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NATURAL AND RESOURCE POTENTIAL OF THE DNIEPER ECONOMIC REGION

Natural and resource potential of the Dnieper area and major factors of placement of productive forces are considered in article. Modern problems of the area are analyzed.

Dnieper economic region occupies the territory of Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kirovograd regions – the part of central and south-eastern Ukraine. It is one of the most developed industrial regions of Ukraine with powerful social and economic potential, a favourable economic and geographical position regarding to highly developed regions of Ukraine – Donetsk, Black Sea, and Central, its main transport routes and ports of the Black and Azov Seas. The southern part of Zaporizhzhia region goes to the Azov Sea, and here is lower reach of the Dnieper, which enables the development of river and sea modes of transport, and recreational economy. The area is located in the steppe natural-economic zone with favourable conditions for development of agricultural production.

Dnieper economic region plays an important role in the economy of Ukraine. Its favourable economic and geographical location, climatic conditions, availability of minerals, qualified labour force allowed it to become one of the most developed regions. The convenient geographical location and high level of the

economy contribute to the development of inter-regional economic ties. This region exports iron and manganese ore, aluminium, titanium mining and metallurgical equipment, cars, tires, paints, varnishes, beet harvesters, agricultural products. It imports coal, coke, metallurgical and mining equipment, agriculture and light industrial products, different equipment.

Prydniprovia makes an indispensable contribution to the development of the steel industry, mechanical engineering, fuel and energy complex. As it mentioned earlier, the percentage of the area of ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy in the total volume of the country exceeds 50%, a fairly high proportion of electric power engineering and metalworking - more than 20%. Also, the region is one of the most important links in the chain of complex development of regions of Ukraine.

But economy of the region faces some challenges, such as complex ecological situation, the imbalance between production and non-production areas, inadequate territorial organization of the productive forces.

But it should be noted that the Prydniprovia economic region has a huge number of prospects and opportunities for further development of the regional economy and the state.