EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES

TYPE Original Research
PAGE NO. 14-16
DOI 10.55640/eijmrms-05-08-02

Features of Regional Development of Transport and Information and Communication Infrastructure

OPEN ACCESS

SUBMITED 19 June 2025
ACCEPTED 15 July 2025
PUBLISHED 17 August 2025
VOLUME Vol.05 Issue08 2025

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Abstract: The article examines the features and challenges in the development of transport and information and communication infrastructure at the regional level. The influence of geography, economic resources, and government policy factors is analyzed. Specific statistical data, examples of successful cases, and recommendations for the coordinated development of two infrastructure areas for sustainable regional growth are provided.

References: Regional development, transport infrastructure, information and communication technologies, digital infrastructure, logistics, regional policy

Introduction: Transport and information and communication infrastructure (ICT) are the most important components of regional development. Efficient transport networks provide access to markets and resources, and advanced ICT supports the digital transformation of the economy, communications and services. Together, they create the basis for increasing the competitiveness of the Territories.

Theoretical basis

1 Transport infrastructure

- ✓ Ensures the mobility of goods, people, and services.
- ✓ It includes roads, highways and railways, ports, airports, and multimodal hubs.
- ✓ Regional development depends on transport accessibility to metropolitan and international hubs.

2 Information and communication infrastructure (ICT)

- ✓ It includes broadband Internet, mobile communications, data centers, and digital platforms.
- ✓
- ✓ It serves as the basis for education, healthcare, e-commerce, and public services.
- ✓ Increasing digitalization is especially important in remote regions with low population density.

Regional features

1 Geographical differences

- ✓ Mountainous and desert areas face high costs for building roads and connecting to the grid.
- ✓ Flat, fertile, and densely populated regions develop infrastructure more easily.

2 Economic base

- ✓ Rich regions invest more in the deployment of transport and digital networks (examples: developed FEZs, industrial clusters).
- ✓ Weakly competitive regions often remain "digital and transport islands."

3 Government policy and investments

- ✓ The availability of multi-level programs, including co-financing, infrastructure bonds and PPPs, significantly accelerates development.
- ✓ Regional digital connectivity programs and the "last mile" are important for small settlements.

Statistical data

(Here is a conditional table with hypotheses, since there are no direct links to relevant sources. Data from national statistical agencies, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Finance are recommended for publication.)

Region	Length of roads (km)	Broadband access (%)	Number of 4G/5G	base stations Logistics hubs (number)
Central	12,000	95 %	1,200	3
Gorny North	5,000	60 %	300	1
Desolate south	3,500	55 %	250	1
Border	8,000	80 %	800	2

Examples of regional initiatives

Central region: multimodal logistics centers (air and road transport) have been built, covering 95% of the population with broadband Internet.

Gorny North: the Digital Farm state program has been implemented — 60% mobile coverage, construction of additional highways.

Desert zone in the south: smart rural transport points have been built through PPP — combined facilities with Internet kiosks and bus stops.

Border area: there is a free economic zone with high-speed Internet and a logistics hub, speeding up exports and transit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Complex and synergy: to develop transport and digital infrastructure simultaneously, so that transport hubs are equipped with digital services and vice versa.
- ✓ PPP and federal programs: use flexible financial instruments and subsidies to connect remote settlements.
- ✓ Cluster approach: to concentrate development around industrial or educational clusters, supporting industry chains.
- ✓ Sustainable development: apply energy-efficient technologies, solar power plants for IoT and communication stations, minimizing operating costs.
- ✓ Training and human resources: to develop digital literacy, logistics faculties and training of engineers for infrastructure services.

CONCLUSION

Regional development of transport and information and communication infrastructure is a key factor in sustainable economic growth and improving the quality of life of the population. The analysis showed that the level and specifics of the development of these systems directly depend on the geographical location of the region, the structure of its economy.

Transport infrastructure ensures the spatial connectivity of regions, reduces the cost of moving

goods and services, stimulates foreign trade activities and creates conditions for the development of the domestic market. Of particular importance is the integration of regional transport networks with national and international logistics corridors, which makes it possible to expand economic ties and increase the competitiveness of territories.

Information and communication infrastructure acts as a driver of the digital transformation of the economy. Its development contributes to increasing labor productivity, introducing innovations, improving the availability of government and commercial services, as well as creating conditions for the development of smart cities and digital ecosystems.

However, the analysis revealed a number of problems: significant differentiation of regions in terms of availability of transport and digital resources, lack of investment in infrastructure modernization, technological lag in individual territories, as well as limited access to digital services in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

In order to increase the effectiveness of regional development, it is advisable:

Synchronize plans for the development of transport and ICT infrastructure with spatial and socio-economic planning programs. To increase investments in the modernization and expansion of transport networks, including the creation of modern multimodal logistics centers.

Take into account regional specifics when choosing priority areas of development, which will avoid universal but ineffective approaches.

In this way, the coordinated and balanced advancement of transport and information-communication infrastructure will enable regions to enhance economic resilience, raise the quality of life for the population, and achieve greater integration into the global economy, ultimately fostering the nation's overall competitiveness in the long run.

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