

Cohesion Processes in Internal and External Spaces of the European Union: the New Priorities

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Cohesion as an especially important factor of modernization processes, as well as of processes of European integration and enlargement of the European Union are analyzed in this theoretical article. The needs of cohesion and possibilities to activate the cohesion in the context of European integration in general, as well as the impact of cohesion on the further enlargement of the European Union are discussed. This article raises and considers the problem of social, economic and political development, cultural changes, the new tendencies of technological progress and environmental protection, closely associated with the cohesion processes, taking place under the conditions of European integration and the European Union development and enlargement. It is shown that the cohesion processes determine the basic changes in contemporary society and its life in the common cultural, social and economic space in the European Union. The main attention is paid to the specifics of cohesion in the internal and in the external spaces of the European Union, the role and significance of the processes of innovative development in the context of general priorities of cohesion are characterized.

It is shown that there are some needs to define the priorities of cohesion processes separately for internal spaces of the European Union, as well as for external spaces. The priorities of innovative development and technological progress are defined as the main priorities of cohesion in internal spaces of the European Union.

The priorities of goal-oriented cooperation with the developing countries of new type with post-crisis economy are defined as the main priorities of cohesion in external spaces of the European Union.

The variety of the cohesion processes is described, new trends of cohesion in the context of globalization and internationalization, knowledge based society and knowledge economy creation processes are identified.

Keywords: *cohesion, European Union, European integration, principles and regularities, common space.*

Introduction

New demands for identifying and solving the so-called *cohesion* problems emerge under the conditions of *globalization* and *internationalization* of social, economic and political development, cultural, scientific and technological advance, as well as under the conditions of the creation of *knowledge based society* and *knowledge economy* and *European integration* and *the enlargement of the European Union*: adequate understanding of these problems and the ability of solving them may be perceived as an important precondition for making true the wishes of modern society for advance.

It is obvious, that the problems of cohesion are in the focus of many research works. Their significance is emphasized in the context of social, economic and political development, the advance of culture, science and technologies, as well as the relationship with the natural and social environment and the development of safety ensuring activities. Special attention is paid to the problems of cohesion under the conditions of European integration and the expansion of the European Union.

In addition, it is noted that the present level of research into the cohesion problems is *not sufficient* for their solution: the *variety* of cohesion problems, needs and cases have not been properly identified, traditional approaches to cohesion are not enough adequate to the needs of the society, especially – in the conditions of contemporary society in the

European Union. It is especially important that a *systematic and integrated approach* to cohesion and to prevention of *the lack of cohesion* has not been developed yet.

Insufficiency of the traditional approaches to cohesion and *the lack of systematic and integrated approach* to cohesion and to prevention of *the lack of cohesion* could be defined as an important *scientific problem* of the complex scientific research on social and economic integration processes in the context of globalization and internationalization in general, as well as of the complex scientific research on European integration processes and the processes of development, expansion and enlargement of the European Union. There is one additional and very important new aspect: traditional approaches to cohesion are not oriented to the differences between cohesion in the internal and in the external spaces of the European Union.

The object of this article is the cohesion processes, especially - cohesion processes in the context of contemporary needs of European integration, enlargement of the European Union and in the context of the needs of creation of knowledge based society and knowledge economy in the European Union. The main focus is put on the principles and regularities of the cohesion as well as on the impact of cohesion on the social, economic and technological changes in European Union and on the creation and further modernization of common cultural, social, economic space.

It could be noted, that the new aspect of the scientific research on the cohesion processes is an orientation to the differences between cohesion in the internal and in the external spaces of the European Union.

Scientific research on the cohesion processes, especially - in the context of the creation of knowledge based society and knowledge economy and in the context of globalization and European integration, is identified as a perspective way of the scientific research on European integration processes, as well as on the development processes in the internal and in the external spaces of the European Union in general.

Tasks of the article:

- to identify the cohesion processes in general, especially - cohesion processes in the context of globalization and in the context of contemporary needs of European integration, enlargement of the European Union as well as in the context of the needs of creation of knowledge based society and knowledge economy in the European Union, especially – in the internal spaces of the European Union;

- to explore the new definitions and to systematize the cohesion processes, especially - in the conditions of the European integration and of the enlargement of the European Union, as well as in the context of the differences between cohesion in the internal and in the external spaces of the European Union;

- to explore the main challenges and the role of the cohesion processes, to identify their impact on the development and modernization processes in the European cultural, social and economic space, as well as in the internal and in the external spaces of the European Union.

Cohesion: the main definitions, principles and regularities in the conditions of development and enlargement of the European Union

An adequate description of the cohesion problems requires the use of the appropriate *cohesion concepts*. It is well-known that there are many different approaches to cohesion and its concept.

Despite the existence of various approaches, the concept of cohesion is usually described as *convergence* or *harmonization*, meaning the trend of *decreasing the differences* in a particular area of social life, activity or development (Melnikas, 2011; Melnikas *et al.*, 2011).

Thus, it may be stated that *cohesion as a process*, describing *harmonization and decrease of differences*, also reflects the orientation to *decreasing or eliminating conflicts or disproportions*, as well as the *realization of wishes for sustainable development and harmonization*.

This approach to cohesion and its concept may be considered to be *universal* in describing the meaning of the *cohesion processes as harmonization and decreasing of differences*. The universal character of this approach requires us to take into account the *diversity of cohesion processes*, realizing that they can be considered and assessed, when a number of *various factors* are taken into consideration.

The main of these factors reflect the following types of cohesion:

- the cohesion between various *processes*: between economic, social, political, technological development or other processes, as well as between social and economic processes, between technological development and environmental protection or between other combinations of processes (Brady, 2010; Crane & Matten, 2010; Ravenhill, 2008);

- the cohesion between various *regions* or other *geographically identified spaces*: in this case, the cohesion between *globally, internationally, nationally* or even locally described regions, may be mentioned (Ambros & Schlegelmilch, 2009; Wiener & Diez, 2009; Morrison, 2006; Hix, 2006);

- the cohesion between various *social groups or social layers*, which may be considered and assessed globally, internationally, nationally or even locally (Platoni, 2010; Searle, 2010);

- the cohesion between various *activities*, between the sectors of social, economic, political, cultural, scientific and technological development, as well as various *spheres* of social activities or business (O'Brien & Williams, 2007; Brakman *et al.*, 2006; Button, 2008; Harrison, 2010; Snieska *et al.*, 2011; Ciarniene & Kumpikaite, 2011; Camacho & Ballesta, 2012), the cohesion between various *organizations* or *subjects* engaged in various activities (Brookes & Grint, 2010; Virvilaite & Daubaraite, 2011).

The *universal* approach to cohesion and its concept may be applied to diverse conditions of social, economic and political development, as well as the advance of culture, science and technologies: the application prospects of this approach under the conditions of *European integration and the expansion of the European Union* should be emphasized (Melnikas, 2002; Melnikas &, Reichelt, 2004; Melnikas, 2012).

It may be stated that *consistent cohesion* is considered to be *the main precondition* for achieving that the processes of European integration and the European Union expansion should be really oriented to the statements of *humanism, democracy, environmental safety, morality and social responsibility* and that they could be *effective* in ensuring the *stability* of the European Union as a multifaceted and very complicated system. Besides, social, economic, political, technological and other changes, taking place in the European Union, should be clearly *directed at its advance*.

The *priority* areas and trends of cohesion under the conditions of European integration and the European Union expansion are described in several publications (Melnikas, 2011, 2012).

The most important trends and areas of cohesion under the conditions of European integration and the European Union expansion are considered to be those, which characterize the phenomena of *multichannel "penetration"*, implying the simultaneous *spread of processes, originated in Europe, into non-European areas* and, vice versa, the *spread of non-European processes into European spaces*. These phenomena reflect various conditions of cohesion between Europe and the European Union as a whole and non-European spaces and are considered to be of great importance *in the context of modern globalization* because they help to perceive the need for European integration and the European Union expansion not only on the background of local, but of the global changes, as well.

Therefore, it is possible to state that the cohesion processes, taking place under the conditions of European integration and the European Union expansion, are very complicated and diverse, requiring an *adequate response to specific cohesion conditions*, characteristic of European and the European Union space: the processes of European integration and the European Union expansion determine both new cohesion *requirements* and the need for and the inevitability of the appropriate perception of *purposeful effects of cohesion* on the creation of *common spaces* in Europe and the European Union. This also implies that the cohesion processes may be treated as the actions, raising *new challenges to governance, management and management activities in the European Union space* and providing *new possibilities for governance and management improvement*, taking into account *the specific features of cohesion*, which manifest themselves under the conditions of European integration and the European Union expansion (Melnikas, 2012). It can be also noted that cohesion and its processes are based on some particular *principles and regularities*, which reflect *the objective nature of cohesion*, allowing to state that the cohesion processes may be perceived and considered as a specific cognition and research object (Melnikas, 2011, 2012).

It is especially important, that in the case, when the European Union cohesion is considered, the main attention is paid to *interregional cohesion* and various *regional uniqueness aspects*, taking into account the peculiarities of European integration and the European Union development and enlargement: therefore, the problems of *interregional cohesion* are considered to be highly significant today for the whole European Union and for its particular member-states (Melnikas, 2012; Daugeliene, 2011; Pukeliene, 2008; Fligstein, 2010; Trondal, 2010; Johnson & Turner, 2006; Lane & Ersson, 1996; Leach, 2007; Leen, Melnikas, 2005; Morris & Goldsworthy, 2008). There is one additional and very important specific aspect of cohesion in the European Union: there are many differences between cohesion in the internal and in the external spaces of the European Union.

The convergence of business and public sectors - an especially important factor of cohesion in the conditions of development and enlargement of the European Union

There are many different forms and factors of cohesion in the European Union. Quite important factor of cohesion in the contemporary conditions of the European integration and enlargement of the European Union is *the convergence of business and public sectors*: this factor represents many aspects of interaction, cooperation and partnership between institutions and organizations belonging to business and public sectors and reflect the influences of both sectors to the social, economic and technological development in the common space of the European Union in general (Melnikas, 2011, 2012).

It should be noted that under the conditions of globalization and internationalization of political, social and economic development and the advance of sciences, culture and technologies, new trends in the development and interaction between business and public sector organizations can be observed. These trends reflects *qualitative changes* in

various areas, particularly, in those associated with the processes of the creation of knowledge based society and knowledge economy economies in the European Union, and characterizes *new phenomena of cohesion* in the spaces of the European Union.

In this context, the changes, reflecting *the integration and convergence of the organizational forms of activities characteristic of business and public sector's organizations*, should be emphasized. To describe these processes several issues should be considered.

First, under present conditions, the *convergence* of the values and interests of the traditional *business and public sectors*, gradually turning into *integration*, can be observed. Basic values and interests of traditional *businesses* are oriented to the principles of giving *the priorities to egocentrism, egoism and seeking economic profit*. At the same time, the values and interests of the traditional *subjects of public sector* should be definitely oriented to the *priorities associated with the development of the whole society* and promotion and consolidation of the principles of *humanism, democracy and morals common to all mankind* in all the areas of social life. It should be noted, that, at the present stage, the convergence of the considered values and interests is characterized by increasing penetration and realization of the interests and values of traditional business subjects in the activities of the *public sector subjects*. This means that the *convergence* of the interests and values of the subjects of business and public sector is really taking place, thereby creating the conditions for *integration* of their interests and values, with the dominance of business interests and values in all spheres of social life. This, in turn, implies that public sector tends to become business-like. However, an *opposite* trend, characterized by gradual penetration of some values and interests, which, according to their contents and orientation, are characteristic of *public sector subjects*, into the area of business activities can be observed.

Second, at present, a general trend of using and developing *the same or similar technologies, organizational forms, as well as governing, control and management methods and models*, in business and public sectors manifests itself. The creation, promotion and use of similar forms, methods and models of work by both sectors reflect the trend of their convergence and integration. In this environment, traditional business technologies, organizational forms, control and management models and methods are being adapted for the needs of the public sector, while the respective technologies, organizational forms, control and management methods created and used in the public sector are being adapted for business.

Third, under present conditions, *new forms of interaction and cooperation between business and public sectors manifest themselves*. New trends can be observed in this area, which show that the convergence and integration processes are taking place in reality. Moreover, a *new trend of creating, developing, spreading and expanding networks of various business and public sectors* can be clearly observed. This trend reflects the growing importance of *networking* for general processes of convergence and integration of business and public sectors, allowing to realize that networking largely contributes to the development of these sectors and the increase of their efficiency. At the same time, it also fosters internationa-

lization, by making use of the interrelations between the considered sectors.

Particularly important is the newly perceived *networking significance* both in terms of *convergence and integration* of business and public sectors, their activities and development and in terms of *fostering and activating internationalization* of these sectors, their subjects, activities and development.

Cohesion in the conditions of development and enlargement of the European Union: interaction between the states and international business subjects

Interaction and cooperation between the states and international business subjects could be defined as an especially important form of the convergence of business and public sectors.

The increasing interaction between the subjects of business and public sectors under the conditions of globalization and internationalization as well as European integration acquires various new forms and embraces various spheres of social development, also including *the interaction between national states and international business subjects*. In recent years, the role of the emerging *new forms of interaction between international business subjects and national states* has largely increased. Now, these processes determine the essential changes taking place in social and economic development and scientific and technological advance.

The interaction between national states and international business subjects is *varied* and has many *peculiar features*. In real life, the states and the subjects of international business pursue various *interests*. There are also various cases and circumstances, when these interests can *match, be compatible or incompatible*.

It is well-known that the concept of *state* may be interpreted in a broader sense as *the highest organizational form*, performing, as a subject, the functions of organization and administration in all areas of societal development.

It should be noted that, in fact, all the states existing now in the world are *national states* (except for Vatican and some others), functioning *within the borders of their territories in the geographical and ethnocultural sense*. Taking into account that a society formed in the area of a national state acquires the status of a *nation*, it may be argued that a *national state is the organization of the society*, if this society is having the status of a nation and living on the territory of this state. At the same time, a *national state is a power holder*, organizing and administrating the development of this society. It should be also noted that, usually, a nation does *not* have a *homogeneous* structure, being *inhomogeneous in the ethnical sense* because it often includes various ethnical or other groups and layers of people.

Modern national states have a variety of organizational forms as well as government and self-government systems. In any case, a national state has *innate characteristic features* as well as *national interests*. All national states consider it their duty to represent and realize the *interests of their nations* (i.e. *their national interests*), which means that *representation and realization of national interests* may be

considered to be a specific feature of any national state. It is the feature reflecting the nature of a national state as a holder of power and an organization, coordinating and administrating the development and advance of the nation, whose interests it represents.

The ability of a national state as an organization and a subject to properly understand, formulate, represent and realize *the interests of the whole nation and the society*, formed in the area of this state and continuing to live there, largely determines the vitality and successful development of the state itself and the society it represents. It should be noted that orientation to the primary needs of the society, closely associated with ethnocultural and geographical parameters, largely determines the content of these interests.

The interests of a national state, the nation and the society of this state, as well as the interests of various state institutions and government bodies, can either match or *differ considerably* in particular cases. This means that the *identification of the national state interests* requires the evaluation of the ability of a national state to properly formulate and represent the interests of the nation and the society of this national state. This also implies that various government bodies and state institutions should be able and willing to properly formulate the interests of a national state, its nation and society.

The above considerations are particularly important, especially - to gain an accurate and deep understanding of the role of modern national states and to adequately assess their ability to exert influence on the life of the society under the conditions of globalization, internationalization and European integration. The significance of these considerations is also confirmed by the growing influence of the *interaction between national states and the subjects of international business* on the life of society. Therefore, it should be noted that identification and assessment of the interests of national states make sense only if these interests are identified and evaluated, *taking into account* the interests of the subjects of international business.

The identification and adequate assessment of the *interests of international business subjects* require, in their turn, the consideration of some factors, which may help to describe both *general and specific features of business subjects' interests*, manifesting themselves only in the *international environment*.

First, the interests of international business, like those of local business, *are oriented to achieving egocentric and egoistic goals, as well as economic profit*. This orientation shows that the subjects of international business tend to give the *priority to gaining economic profit, partly ignoring*, to some extent, the needs of the society. In spite of the fact that the processes of convergence and even integration of the interests of business and public sectors and their activities are taking place in the life of modern society, and that, in general, the subjects of local and international business more often declare and implement in their activities the principles based on social responsibility, ethics, the morals common to all mankind, justice, lawfulness, environmentalism and other factors not associated with egoistic and economic goals, in real life, they still give the *priority to egocentric, egoistic aims and economic profit*.

Second, more attention should be paid to an emerging trend of business subjects to show *less regard* to

ethnocultural and geographic limitations, which really should be taken into account in international business development under the conditions of internationalization in economic life. *Ethnocultural and geographical dimensions* are gradually losing their priority status, which implies that the interests of international business subjects are getting *incommensurable* with the interests of the society, which was formed and still lives in the area identified in ethnocultural and geographical terms. Moreover, when the interests are *incommensurable*, there is a great possibility that they will become *incompatible*, and this *incompatibility* of the interests will manifest itself more often and to a greater extent. Third, it should be taken into account that, in the context of globalization and internationalization, the *significance* of the international business subjects and their *influence on the economic situation* and other aspects of the state development is constantly growing in various national states. This implies that the subjects of international business can more strongly influence *the processes and outcomes of national state interests' realization*. The above statement confirms the significant role and growing importance of interaction between national states and the subjects of international business.

It could be observed in globalization environment that national states as power holders are *losing the possibility to control the life of the societies on their own*. Under the conditions, when the society, its life and economic development are getting more open, the changes in these areas often take place *independently* of the actions of national states as power holders. The life of the society in any state is more strongly influenced by the *processes, taking place in international spaces and by factors, reflecting various aspects of internationalization*. Then, it follows that, under the existing conditions, national states can really change the situation within the country only if they can effectively interact and cooperate both with each other and with the subjects of international business. However, the efforts of any national state to monopolize the control over the life of the society within this state may encourage the society to become more closed. This will finally cause backwardness and destruction in various spheres of life.

In this environment, the authorities, making the efforts to strengthen the interaction and cooperation between national states and their relationships with international business subjects, should understand and evaluate the *logic of the above-described interests*, taking into account the *matching* of some of these interests, *possible harmonization* of some *differing* interests and *inevitable incompatibility* of some other interests.

Proper understanding and consideration of the discussed logic of interests is required, when the *matching and compatibility of the interests* of a national state and international business subjects manifest themselves in the development of particular economic activities on the territory of the considered state or elsewhere. In this case, the conditions are created for international business to gain the economic profit, while a national state gets a possibility to ensure the satisfaction of social and economic needs of the society members. Therefore, the interests of national states and international business subjects, as well as government decisions, particular actions, methods and

technologies, helping to realize these interests, may be *harmonized* in the process of their interaction.

When the interests of national states and international business subjects are *incompatible*, various means of harmonizing these interests should be sought through cooperation for the sake of achieving the common goal of successful development of the society.

The comprehension of the logic of interests of international business subjects is a precondition for effective solution of social, economic and technological problems, arising in most countries in the globalization and internationalization environment. The most important problems are primarily associated with the increasing *multiform differentiation between various regions and states* and ever-changing *competitive environment*. Moreover, the competitiveness is usually increased, when various *means aimed at decreasing expenses* are used.

Minimization of expenses has become a key prerequisite for increasing the competitiveness in economic and other types of activities. It should be noted that, in the countries, where a higher standard of living and social comfort has been reached, it is usually *more difficult to decrease expenses* because the conditions for developing traditional sectors of production and services and the required productive capacities in these countries are less favourable than the conditions found in the developing countries with lower living standards. The enterprises producing the products sold in the global and international markets tend to move production from the traditional regions to the countries and regions, where production expenses may be considerably decreased because of lower work payment, cheaper raw materials, energy, etc. In these cases, multinational enterprises get more benefits. However, in the countries, from which the production facilities were moved or in which they were no longer developed, the conditions for slowdown of economic development or even economic recession, social tension, etc. could be created. Moreover, when the productive capacities are too rapidly moved from these states to the countries, where production expenses are low, the latter are faced with a great number of additional ecological, social and economic problems.

In the context of growing differentiation between various regions and states, as well as the emerging new forms of competition between them, both national states and subjects of international business are faced with new challenges. To be able to respond to these challenges and search for new effective ways of solving the arising problems, *national states and subjects of international business* strengthen *their interaction and cooperation* under the conditions of *globalization and varied internationalization processes*. At the same time, *new possibilities* of fostering these processes as well as the processes associated with *new networking concepts* are provided. This means that the *interaction between national states and the subjects of international business* should be considered a relevant problem, requiring a comprehensive analysis.

Contemporary processes of globalization, internationalization and European integration favoured the creation of *new conditions* for interaction between national states and international business subjects. The main of these new conditions are as follows:

1. *The growing influence of international business subjects on the social and economic development and situation in various states and regions.* Now, when *economic openness and internationalization are increasing, the subjects of international business*, i.e. enterprises and other organizations involved in international business as well as their departments and networks, etc., exert a stronger influence on social and economic situation in various countries and regions, determining the main trends and success of scientific and technological development. It may be noted that *international business subjects* either play the leading part in the economic growth and development of various states and regions, making the largest contribution to it, or foster modernization in economics by taking the required measures for accelerating scientific and technological advance. This means that a general economic and social situations, as well as cultural life in various countries and regions, are getting more dependent on the subjects of international business and their activities.

2. *The increase in the scope and expansion of international business subjects' activities to new countries and regions.* Under the existing conditions, the activities of the international business subjects tend to increase in the scope and expand into other countries and regions. This means that multinational enterprises and corporations diversify their activities, as well as extending them into other countries and regions.

3. *The weakening influence of national states and their policies on international business subjects and their activities.* Since the scope of the activities of international business subjects and the number of the markets, states and regions, where they operate, are growing considerably, their dependence on *particular* national states and their policies is decreasing, while the possibilities of *particular* national states to exert influence on the activities of international companies and corporations are also decreasing. This statement describes a real situation, particularly, in the cases, when *large* international corporations, *monopolizing* various markets and having a *higher competitive advantage* than their rivals, are concerned. The weakening influence of national states on international business subjects may be also accounted for by the fact that the national states themselves become dependent on the activities of international corporations. The latter increase their influence on the situation in labour markets, national budgets and economic activities in the respective countries. Moreover, the weakening influence of national states on international corporations is demonstrated by unharmonized and unbalanced development of these countries, when the problems of social and economic differentiation as well as ecological and other problems arise in the context of economic recession and social depression. This indicates that the powers of a national state, allowing it to ensure the sustainable development of the country and prevent various social, economic and other conflicts and threats, are rather limited.

4. *The formation of new priorities of national states and their policies.* Under the existing conditions, the activities and policies of national states tend to concentrate on the needs for attaining the sustainable development, which requires close cooperation among the national states as well as between them and international corporations. To achieve

this, any national state should orient their activities and policy to creating favourable conditions for the work of international corporations within the country and for raising the living standards, quality of life and social comfort for its inhabitants. The pursuing of the goal to create the respective comfortable conditions determines that any national state should give the priority to the development of interaction between the state and international corporations. It may be argued that giving the priorities to the development of interaction between a particular state and international corporations with the aim of creating favourable conditions for these corporations and for raising the living standards, the level of social comfort and quality of life of the inhabitants shows the intentions and abilities of a national state to really *increase its influence on the economic and social situation in the country*. It may be also mentioned that the orientation of national states to the considered priorities allows them both to *strengthen their influence on economic and social situation* and to *increase social responsibility* of international corporations for economic, social, ecological and other conditions of the development of various states and regions.

The above considerations help us to realize that, under the existing conditions, the needs arise for increasing the role of national states and their influence on the social, economic and political situation in the country by implementing the principles of sustainable development and interaction with international corporations.

In general, it may be noted that interaction between national states and international corporations and other subjects of international business is becoming the key factor, determining both the social and economic situation in many countries and regions, and possibilities and development prospects of modern society. Of course, this interaction could be defined as especially important aspect of cohesion in the context of contemporary conditions of European integration.

Internal and external spaces of the European Union: new ways of cohesion

Cohesion processes in the European Union could be defined as a *very complicated area* of the scientific research, including – research on contemporary economics and political science, public governance and business management, as well as of the practice of social, political, economic, technological development in the European Union, especially – in the context of contemporary processes of globalization, economic internationalization and European integration.

Complexity and difficulties of cohesion and cohesion processes occurs in different ways. The possibilities and necessities to distinguish *the cohesion needs and priorities in the internal and external spaces of the European Union*, as one very important aspect of these complexity and difficulties, could be defined: it is clear that the cohesion needs and priorities in the internal and external spaces of the European Union are very different. These quite different cohesion needs and priorities, typical for internal and external spaces of the European Union, could be described more in details (Melnikas, 2012).

It could be noted, that *the spaces of the countries of the European Union* could be defined as *the internal spaces of the European Union*. Of course, cohesion between countries or regions of the European Union, as well as cohesion between different sectors of societal and economic life in the European Union could be defined as *cohesion in the internal spaces of the European Union*. *The spaces outside the European Union*, which are very important and interesting for European Union's international relations and cooperation, could be defined as *the external spaces of the European Union*. Of course, cohesion between countries or regions in the European Union and countries or regions outside the European Union, as well as cohesion between different sectors of societal and economic life in the European Union and outside the European Union is especially important precondition for successful international relations and cooperation between European Union and countries and partners outside the European Union: this type of cohesion could be defined as *cohesion with external spaces*, as well as could be defined as *the cohesion in external spaces of the European Union*.

The cohesion needs and priorities in the internal, as well as in the external spaces of the European Union are characterized by *great diversity*. There are some cohesion needs and priorities, which in the cases of internal and external spaces are *very different*. On the other hand, there are some cases, when cohesion needs and priorities in the internal, as well as in the external spaces of the European Union are *quite similar*. The cases, when cohesion needs and priorities in the internal, as well as in the external spaces of the European Union are *quite similar*, could be defined as characterizing favorable conditions for active cooperation and intensive development of international relations between countries or regions in the European Union and countries or regions outside the European Union, as well as between different sectors of societal and economic life in the European Union and outside the European Union. It is important to note that *the orientations to the creation of knowledge based society and knowledge economy, as well as to innovative development in general*, could be defined as a *very significant case*, when cohesion needs and priorities in the internal, as well as in the external spaces of the European Union *are similar and basically the same*: this case could be described more in details.

Priorities of cohesion in the internal and external spaces of the European Union

Creation of knowledge based society and knowledge economy is a priority of social and economic development in many countries, particularly in countries of European Union, as well as in all modern or modernization oriented countries.

The need for the creation and subsequent development of knowledge based society and knowledge economy is caused by the fact that innovative development on the one hand creates conditions for accelerating scientific and technological progress, productivity and efficiency growth in all major sectors of contemporary economy, and on the other hand creates prerequisites for the real solution of current economic, social, environmental and technological problems affecting the most important spheres of life.

Innovative development considers as the most important factor for real economic growth and competitiveness of national economies, as well as of the economy of European Union in general in the current context of globalization and intensification of international competition.

Creation and subsequent development of knowledge based society and knowledge economy is a daunting task, consisted of multi-faceted problems which require solutions as well as a variety of approaches, options, alternatives and conditions for solving these problems.

Undoubtedly, the creation and subsequent development of knowledge based society and knowledge economy can be attributed to the category of complex, topical and urgent issues in modern economics as well as in modern theoretical and practical research on public governance and business management, and the research on innovative development can be referred to the category of the most important research areas, including - in the area of cohesion processes.

One of the promising areas of research on innovative development is the study of the impact of human resources quality on innovation processes, in particular, intellectual potential, level of education, competence and other properties of human resources. In other words, the main area of the research is to identify the impact of the factors, which could be defined as the quality of human capital), to innovative development.

The aim of the research on human capital and its quality impact on the innovative development is to seek opportunities to enhance innovative development, first of all, through meaningful improvement of the quality of human capital and enhancement of the use of human resources in various sectors of social, economic life, culture, technological progress. Clearly, studies on the impact of human capital on innovative development can cover a wide scope of various phenomena taken into account the certain factors and circumstances. It means that in such studies, questions concerning the evaluation and characterization of human capital and its quality, as well as the measurement of the impact of human capital and its quality on a variety of innovative development are raised inevitably. The emergence of these issues reflects the complexity of the studies, both in terms of reliability of the methodology and techniques, as well as from the standpoint of the practical possibilities of using the results. The impact of human capital and its quality on innovative development can be studied both in the scale of a particular sector of the economy, social life or in regional system and on national or international level. This kind of promising research can be done through international comparative analysis on the evaluation of the relationship of various characteristics of human capital and innovative development in the countries of the European Union and other countries: the results of the analysis can be widely used in various areas of innovative development planning and programming processes, as well as in improvement of international cooperation.

So, orientation to creation and subsequent development of knowledge based society and knowledge economy, as well as innovative development in general, could be defined as an very important priority of the cohesion processes both in the internal and in the external spaces of the European Union.

New type of the developing countries with post-crisis economy: needs of cooperation and priorities of cohesion in external spaces of the European Union.

Fundamentally new problems and challenges for European Union are revealed and are understanding as very important in the context of globalization and internationalization processes, as well as in the context the processes of the creation of knowledge based society and knowledge economy. These problems require the needs to develop a qualitatively new international relations and international cooperation and partnership, especially – with so-called *developing countries with post-crisis economy*, which could be defined as *developing countries of the new type*.

Developing countries with post-crisis economy, defining as *developing countries of the new type*, could be interpreted as especially important and interesting *partner* for various countries of the European Union, as well as for the European Union in general: these *developing countries of the new type* could be defined as a very important and interesting partners in the context of international trade and international investment development perspectives, in the context of needs and challenges for solving of global and international economic, social, ecological problems and different problems of international and regional safety and security, as well as in the context of needs of internationalization of social, economic, technological progress.

Of course, *developing countries of the new type* could be defined as *an important sector* in the external spaces of the European Union with *specific needs* to develop and activate *cohesion processes*.

Currently, most of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as some other European countries in the past belonged to the former Soviet Union and to the former system of communist countries in general, can be defined as *developing countries of the new type, with post-crisis economy*: of course, all these countries could be defined as post-communist countries in the space of Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union, too. It should be noted that the countries of the European Union, which in the past belonged to the former Soviet Union and to the former system of communist countries in general, but currently have the status of members of the European Union, cannot be defined as these developing countries: to the category of *developing countries of the new type, with post-crisis economy*, can be attributed only countries outside the European Union. The main features of *developing countries of the new type, with post-crisis economy*, are as follows:

- these countries in the past belonged to the systems with *relatively high level of economic and technological development* (former Soviet Union, other former industrialized communist countries in Eastern Europe): society of these countries is characterized by the historical experience of the life in the conditions of relatively high level of economic and technological development, especially - historical experience of the industrialized economy development, of high priorities of intellectualization processes, scientific and technological progress, as well as relatively high quality of all education and training systems;

- these countries in the past not only belonged to the systems with relatively high level of economic and technological development, but really met the standards of developed countries and were comparable with modern countries and assessed as developed countries;

- a very deep economic, social, political crisis was in these countries in the context of collapse of communist system in general and disintegration of the Soviet Union: a very important aspect and result of this crisis, including collapse of former economic system – the loss of previous status of developed countries;

- the gap between these post-communist countries and modern developed countries has increased significantly during the crisis, as well as during the post-crisis period: comparison between these countries and other countries according to main indicators of economic development and technological progress shows, that these post-communist countries are currently comparable only with “traditional” developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America (currently there are some development trends indicating that this gap is increasing).

So, currently most of post-communist countries could be comparable only with *developing countries*. Formulation “developing countries of the new type” shows that there is an important difference between these *post-communist developing countries of the new type* and “traditional” developing countries: these *post-communist developing countries of the new type* were comparable in the past with modern developed countries.

It can be concluded that previous economic and technological development in the general societal environment typical for developed countries with industrial economy could be defined as a very important *specific peculiarity*, as well as a *significant advantage* of the *developing countries of the new type, with post-crisis economy*: this fact is a very important factor of cohesion between *developing countries of the new type, with post-crisis economy*, and between countries and regions of the European Union.

Of course, cohesion with *developing countries of the new type* and with *various regions* and with *various sectors of economy and societal life* in these countries could be defined as very important priorities of cohesion in specific external spaces of the European Union.

Conclusions

Cohesion processes could be defined as an *especially important precondition* for further positive political, social, economic development, as well as for positive cultural and ecological changes and for scientific and technological progress in the European Union. In addition, *cohesion* processes could be described as *priority* of political, cultural, social, economic, ecological and technological *harmonization* processes in the contemporary conditions of the European integration and enlargement of the European Union.

Cohesion could be described as *convergence* or *harmonization*, meaning the trend of *decreasing the differences* in a particular area of social life, activity or development. It may be stated that *cohesion as a process*, describing *harmonization and decrease of differences*, also

reflects the orientation to *decreasing or eliminating conflicts or disproportions*, as well as the *realization of wishes for sustainable development and harmonization*.

This approach to cohesion and its concept may be considered to be *universal* in describing the meaning of the *cohesion processes as harmonization and decreasing of differences*. The universal character of this approach requires us to take into account the *diversity of cohesion processes*, realizing that they can be considered and assessed, when a number of *various factors* are taken into consideration (Melnikas, 2012).

There are many types of cohesion, as well as many principles and regularities of cohesion. Main principles reflect the orientation of the cohesion processes to *the searching for and encouraging the synergetic effects*. Cohesion by its nature is the process of the *searching for and purposeful encouraging of possible synergetic effects*: in the course of cohesion, the efforts are made to find and effectively use new possibilities for the development, expansion and modernization of the particular systems, which are based on the *searching for and encouraging of synergetic effects*. The cohesion principles reflect a concept of the searching for and encouraging of synergetic effects, therefore, they may be approached as the principles, reflecting the circumstances of the searching for and encouraging of synergetic effects in the course of cohesion.

A number of the most important *conditions*, reflecting the specific character and challenges to the cohesion processes in the European Union, may be defined as follows:

- the conditions, reflecting the need for *creating and strengthening the common European Union space of social, political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological development*,

- the conditions, reflecting the need for *increasing the potential of innovative activities* by using the cohesion mechanisms oriented to *breakthroughs* in all the areas of social, economic, cultural, scientific and technological development,

- the conditions, reflecting the need for *strengthening safety and preventing the conflicts* in the European Union by using the mechanisms of cohesion,

- the conditions, reflecting the need for *harmony and sustainable development* in the European Union,

- the conditions reflecting the significance of cohesion in the European Union both in the sense that the level of the

advanced development of the European Union as a whole should *correspond to the current challenges* and in the sense that the European Union as a whole should be *competitive and perspective in the current globalization context*.

Some *specific problems* arise in the course of cohesion, taking place in the European Union, which show that:

- some particular *disagreement* between the *supranational European Union interests* and the *national interests* of the particular European Union member-states can be observed: in the cases of disagreement or conflict of interests, the conditions are created, when the cohesion priorities and solutions are chosen which, like the very cohesion processes, are not quite adequate to the public needs and challenges of life,

- the *increasing need* for attracting some *additional financial and other resources* arises: the awareness of the *insufficiency* of the available resources for developing the cohesion processes should result in the actions ensuring *their effective use*,

- the need for making some additional efforts for purposeful cohesion expansion among *the more advanced member-states* of the European Union and their regions as well as among *the backward* European Union states and regions arises: this purposeful cohesion development may raise some additional problems associated with incomplete readiness of both more and less advanced European Union member-states and regions to realize *the principle of solidarity* (Melnikas, 2012).

There are some especially important factors of cohesion in the contemporary context of globalization and European integration, including the convergence of business and public sectors and interaction between the states and international business subjects: significance and impact of these factors on social, economic and technological development in the European Union could be defined as an important area of the further scientific research on the cohesion processes in the internal and external spaces of the European Union.

Some differences between the cohesion processes in the internal and external spaces of the European Union could be defined as an important problem of the cohesion in the European Union in general. The main priority of the cohesion in the context of this problem is orientation to the innovative development and to the creation of knowledge based society and knowledge economy.

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Borissas Melnikas

Sanglaudos procesai vidinėje ir išorinėje Europos Sąjungos erdvėje: nauji prioritetai

Santrauka

Sanglauda, jos plėtra ir aktyvinimas yra suvoktini ir vertintini kaip viena prioritetinių krypčių, charakteringų šiuolaikinės Europos Sąjungos bei jos raidos problemų ir procesų tyrimams: sanglaudos tematika ir problematika savo prigimtimi atspindi orientacijas į integracinių procesų plėtojimą ir aktyvinimą ir į bendrumu bei vieningumu pasižyminčių ekonominių, socialinių, informacinių, taip pat mokslo, studijų ir technologijų pažangos bei kitaip apibūdintų bendrųjų erdvių Europos Sąjungoje kūrimą, todėl akivaizdu, kad sanglaudai skirti klausimai turi būti keliami, nagrinėjami ir sprendžiami praktiškai visais atvejais, kai tenka spręsti tiek teorines, tiek ir praktines Europos integracijos bei Europos Sąjungos raidos ir plėtros problemas.

Sanglauda ir kryptingas jos plėtojimas – itin svarbi sąlyga modernizuoti ir efektyvinti įvairias socialinio ir ekonominio gyvenimo sistemas Europos Sąjungoje, atskiruose Europos Sąjungos regionuose, taip pat stiprinti Europos Sąjungą atstovaujančių ekonominės veiklos bei verslo subjektų pozicijas tarptautinėse rinkose ir globaliu mastu. Nepaisant to, kad sanglaudos tematika ir problematika gana dideliu mastu atspindi įvairiuose Europos integracijai bei Europos Sąjungos raidai ir plėtrai skirtuose tyrimuose bei praktiniuose darbuose, galima teigti, kad kai kurie itin aktualūs ir reikšmingi šios tematikos ir problematikos klausimai iki šiol nebuvo keliami, nagrinėjami bei sprendžiami adekvačiai išryškėjusioms reikmėms. Tokių klausimų tarpe, kaip itin svarbūs, pažymėtini tokie:

- ar sanglaudos procesais yra ir turi būti apimamos tik *vidinės* Europos Sąjungos erdvės, ar šie procesai turi būti inicijuojami, aktyvinami bei plėtojami ir *išorinėse* Europos Sąjungos erdvėse?
- kokie turėtų būti sanglaudos procesų *vidinėse* bei *išorinėse* Europos Sąjungos erdvėse *prioritetai*, kokie yra tokių prioritetų iškelimo ir įgyvendinimo prasmė?
- ar turėtų būti išryškinamos *prioritetinės vidinės* bei *prioritetinės išorinės* Europos Sąjungos erdvės, kuriose sanglaudai bei jos aktyvinimui turėtų būti teikiamas ypatingas dėmesys?

Minėtųjų klausimų iškelimas nulemia poreikį detaliau aptarti tiek Europos Sąjungos *vidinių* ir *išorinių erdvių* sampratą, tiek apibūdinti *sanglaudos aktyvinimo ir vidinėse, ir išorinėse erdvėse* būtinumą, tiek ir apibrėžti tam tikrus *prioritetus*, kurie turėtų būti būdingi sanglaudai vidinėse bei išorinėse Europos Sąjungos erdvėse. Pabrėžtina, kad siekiant plėtoti ir efektyvinti Europos Sąjungos raidos ir plėtros procesus, yra būtina suvokti, kad *sanglauda bei sanglaudos aktyvinimu* turi būti apimamos ne tik *vidinės*, bei ir *išorinės Europos Sąjungos erdvės*: beje, *vidinių* ir *išorinių erdvių* identifikavimas leidžia išryškinti tiek sanglaudos siekius ir perspektyvas Europos Sąjungos erdvės *viduje*, tiek ir siekius ir perspektyvas plėtoti sanglaudą tarp Europos Sąjungos kaip *visumos* ir tarp kitų, Europos Sąjungai nepriklausančių šalių ir regionų socialinių, ekonominių ir kitaip apibūdintų sistemų ir struktūrų, apibūdintų kaip priklausančių *išorinėms* erdvėms. Ypač pažymėtina, kad *sanglaudos išorinėse erdvėse poreikius* nulemia tai, kad tokia sanglauda yra būtina, kad Europos Sąjungos *išoriniai ryšiai* šiuolaikinių globalizacijos bei internacionalizavimo procesų plėtros iššūkių kontekste realiai būtų efektyvūs ir veiksmingi ir kad Europos Sąjungos interesus atstovaujantys subjektai realiai galėtų plėtoti daugialypę partnerystę ir bendradarbiavimą už Europos Sąjungos ribų.

Sanglauda tiek vidinėse, tiek ir išorinėse Europos Sąjungos erdvėse turi būti orientuota į *daugialypę darną*, į *tarpusavio suderinamumą* bei į *tarpusavio adekvatumą* įvairiose socialinio, ekonominio gyvenimo, kultūros, mokslo ir technologijų pažangos, aplinkos apsaugos, viešojo saugumo ir kitose srityse. *Prioritetinis dėmesys* plėtojant sanglaudą turi būti teikiamas *žiniomis grindžiamos visuomenės ir žinių ekonomikos kūrimui*, taip pat įvairialypėms *inovacijoms* bei *inovacinės veiklos* skatinimui bei efektyvinimui. Pažymėtina ir ta aplinkybė, kad sanglaudos prasme Europos Sąjungai yra svarbios ir reikšmingos *įvairios išorinės erdvės*. Kartu pastebėtina, kad itin perspektyviomis ir svarbiomis yra laikytinos tos *išorinės erdvės*, kurios yra sutapatintinos su taip vadinamomis *naujo tipo besivystančiomis šalimis su pokrizine ekonomika*. *Naujo tipo besivystančiomis šalimis su pokrizine ekonomika* yra laikytinos tos šalys, kurios susiformavo sužlugus buvusiai socialistinių šalių sistemai ir kurios pasižymi tuo, kad:

- praityje jose buvo pasiektas sąlyginai aukštas *industrinio tipo ekonomikos* išvystymo lygis, o šių šalių visuomenei buvo būdingi pagrindiniai išvystytų šalių visuomenės bei jos gyvenimo būdo bruožai,
- praite amžiaus pabaigoje šiose šalyse reikėsi *gili krizė*, apėmusi visas pagrindines socialinio, ekonominio ir politinio gyvenimo sritis: krizės pasėkoje įvyko ženklus ekonomikos nuosmukis, šiose šalyse buvo prarastas ankstesnis *sąlyginai išvystytos ekonomikos* statusas, šios šalys pagal pagrindinius gyvenimo kokybės, socialinio komforto bei ekonominės gerovės kriterijus tapo *nepalyginamos* su išsivysčiusiomis šalimis ir buvo pradėtos laikyti *besivystančiomis šalimis*,
- šios šalys visuomenėje netenkina modernioms išvystytoms šalims, ypač – Europos Sąjungos ir kitoms Vakarų šalims, būdingų standartų,
- atsižvelgiant į tai, kad šiose šalyse istoriškai jau buvo sukaupta *industralizacijos ir ekonomikos modernizavimo* patirtis ir kad šių šalių visuomenė savo gyvenimo būdu bei kultūros tradicijomis iš esmės yra pasirengusi gyventi pagal išvystytų šalių standartus, šios šalys gali būti laikomos *naujo tipo besivystančiomis šalimis*: siekiant išryškinti tą aplinkybę, jog šios šalys prarado ankstesnį statusą ir tapo besivystančiomis šalimis būtent krizės pasėkoje, yra tikslinga akcentuoti, kad *naujo tipo besivystančios šalys* pasižymi *pokrizine ekonomika*.

Pastebėtina, kad *naujo tipo besivystančios šalys su pokrizine ekonomika* gali būti vertinamos kaip pasižyminčios gana didelėmis ekonomikos augimo perspektyvomis bei geromis prielaidomis kurti žiniomis grindžiamą visuomenę bei žinių ekonomiką: šia prasme šios šalys yra laikytinos gana perspektyviomis plėtojant įvairialypius ryšius su Europos Sąjunga, o tai tuo pačiu reiškia, kad šias šalis apimančios erdvės, priskirtinos Europos Sąjungos *išorinių erdvių* kategorijai, gali būti laikomos itin reikšmingomis sanglaudos aktyvinimo prasme. Apibendrinant išdėstytus teiginius galima pažymėti, kad sanglaudos Europos Sąjungoje aktyvinimas yra išskirtinai sudėtinga tiek praktinės veiklos, tiek ir mokslinio pažinimo sritis, reikalaujanti gilių kompleksinio pobūdžio tyrimų.

Raktažodžiai: *sanglauda, Europos sąjunga, Europos integracija, principiniai ir dėsningumai, bendra erdvė*.

The article has been reviewed.

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