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AUTOMOBILE ROADS OF UKRAINE

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This article is a short overview of the history and the present state of automobile roads of Ukraine. Automobile roads of Ukraine represent the network of roads, which connects all settlements of the country and is aimed at the movement of vehicles. There are several kinds of roads in Ukraine:

- automobile roads of public use;
- streets and roads of cities of public use;
- departmental automobile roads;
- automobile roads of private territory.

State agency of automobile roads of Ukraine is responsible for the state of the roads. Local self-government bodies are responsible for the streets and roads of cities.

Automobile roads of public use provide domestic and international transportation of cargo and passengers. Automobile roads of public use are divided into two main types: state and local roads. State roads are divided into international, national, regional and territorial roads. Local roads, in their turn, are subdivided into regional and district roads [1].

As of January 30, 2020 total length of roads of international importance was 9 311,2 km, national – 7 175,2 km, regional – 8 492,6 km and territorial – 21 661 km. The length of local roads was 122 360 km [2].

There are 4 transport corridors which go through Ukraine. They belong to international transport corridors. Among them there are:

- Pan-European transport corridor №3 (Germany, Poland, Ukraine)
- Pan-European transport corridor №5 (Italy, Hungary, Slovakia, Ukraine)
- Pan-European transport corridor №7 (Austria, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine)

- Pan-European transport corridor №9 (Finland, Russia, Belarus, Romania, Greece)

According to State agency of automobile roads of Ukraine, in 2017 the length of streets was 250 thousand km [4]. Over the past 60-70 years, the road network has undergone significant changes. For instance, in 1940 the length of the roads was 270.7 thousand km. These were mostly field roads, with only 10.8% of them with hard-surface pavement. The most intense methods of road construction were implemented in 1960-1970. The main purpose of the automobile industry was the construction of hard-surface pavement of the roads [3].

Due to construction of new roads with the hard-surface pavement, the number of field roads has decreased. As the result of the rational construction of roads, some field roads lost their purpose, resulting in a reduction of the number of public roads.

Consequently, the number of public roads decreased from 270.7 km to 169 km, but the quality of their coverage has improved significantly [3].

Researches show that the quantity of automobile roads in Ukraine is lower than in some other European countries (for example, in Ukraine there are 281 km of automobile roads per 1,000 km², compared to 1 459 km in France; 1,286 km in Austria; 961 km in Poland; 628 km in Spain), but some countries (Norway, Greece, Finland) have lower rates than Ukraine [3].

According to State agency of automobile roads of Ukraine, as of 2017, Ukrainian roads have 12.2 million km² of hollows, thus the quality of pavement of the roads requires sufficient improvement [4].

Thus, one of the most important issues of transport sector in Ukraine nowadays is the improvement of the quality and the quantity of automobile roads.

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