

DOCTRINELE ECONOMICE - BAZA DEZVOLTĂRII STATULUI

ECONOMIC DOCTRINES THE BASIS OF STATE DEVELOPMENT

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SUMMARY

The problem of interstate economic unification today is geopolitical in nature, and therefore the unions that are being formed today will play leading roles in world politics in the future. Practice has shown that such interstate unions as the EU or NATO work, despite the fact that their members retain a significant share of their state sovereignty. Such alliances have begun to form everywhere, especially after the successes achieved by the EU. Each of these unions is created by the future member states of this union in order to preserve and maintain their independence, that is, in order not to fall under the influence of one of the world powers or another union.

From the point of view of traditional economic theory, it is impossible to find answers to all questions related to international integration. Why some integration unions are successful, while others are not, why the declared goal and the result obtained do not always coincide. It is the issues of economic integration that are of high relevance at the present time.

There are also a number of other important reasons, such as economic cooperation, cultural interaction, joint development of infrastructure, mutual assistance, raising one's own status at the world level, and much more. All this implies that by joint efforts the countries that are members of these unions reach greater heights than if they were not members of them, thus the rule of synergetic works.

Keywords: economic integration, political integration, national economy.

REZUMAT

Problema unificării economice interstatale de astăzi este de natură geopolitică și, prin urmare, uniunile care se formează astăzi vor juca roluri de conducere în politica mondială în viitor. Practica a arătat că astfel de uniuni interstatale precum UE sau NATO funcționează, în ciuda faptului că membrii lor păstrează o parte semnificativă din suveranitatea lor statală. Astfel de alianțe au început să se formeze peste tot, mai ales după succesele obținute de UE. Fie-

care dintre aceste uniuni este creată de viitoarele state membre ale acestei uniuni pentru a-și păstra și menține independența, adică pentru a nu cădea sub influența uneia dintre puterile mondiale sau a altei uniuni.

Din punctul de vedere al teoriei economice tradiționale, este imposibil să găsim răspunsuri la toate întrebările legate de integrarea internațională. De ce unele state membre au succes, în timp ce altele nu, de ce scopul declarat și rezultatul obținut nu coincid întotdeauna. Problemele integrării economice sunt de mare relevanță în prezent.

Există, de asemenea, o serie de alte motive importante, cum ar fi cooperarea economică, interacțiunea culturală, dezvoltarea comună a infrastructurii, asistența reciprocă, ridicarea propriului statut la nivel mondial și multe altele. Toate acestea implică faptul că prin eforturi comune țările care sunt membre ale acestor uniuni ating cote mai mari decât dacă nu ar fi membre ale acestora, deci regula lucrărilor sinergice.

Cuvinte-cheie: integrare economică, integrare politică, economie națională.

Introduction. The term „integration” entered the scientific circulation not so long ago, a little over a hundred years ago - at the end of the century before last. Integration from lat. integratio means union.

In modern science, the concept of integration is often compared with such concepts as globalization and internationalization. However, integration has its own specific features. Among the signs of integration, the following are distinguished: the isolation of the integration association from the rest of the world, the voluntariness of the process of creating an integration association, the general rules for the development of domestic and foreign policy for the countries participating in the integration group, their own system of organs and regulatory framework, common goals and an idea of a common destiny [1, p. 15].

Main text. The integration process is different from other processes that take place in the economic sector in the world. The most important difference is that within the framework of integration, the economies of several subjects (countries) are transformed into a single whole. However, it is important to understand that international economic integration is not any rapprochement, but only one that is carried

out by politically independent states and is of a voluntary nature [2, p. 120].

Domestic economic science understands integration as a process that develops “on the basis of the internationalization of all social life, accelerated by scientific and technological progress, the increase in the interdependence of peoples and states” [3, p. 56]. In turn, Yu.V. Shishkov is sure that the basis of integration processes is the international division of labor, which is „mediated by trade and other economic relations at the micro and macro levels”.

Thus, integration should be understood as a natural process that follows from the gradual „disclosure” of countries to each other, when certain mono-state macroeconomic organisms gradually move towards merging, form „a whole multi-state economic space, which over time is structured into a new, enlarged, more efficient economic organism” [4, p. 67].

It seems that N. N. Liventsev gives a more complete interpretation of the concept of economic integration. It reflects the essence of the ongoing economic processes in the merging countries. The researcher believes that international economic integration is “a high (mature) degree of internationalization of production based on the development of deep stable rela-

onships and division of labor between national economies, which leads to a gradual merging of the reproductive structures of a number of countries”.

The emphasis is on another significant element of the category of integration: it is the most important form of internationalization of production within the world economy.

At the same time, taking into account the fact that, when forming a new economic formation, the participating countries need to transfer part of their powers to joint management and control bodies, the definition given by Ernst B. Haas can be considered fair. According to the specialist, integration is “a process by which the loyalty of political actors of several national entities is shifted towards a new supranational center of decision-making, which becomes the center of political activity. The end result of the process of political integration is represented by a new political community” [5, p. 269].

It is important to mention that German and Swedish specialists turned to the study of integration at the end of the century before last. The founders in this area are R. Schmed, H. Kelsen, D. Schindler.

Their developments found their development in the theory of large spaces by Karl Schmidt. He was a German historian and jurist and realized that in order to change economic conditions, it is necessary to create large geopolitical spaces as new, more advanced subjects of international relations and international law. The theory of large space considers the process of development of states from the point of view of striving to achieve the greatest territorial volume. K. Schmidt believed that a large space is a new form beyond national unification, which is based on strategic, geopolitical and ideological factors [6, p. 56].

According to the Swiss economist W.

Röpke, integration is a state in which the same free and profitable trade relations can be formed between national economies as well as within these economies.

The point of view of V. A. Shlyamin is that economic integration is presented in a certain form of interaction between the state and economic entities, which implies a high degree of interpenetration and interdependence [7, p. 8].

The presented definitions make it possible to speak of two different methodological approaches to understanding the process of economic integration. The first of them is usually called static, if not, economic integration is represented by the onset of favorable circumstances and prerequisites for integration, the formation of a supra-subject (supranational) institution, which aims to bring national economies closer together and implement an agreed interstate economic policy by its participants in order to achieve common strategic goals. This interpretation of the meaning of international economic integration has been the main one for a long time, this is especially true for neoliberal theorists.

Another, „dynamic” approach presents this concept as a controlled and voluntary process of developing and strengthening ties, when economic entities consistently converge and structurally coalesce in order to receive comparative benefits. The Hungarian economist B. Balassa was one of the first who came to the conclusion that integration should be considered not only as a static state, but also as a dynamic process. Thus, a generally accepted, two-pronged approach to understanding the meaning of international economic integration was subsequently formed [8, p. 260].

The most successful international economic integration has become on the European continent. That is why the functioning of the European Union has become an example for the development of key theo-

ries and practical models of regional integration in the second half of the twentieth century.

So, economic integration is a complex process that takes place in several stages. In most cases, states are united on a territorial basis, within one large region. Undoubtedly, this meets the needs of states, including the stability of the countries of this region, the growth of its economy, trade, cooperation in various fields, as well as the growth of authority in the world. In addition, the level of economic development of countries is taken into account, which should be approximately the same for the successful development of integration education.

As noted above, the greatest successes in international economic integration have been achieved on the European continent. At that moment, it was necessary to understand why integration unions arose, and since their initiators in the early 50s. 20th century were state bodies, it is important to find out what is the role of power structures and their powers in these processes. This is what provoked the emergence of integration theories, among them the concepts of functionalism and federalism came to the fore. Among the main theorists of functionalism, it is worth mentioning D. Mitrany and Ernst B. Haas.

„The Functional Theory of Politics” by D. Mitrany about what can be said about the presence of integration of various levels in world empires, blocs and international organizations. Its key features include the following. There is effective control over the legitimate use of power, there is a common decision-making body and there is a center of political education for citizens belonging to the community [9].

Functionalists believe that modern society has created technical problems. To solve them, it is important for experts in a particular field or on functional issues on

both sides of the borders to work closely together. It is because of this that a model of cooperation is emerging, and integration is seen as a gradual process, as a result of which a number of new power structures will be formed, which will gradually acquire more and more legislative powers [9].

When studying integration in Western Europe, the theoretical school of federalism noted that integration requires the presence of several components. First: it must be a conscious political decision of governments and peoples, then the parties will voluntarily and consciously renounce their own political sovereignty and independence. Secondly, it is necessary to create one or several new, supranational bodies and transfer a number of powers to them so that they can make decisions and be independent, i.e. so that they are not influenced by individual member states of the community. The primary incentive for integration that underpins the federalist model is national security. Due to the merging of national economies, representatives of the theoretical school of federalism are sure that the era of confrontation will end.

A significant contribution to the theory of federalism in integration studies was made by researchers A. Spinelli and S. Pistone. In their works, they substantiate the importance of the formation of supranational institutions in the process of economic integration.

Functionalism and federalism reflect opposing views on European economic integration. The first one is based on the collaborative model. And the second was built on a rigid supranational model of integration.

Subsequently, the ideas of functionalism were transformed into neofunctionalism. And Ernst B. Haas noted that for economic integration it is necessary that the participating countries have common economic interests, that economic systems are

similar, and there is also interdependence, political pluralism, a kind of elite circles [10].

At the same time, attention was focused on the initial stage of integration. The beginning of the integration process should take place in the area for which this issue is most relevant. As the initial stage progresses, cooperation should become both deeper and wider so that it covers other related areas, i.e. the so-called transfusion process took place.

Integration activity within the framework of the neoclassical trend is analyzed as an element of the market structure, which largely affects its efficiency. Thus, it is possible to assess the incentives for economic integration on the part of economic entities, as well as to determine what the results of integration will be for social welfare. So, according to neoclassicists, there is a kind of market structure in integration, which affects the efficiency of the market [11, p. 444]. The neoclassical tradition is inherent in the works of Blair R., Bork R., Vickers J., Winter R., Hilferding R., Kazerman D., Tyrol J., Spangler J. and others.

The conclusions of the representatives of neoclassical economic theory are especially important for the analysis of the economic integration of economic entities in the Russian economy with its characteristic monopolization and the absence of alternatives for choosing market counterparties. The neo-institutional direction in the development of economic science makes it possible to move away from the classical postulate about the determining role of the price mechanism in regulating the size of firms.

Institutional economic theory explores integration in the context of minimizing transaction costs. The institutional tradition is reflected in the studies of such economists as Alchin A., Demsetz H., Coase R., North D., Arrow K. and others.

Unlike the neoclassics, R. Coase believed that the conclusion of market exchange contracts, the search for information, and the fight against opportunistic behavior require certain costs, which can be called the costs of the price mechanism [12, p. 215]. In fact, R. Coase opposed the market and the hierarchical organization of the firm as interchangeable, alternative mechanisms for coordinating economic activity. The author assumed that the entrepreneur within the firm must perform his functions at lower cost, since he can obtain factors of production at a lower price than the market displaced by the firm would provide. It is the firm that can effectively reduce the level of transaction costs, all elements of which within the organization will be lower than in a situation of market exchange between independent sellers and buyers. Accordingly, the author defines the limits of the expansion of the firm - growth will continue as long as the internal transaction costs (associated with coordination and management) are lower than the transaction costs associated with the conclusion of contracts.

In Russian economic science, the institutional approach to the theory of economic integration was developed by Avdasheva S., Kachalova R., Kleiner G., Tambovtseva V., Shastiko E. and others. Researchers, firstly, analyze the economic and institutional reforms that took place both in industrial developed countries in the second half of the 20th century, and in the modern economy of post-socialist states, in particular Russia; secondly, economic entities are being studied - the latest organizational structures in the industry (which include Russian holdings). Understanding intra-firm and, in certain cases, inter-firm relations as an incomplete contract makes it possible to explain the replacement of the price mechanism by vertical integration. A number of authors come to the conclusion that in

considering the causes of vertical integration, the neoclassical and neoinstitutional directions in the development of economic science come to similar conclusions. Whatever integration is motivated by - neutralizing external effects, strengthening market power, reducing transaction costs - the choice of specific forms of business groups is influenced by the „prevailing type of uncertainty" of the institutional environment, which is overcome within the framework of integrated structures.

Thus, the main characteristics of the economic integration of economic entities, which make up its internal substantive foundations and stem from the neoclassical and neoinstitutional areas of economic theory, include:

- economic integration is based on the coordination of goals, actions, economic interests of economic entities, on the awareness of the need, the profitability of the association;

- this is an internal organization of business entities, close cooperation, unfolding in the form of contracts, partially replacing or completely replacing the price mechanism of the market;

- complex integrated structures are organizational forms of functioning of financial and industrial capital;

- reduction of transaction costs in the economic integration of economic entities to a decisive extent depends on the institutional environment for the interaction of enterprises, legislative support for ongoing transactions, and the level of confidence of economic agents.

However, if in the explanatory models of the functionalists / neo-functionalists and federalists the emphasis was placed to a greater extent on the political aspects of integration, then B. Balassa paid attention to the economic content and goals of integration processes. It was he who approached the analysis of economic integration

from the position of both the process and the state. „We propose," he wrote in *The Theory of Economic Integration*, to define economic integration as a process and as a state. Considered as a process, it includes measures designed to eliminate discrimination between economic units belonging to different nation-states; considered as a state, it can be represented as the absence of forms of discrimination between national economies [13, p. 113]. B. Balassa's contribution to the theory of international economic integration lies in the identification of forms or stages of development of regional economic integration: free trade zones, customs union, common market, economic union, economic and monetary union.

A free trade zone (FTZ) involves the abolition of customs duties and quantitative restrictions on trade between the countries participating in the integration association, but the preservation of national import tariffs and quotas in relation to countries that are not members of the FTA.

Customs Union (CU) - an FTZ with a common external customs tariff for all member countries (single customs tariff), while a single foreign trade policy is pursued in relation to third countries.

The Common Market (OR) is a CU where the free movement of goods is complemented by the free movement of capital, labor and other factors of production.

Economic Union (EU) - OR, supplemented by the harmonization of the economic and social policies of the participating countries.

Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) - full integration of the economic complexes of the participating countries, involving the unification of monetary, tax, currency policies, as well as the introduction of a single currency and the creation of supranational governments, the decisions of which are binding on the member states. In practi-

ce, this means the replacement of nation-states by a federal or confederal central authority.

At present, there are dozens of integration associations in the world. However, all of them can be conditionally divided on a territorial basis. Among the most famous associations on the European continent is the European Union, in North America - NAFTA (North American Free Trade Association), in East Asia - ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), in South America - MERCOSUR, in Africa there are many integration associations, among which are COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS, and others. Each of these groupings is unique, if only because it includes countries with different levels of development, location, natural resources, and development potential. However, the purpose of this study is to identify and give a brief description of integration associations and to identify the possibility of using these models for Moldova. The territory of the Russian Federation is conditionally divided into the Asian and European parts, where it borders with such Asian countries as China, Japan, North Korea, Mongolia, as well as with a number of European countries, such as Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, etc. Due to the regional factor the best examples of integration groupings are the European Union and ASEAN.

The traditional example of integration is the European Union. First of all, this is due to the fact that this association has existed since the second half of the 20th century, and by now it includes 27 countries, has a regulatory framework, and is often presented in literature and the media as a single state. It is this association that is the most interesting to study and will be considered in this study in more detail.

Summing up, it is important to emphasize that economic integration is a very complex process that requires the interconnection of all its subjects. This process must

be coordinated, conscious, which requires the creation of new governing bodies of the newly created integration grouping of countries.

Conclusion. The integration process is different from other processes that take place in the economic sector in the world. The most important difference is that within the framework of integration, the economies of several subjects (countries) are transformed into a single whole. However, it is important to understand that international economic integration is not any rapprochement, but only one that is carried out by politically independent states and is of a voluntary nature.

International economic integration has achieved the greatest success on the European continent. During this period, there was a need to comprehend the reasons for the formation of integration unions, and since their initiators in the early 50s. 20th century advocated state bodies, therefore, explore the role of power structures and their powers in these processes. This is how integration theories appeared, among which the concepts of functionalism and federalism stood out. The main theorists of functionalism were D. Mitrany and Ernst B. Haas.

A significant contribution to the domestic theory of international economic integration was made by Yu.V. Shishkov. He explained the inefficient functioning of the CMEA by the presence of an anti-market mechanism, which undermined the material interest in the cooperation of the socialist states, therefore, according to Yu.V. Shishkov, it was quasi-integration.

The considered theoretical approaches to the analysis of economic integration allow us to conclude that there is no single universal theory that can be applied to all states striving for integration interaction. At various stages of the formation and functioning of integration groups, there are also no standard schemes, even within the EU.

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