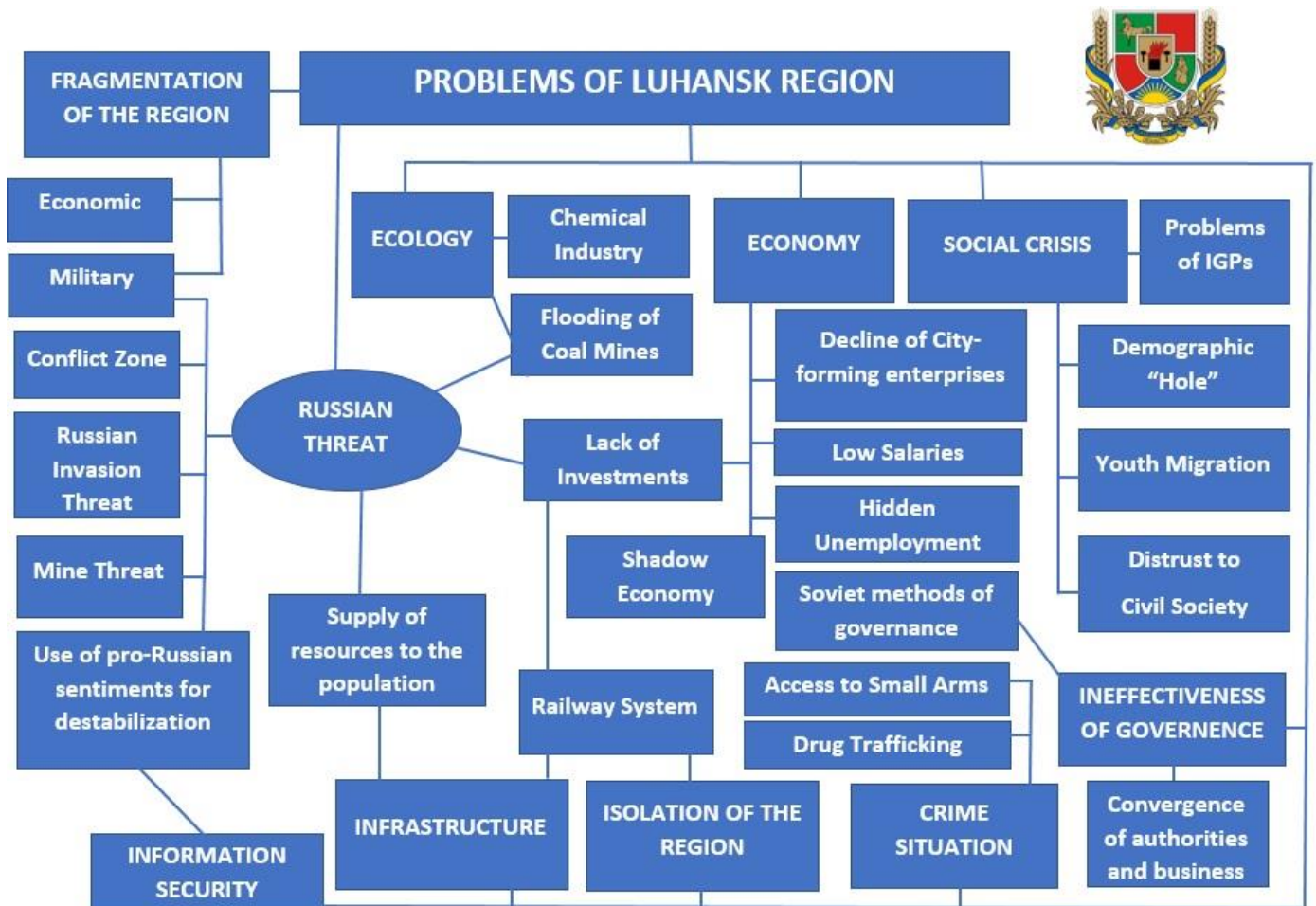
To solve the problems of the Donetsk region it is recommended to:

- Conduct regulatory policy of satellite broadcasting to deny access to Russia`s broadcasting.
- Adjust the programs of national and patriotic education to regional conditions and context.
- Provide appropriate conditions for the development and functioning of independent media in the region.
- Strengthen the drainage capacity in mines; bring the issues of mine flooding to the attention of international organizations and get their support in preventing the ecological crisis due to the mine flooding.
- Create the program of professional retraining of the staff in connection with the closure of industrial facilities (mines inter alia).
- Develop specific employment programs for different age groups with the focus on the preservation of young specialists (providing employment guarantees to university graduates).
- Establish favorable working conditions for young health workers; provide full social security package, special allowances and housing.
- Conduct trainings and seminars for IDPs and people suffering from posttraumatic syndrome on the issues of community development opportunities, strengthening of a socially responsible civic position, development of leadership abilities, and the like.
- Initiate measures (professional psychological support and consultation) to mitigate negative and/or posttraumatic experience and strengthen the skills of psychological and social adaptivity.
- Develop capacity-building and training programs on community activism and responsibility; introduce mechanisms to facilitate public consultations at the local level, for example through online platforms;
- Ensure decentralization and rejection of vertical command methods of decision-making;
- Create tools to encourage active representatives of IDPs to seek employment in managerial positions;

- Establish commissions on the examination of residential facilities to support the IDPs who have suffered material damages, implement regional programs for construction of affordable housing and jobs for IDPs.
- Ensure the even allocation of grant funds in the region – emphasis should be made not only on the cities and towns, but also on the villages.
- Research the possibility of launching/recovering additional railway routes in the area, which is close to the demarcation line, (following the example of the route Fenolna-Skotuvata).
- Use the grant funds to improve the state of roads and railways in the region.

SIEVIERODONETSK AND LUHANSK REGION

Luhansk region is suffering from prolonged economic stagnation, collapse of industrial assets and a general decline in living standards – a process, which was intensified by the hostilities of the Russian- Ukraine conflict.



It is characterized by the following problems:

- **Transport infrastructure.** Problem of transport infrastructure is extremely important for population of the Luhansk region. The region is torn apart from the main part of Ukraine due to the damage of many roads and railways as a result of hostilities. However, there are still positive tendencies: f.e., the road in Stanytsia Luhanska has been successfully built. Also there are plans to repair the road system of the region and projects to modernize the region's railway system (construction of two connected railway lines, electrification of the railroad direction «Kupiansk - Lysychansk»).
- **Situation on border crossing points and demarcation line.** Border crossing point Stanytsia Luhanska needs considerable modernization as it is the only crossing point in the Luhansk region. Ukraine has built one more border crossing point in Zolote,

but it doesn't work because of terrorists from «LPR» (so called Luhansk People's Republic).

- **Crime situation.** Since the beginning of the conflict the traffic of weapons, drugs and other prohibited goods has increased. The positions of law enforcement officers in the region are weakened by the distrust of the population and the pro-Russian sympathies of some of the locals.
- **Ecological situation.** Prior to the conflict in Luhansk region there was a risk of man-made emergencies which could lead to environmental problems. Since the beginning of the war situation has further deteriorated. The region is under the threat of ecological disaster. According to surveys, 37% of local residents assess ecological situation in the region as «bad», 5% - as «disastrous».

War events lead to the damage of infrastructure, which in return caused the shutdown of mine water drainage systems, and in some cases – flooding of mines and the surrounding territories, ground subsidence etc. This poses a direct threat to the safety of the people of Luhansk region. If mine waters won't be pumped out, it can combine with fresh groundwater and reach rivers, seas and lead to lack of fresh water in the Luhansk region. The most significant problem is that some of the unsafe mines are located in uncontrolled territories – Ukrainian authorities has no access to it and unable to assess their conditions.

Chemical plants pose another serious threat. During the war there were more than 500 cases of violations and emergency situations. For example the conditions in plant «Azot» (Sievierodonetsk), where harmful substances are stored, are dangerous. In case of emergency and explosion a regional disaster may occur.

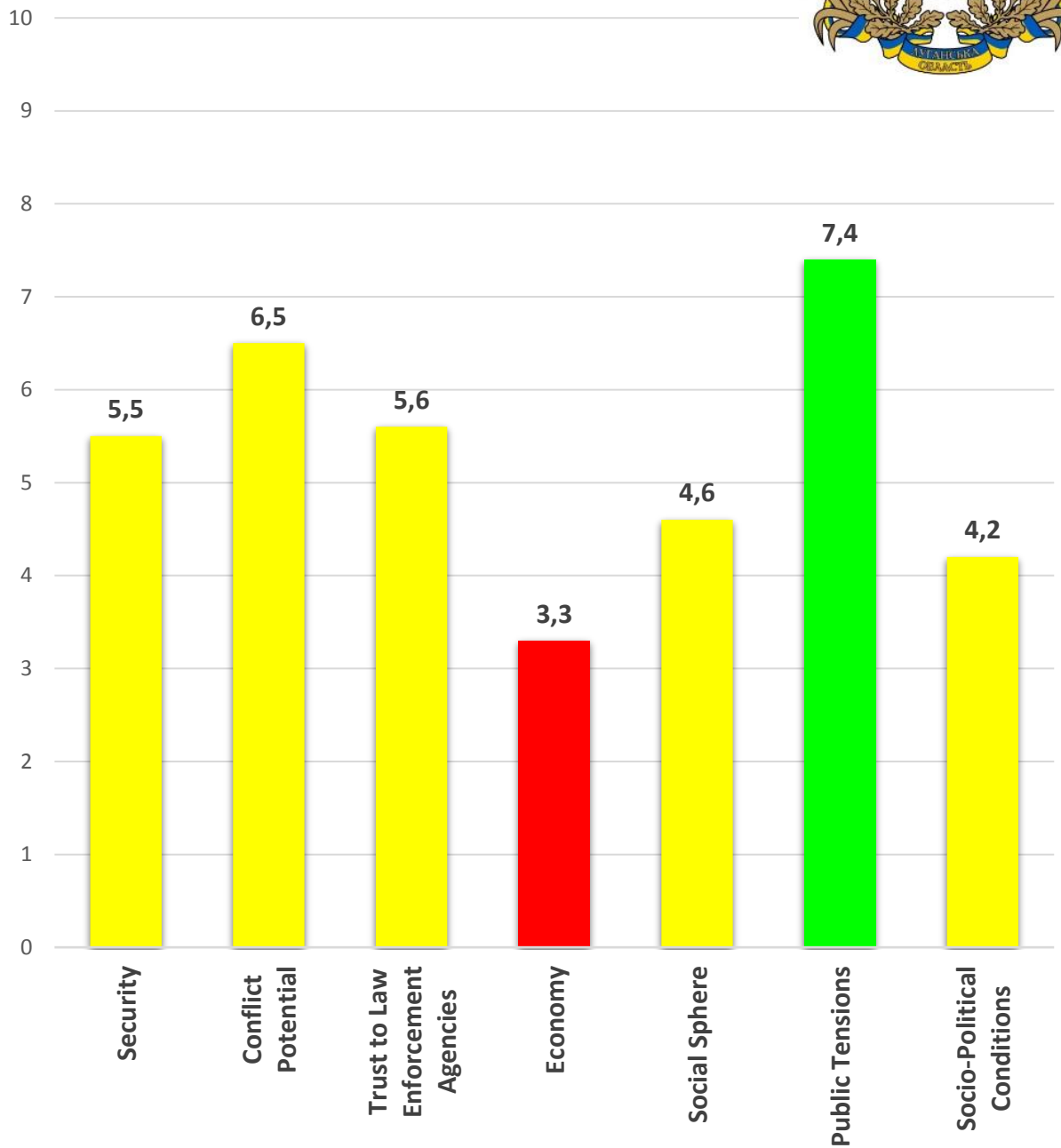
- **Demographic crisis.** The region suffers from demographic problems: death rate exceeds birth rate; migration processes are quite intense, especially among the youth. Economic crisis in the region, ongoing conflict, lack of employment prospects are the main reasons for this.
- **Mistrust in civil sector.** The population of the region does not trust neither official authority nor civil society organizations. (39% of respondents have said they do not trust civil organizations in the region). Such situation is caused by difficult economic situation, lack of action from the authorities in order to improve situation, unawareness of the possibilities of public activism. Apathy and mistrust are enhanced by ineffective work of some civil organizations (caused by uncontrolled use of allocated funds).

- **IDPs (internally displaced persons) problems.** Significant numbers of internally displaced persons are registered in the Luhansk region. At the same time, there are difficulties in calculating the exact number of IDPs who reside at their new place of registration. The problem of adaptation of citizens is important as well. They more often face the problems of employment, housing, rehabilitation after the conflict.
- **Economic situation.** Due to the military conflict in the region, most industrial enterprises engaged in foreign economic activity have significantly reduced production volumes due to complications of technological and production process, logistical problems. In particular, due to the temporary suspension of the movement of goods through the frontline, the volume of exports of goods in the metallurgical industry (the main exporter – PJSC «Alchevsk Iron and Steel Works») has been significantly reduced. Exports of ferrous metals in 2018, compared to 2017, decreased by 99.8%. It led to a decrease of the share of ferrous metals in the structure of commodity exports of the region – from 19.8% in 2017 to 0.1% in 2018.
- **Investment activities.** The majority of enterprises involved in attracting foreign investments, have lost markets in the occupied territories and stopped cooperation with relevant business partners – due to complications of technological and production process, logistical problems (the overwhelming share of foreign investments was involved in industry), armed conflict in the region. Unreliable energy supply of the Luhansk region and its isolation from single power industry system of Ukraine only worsened the problem.
Direct investment at the end of 2019 has significantly declined compared to the beginning of the year. Such dynamics can be observed during all period of war. Negative trends in economy had impact on labour market. In recent years, there has been a decline in the economically active population of working age. Currently, there is a shortage of workers in the working professions in all sectors of the economy.
- **Salary arrears.** The total amount of salary arrears as for January 1, 2019 was 505,9 million hryvnia (UAH). In comparison with the beginning of 2018 the figure has decreased by 51,1 million hryvnia (9,2 %). The main share of the total debt of economically active enterprises belongs to industry (74,4 %) and building and construction sector (14,4 %). Arrears in wage payment for employees of active enterprises was 154,9 million hryvnia of 30,6 % of total amount. Only 31,1 % of the total debt is salary debt for employees of enterprises in the territories under control of Ukrainian authorities.

SECURITY PASSPORT OF LUHANSK REGION



Scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is the Lowest Rating, 10 is the Highest Rating



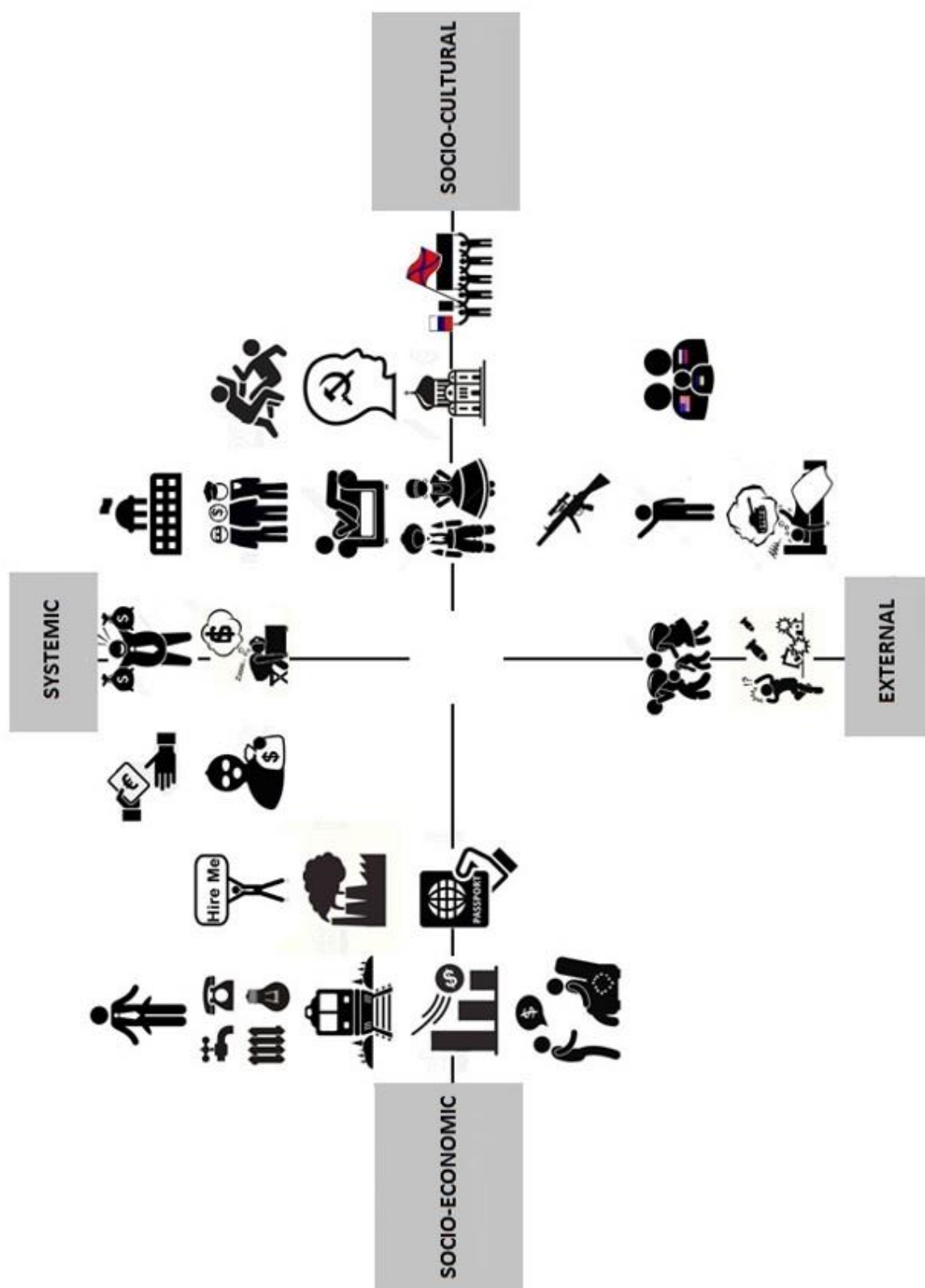
RECOMMENDATIONS:











In order to solve the problems of the region it is proposed to:



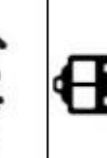





- Use the grant funds to implement the project of electrification of the railway line «Kupiansk - Lysychansk».
- Modernize border crossing point Stanytsia Luhanska (deployment of State Emergency Service of Ukraine post with medical staff, drafting of security protocols, establishment of shelters, improvement of the sanitary area and the demarcation line, the placement of surveillance cameras to reduce corruption in the field).
- Take measures to improve the image of the police in the eyes of the population of the region through joint social activities.
- Take preventative measures to combat the illicit trafficking of arms and drugs.
- Develop protocols for reaction to man-made disasters (within the framework of building a national resilience system at the regional level);
- Implement regional programs for affordable housing and job creation for IDPs.
- Conduct trainings and seminars for IDPs and local population affected by the post-traumatic syndrome on the topic of community development opportunities, strengthening of socially responsible civic position, development of leadership skills, etc. Through this – to create tools to encourage active IDPs to recruit into management positions.
- Create a mechanism for control over NGOs which use donor funds in their activities.
- Inform people about the opportunities of public activity, explaining how an effective NGO can improve living conditions.
- Establish interaction and trust between government bodies and NGOs.
- Create conditions for improving the financial and economic status of the industry by modernizing the production potential of all industrial sectors and promoting the implementation of the latest developments in the fields of energy saving and energy efficiency.
- Gain access to new product markets and provide financial support to small and medium businesses.
- Promote training and retraining for entrepreneurship.
- Promote the saturation of the trade network of the region with quality locally produced goods at affordable prices, expanding the assortment of products.









- Ensure transparency of the activities of the regional administration, local self-government bodies in the field of pricing and tariff policy through broad coverage of the price situation in the region through the mass media.
- Take measures in order to prevent the entry of illegal and low-quality goods (f.e. food and alcoholic beverages) at local markets, enforcing consumer protection laws and trade rules.
- Establish and intensify cooperation with the EU and other foreign partners, including donor and financial organizations, on trade and economic cooperation.
- Enhance the cooperation of export-oriented industries with foreign partners, business associations, international programs in search of the market.
- Put on the agenda the issue of salary arrears in the territories controlled by Ukrainian government, and ensure a gradual return of unpaid funds.

ANNEXES: COORDINATE SYSTEM OF SECURITY RISKS ORIGIN



	Regional Diversity
	Religious Tensions
	Separatism
	Lack of Foreign Investments
	Ease of Access to Small Arms
	Refugees and IDPs
	Radicalism
	External Influence on the Elite
	Russian Aggression
	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

	Patronage / Nepotism
	Intolerance of Society
	Infrastructure
	Ecological Risks
	Low Mobility of the Population
	Paternalism
	Ineffective Economic Model
	Migration

	Poverty (Low Pensions and Wages)
	Corruption
	Oligarchic Clans
	Ineffectiveness of Authorities
	High Tariffs
	Unemployment
	Crimes
	Ineffectiveness of Law Enforcement Agencies

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