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EFFECTS OF INTEGRATION: SOCIAL ASPECTS

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Summary. Social aspects of European integration of Ukraine are studied in the article. The authors make an attempt to analyze social benefits and risks of this integration.

Key words: *integration, social consequences, social standards.*

Security of the National Strategy of Ukraine clearly declares the European choice of the state. The integration choice of Ukraine has three aspects: legal, economic, political. The legal aspect is the preservation of sovereignty and statehood. The economic aspect is the country's development and prosperity of the people. The political aspect is the insurance of the civilized future of the Ukrainian society.

Security cooperation between the EU and Ukraine is at the intersection of these issues. That is why the analysis of the consequences of the European integration is important.

Despite the fact that there are a lot of studies of the features and the impact of the European integration on different areas some problems remain.

The most difficult problems are in socio-economic sphere. The European Union is a relatively uniform economic space, with a **common regulatory framework**, economic policy and standards of behavior of economic entities.

A country that proclaims its desire to become a part of this space should prove the ability to comply with these standards. Taking this into account a detailed analysis of the social consequences of the European integration of Ukraine is topical.

An Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU will produce an appreciable effect on the Ukrainian economy, in particular on its social sector.

Ukraine, with its problem of choosing between the European and Eurasian integration vector, is one of the most striking examples of the difficulties that may arise in the course of such a choice.

Significant opportunities for Ukraine are in the development of the social standards of the EU. That refers to the expenditure on social protection and social assistance.

The Eurasian integration is attractive because of the ability to approach the levels of wages specific to the member countries of the Eurasian groups, especially the richest one – Russia. Even if we reach the level of Belarus the salaries in Ukraine would grow by 44 %, and the level of Kazakhstan by 87 %.

Social attractiveness of the European integration for Ukraine is the ability to achieve high social standards. The average monthly salary in the EU is now almost nine times higher than in Ukraine, and four times higher than in Russia.

The European pension was formed as a market, three-tier system. It has been closely tied to the household income and does **not cause complaints** because of the inadequate allocation of pension funds. It is very important for the Ukrainian pension system, which is still too weakly tied to income, but mostly to age and seniority, and it leads to dissatisfaction of pensioners and to social problems.

These problems are directly the result of the labor market.

Trade liberalization with the EU will lead to increased employment in the following sectors: industry, food, light industry, financial intermediation, services and IT industry.

The reduction of employment in agriculture and coal mining is correlated with common patterns of structural adjustment.

The assessment of the social impact of the EU-Ukraine Association should include indicators of the quality of training and retraining, as there is a significant risk of non-compliance with the structural changes in the economy. It should be noted that despite the positive trends of educational reform in Ukraine, there is a significant imbalance between the level and quality of educational services and the requirements of the labor market.

There are many problems for further modernization of higher education and its integration into European and world educational space in Ukraine.

According to the Ukrainian Centre for Social Research and the Institute of Ethnology of the National Academy of Sciences, the number of Ukrainian labor migrants will reach 4.5-5 million. There are some other estimates that suggest 5.5-7 million people. According to unofficial data, the majority of Ukrainians are working in Russia, but according to official data the number of Ukrainians working in the EU is three times more than in Russia, and the number of Ukrainians who want to work in the EU is 63 %. So, the main legitimate labor market Ukrainians see is the EU.

The money that comes from the Ukrainian labour migrants from the EU annually is about € 15 billion, or three times more than from Russia.

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