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Mechanisms for Improving Instruments of Public Regulation of Economic Development in the Context of European Integration Transformations

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ABSTRACT

The article reveals the theoretical and methodological foundations of improving the mechanisms of public regulation of economic development in the context of European integration transformations, which provide for a combination of institutional, legal and economic instruments. It is established that the effectiveness of public administration is determined by the ability to ensure effective management of social processes, to achieve compliance between the goals of management and the actual results of activity. It is stated that in the conditions of European integration transformations, the requirements for regulatory compatibility with the EU acquis, digitalization of public services and institutional capacity of the state are increasing. It is determined that modern integration processes directly stimulate the introduction of innovative management solutions and technological modernization. The peculiarities of the Ukrainian experience of adaptation of regulatory mechanisms to European standards in the context of post-war recovery and external risks are revealed. It is found that the European Commission's Ukraine Report 2024 focuses on digitalizing procedures, improving financial management, and strengthening anti-corruption institutions. It was emphasized that the introduction of industrial parks and special economic zones are key mechanism for stimulating investment and regional development. It is emphasized that at the regulatory level, there is a desire to improve the legal regime of industrial parks, unify the conditions of state support and increase their investment attractiveness. The importance of the National Economic Strategy until 2030 and government plans as tools of strategic planning in the field of European integration reforms is revealed. It was emphasized that the implementation of the Export Strategy of Ukraine until 2030 allows stimulating the development of an export-oriented economy and integration into global production chains. It was emphasized that the Communication Strategy on European Integration of Ukraine for the period until 2026 is aimed at forming public support and consolidating resources for the implementation of reforms. It is stated that the communication dimension of European integration directly affects the perception of reforms and increases their effectiveness.

KEYWORDS

public regulation, economic development, European integration transformations, institutional capacity, digitalization.

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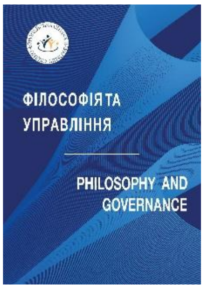

Механізми вдосконалення інструментів публічного регулювання економічного розвитку в умовах євроінтеграційних трансформацій

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СТАТТЯ

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АНОТАЦІЯ

У статті розкрито теоретико-методологічні засади удосконалення механізмів публічного регулювання економічного розвитку в умовах євроінтеграційних трансформацій, що передбачають поєднання інституційних, правових та економічних інструментів. Встановлено, що ефективність державного управління визначається здатністю забезпечувати результативне керівництво суспільними процесами, досягати відповідності між цілями управління та фактичними результатами діяльності. Констатовано, що в умовах євроінтеграційних перетворень підвищуються вимоги до нормативно-правової сумісності з acquis ЄС, цифровізації публічних послуг та інституційної спроможності держави. Визначено, що сучасні інтеграційні процеси безпосередньо стимулюють впровадження інноваційних управлінських рішень та технологічної модернізації. Розкрито особливості українського досвіду адаптації регуляторних механізмів до європейських стандартів в умовах післявоєнного відновлення та зовнішніх ризиків. З’ясовано, що Звіт Європейської Комісії (Ukraine Report 2024) акцентує увагу на цифровізації процедур, удосконаленні управління фінансами та зміцненні антикорупційних інституцій. Наголошено, що запровадження індустріальних парків та спеціальних економічних зон є ключовими механізмами стимулювання інвестицій та розвитку регіонів. Підкреслено, що на нормативному рівні простежується прагнення вдосконалити правовий режим індустріальних парків, уніфікувати умови державної підтримки та підвищити їхню інвестиційну привабливість. Розкрито значення Національної економічної стратегії до 2030 року та урядових планів як інструментів стратегічного планування у сфері євроінтеграційних реформ. Наголошено, що реалізація Експортної стратегії України до 2030 року дозволяє стимулювати розвиток експортоорієнтованої економіки та інтеграцію у глобальні виробничі ланцюги. Підкреслено, що Стратегія комунікацій з питань європейської інтеграції України на період до 2026 року спрямована на формування суспільної підтримки та консолідацію ресурсів для реалізації реформ. Констатовано, що комунікаційний вимір євроінтеграції безпосередньо впливає на сприйняття реформ і підвищення їхньої результативності.

КЛЮЧОВІ СЛОВА

публічне регулювання, економічний розвиток, євроінтеграційні трансформації, інституційна спроможність, цифровізація.

1. Introduction

Modern transformation processes caused by the European integration course of Ukraine actualize the problem of improving the mechanisms of public regulation of economic development. In this regard, there is a need for a comprehensive combination of the theoretical foundations of public administration with tools for the practical implementation of economic policy, which allows for ensuring the consistency of reforms. At the same time, it is important to take into account the internal factors of modernization of the economic system, as well as external requirements related to the harmonization of the regulatory and institutional environment in accordance with the standards of the European Union. In view of this, the importance of studying the tools of public regulation, which can ensure the sustainability and competitiveness of the national economy, is growing. Therefore, the relevance of the research topic is due to the need to search for optimal mechanisms of state influence on economic processes that meet the tasks of European integration transformations and contribute to the achievement of strategic goals of Ukraine's development.

2. Literature Review

The analysis of recent studies and publications shows that the issue of improving the mechanisms of state regulation of economic development in the context of European integration transformations is relevant in the modern scientific discussion. In particular, N. Kalycheva and I. Chornobrovka substantiate methodological approaches to the formation of the system of state regulation of economic processes, which creates the basis for further research in this direction [1]. At the same time, V. Dykan and A. Tolstova specify the mechanisms of state regulation of the reproduction and development of the economy of Ukraine in market conditions, which provides practical content of theoretical approaches [2]. Continuing this problem, V. Sychenko and M. Lukashuk consider the transformation of public administration in the context of global and European integration changes, which makes it possible to combine the national and international dimensions of analysis [3]. In addition, M. Shtan and V. Kostyuk focus on the peculiarities of state regulation of the national economy in the context of Ukraine's integration into the European space, which expands the idea of the specifics of adaptation processes [4]. Instead, H. Ortina defines European integration as a tool for reforming the public administration system in the post-war period, thereby emphasizing the strategic prospects of the studied issues [5].

3. Problem Statement

The article is aimed at studying the mechanisms for improving the tools of public regulation of economic development in the context of European integration transformations.

4. Methods and Materials

The study of mechanisms for improving the tools of public regulation of economic development in the context of European integration transformations is based on a set of theoretical and methodological approaches. The formal legal method is used to analyze the regulatory framework of Ukraine and the Communication Strategy on European Integration until 2026. The comparative legal method is used to compare the Ukrainian experience in regulating economic development with the European standards defined in the EU acquis, which allows for to identification of gaps in compliance with the legislation. The logical-semantic method was used to clarify the concepts of "public regulation", "economic development" and "European integration", which contributed to a clear definition of the categorical apparatus. The system analysis made it possible to assess the interrelations between institutional, legal and economic instruments, in particular regarding the digitalization of procedures and anti-corruption mechanisms. The research materials cover the European Commission's report (Ukraine Report 2024), which focuses on the need to digitalize public services, manage finances, and strengthen anti-corruption institutions. Scientific works analyzing economic security and public administration in the context of hybrid threats, as well as investment projects financed by international organizations, were used.

5. Results and Discussion

The effectiveness of the public administration system is determined by the availability of effective mechanisms that allow to carry out: coordinated, purposeful and effective management of social processes in the state; adequate organizational and managerial influence on the development of society and the state; implementation of general and specialized goals and objectives of public administration in certain spheres of public life. In a broader sense, the effectiveness of public administration appears as an integrated characteristic of possible and actual results of its functioning, taking into account compliance with the established goals and objectives of the system development [3, p. 90–91]. In view of this, the assessment of managerial activity should include the level of productivity, as well as the determination of the strategic orientation of managerial decisions.

The transition to the analysis of economic policy allows us to reveal the practical dimension of the effectiveness of public administration. In the market system, the state economic policy is focused on achieving a balance between stimulating market mechanisms and protecting universal values, in particular economic, humanitarian and political rights, freedoms, social justice, security and progress. At the same time, in leading countries, social justice is considered a necessary element of state policy along with the basic goal of the market, i.e., profit maximization. Therefore, the combination of market expediency and social responsibility forms the concept of a socially oriented regulated market, which can serve as the basis for achieving the ultimate goal of a developed state, namely the growth of the economic well-being of society [1, p. 15–16].

Further consideration of the efficiency of public administration is complicated by the conditions of European integration transformations, which put forward additional requirements for the mechanisms of public regulation. Among the important ones, it is worth highlighting the need for regulatory and technical compatibility with European standards, ensuring interoperability, building digital infrastructure for public services and strengthening institutional capacity. Such a combination of tasks leads to increased attention to innovative management solutions and technological modernization. An important example is Regulation (EU) 2024/903 [6], which establishes a framework for a high level of interoperability of the public sector across the EU. The implementation of the provisions of this document involves the adaptation of the national information systems and management procedures of the partner countries, demonstrating the direct link between European regulatory requirements and the transformation of national administrative practices.

Turning to the Ukrainian experience allows us to specify the impact of these requirements in modern conditions. In the case of Ukraine, the imperative of adapting regulatory mechanisms to EU standards is combined with the need to increase operational resilience in the face of external risks and recovery from destruction. Of additional importance is the ability of the state to ensure the efficiency of management processes in crisis circumstances, which necessitates complex structural changes. Therefore, the European Commission's State of Enlargement Report (Ukraine Report 2024) [7] focuses on accelerating the digitalization of administrative procedures, improving the public finance management system, and strengthening anti-corruption institutions as necessary prerequisites for effective integration.

Further analysis makes it possible to connect these challenges with the need to introduce effective tools for state regulation. The implementation of such tools is based on the use of various levers that stimulate the development of the economy, in particular through the coordination of the functions of the state with the potential for its endogenous growth. This implies the ability of government agencies to carry out regulations aimed at supporting national economic development by stimulating the production of competitive goods and services. In this context, an important element is the increase in the efficiency of state institutions, which requires appropriate resources, personnel and institutional capacity [4, p. 116].

Consideration of practical mechanisms makes it possible to specify the directions of implementation of these tools. In the context of reconstruction and transformation processes in Ukraine, one of these mechanisms is industrial parks and economic zones, for which targeted state funding is provided in 2024. Within the framework of state programs, support for the creation of infrastructure, connection to engineering networks and co-financing of investment projects has been identified, which creates a favorable environment for attracting capital. At the regulatory level, the process of unification of registration procedures and obtaining state support is underway, which should reduce administrative barriers for investors. Together, these measures are focused on concentrating production, technological and scientific potentials at the regional level [8].

Further development of this initiative can be traced at the legislative level, where there is a desire to improve the legal regime of industrial parks. The relevant draft law No. 12117 is aimed at simplifying the operational regime of park management companies, introducing environmental standards for functioning and setting restrictions on the participation of unfriendly jurisdictions. This makes it possible to strengthen regulatory mechanisms, ensure the stability of the parks and at the same time increase their attractiveness for foreign and domestic investors. It is also expected to unify the conditions of state support, which will create a more predictable environment for long-term economic development [9].

In this context, an important task is to develop a strategy for restoring the country after the end of the military conflict. The development of Ukraine's economy should be carried out based on a synthesis of state regulation and market self-regulation, which provides the necessary balance between stability and the dynamics of economic processes. The state should determine strategic priorities, develop a comprehensive program for the reproduction and development of the country, as well as introduce economic zones and industrial and technological parks [2, p. 9].

The development of such strategic approaches is of particular importance in the context of Ukraine's consistent integration into the European space. This process involves a significant impact on the development of state institutions, which includes strengthening the democratic political system, modernizing the legal framework and ensuring the transparency of national legislation. At the same time, it contributes to the establishment of a democratic culture and an increase in the level of respect for human rights, which together create institutional foundations for sustainable economic growth [3, p. 89].

The continuation of this direction is the current stage of European integration transformations, which is distinguished by the strengthening of the role of public regulation instruments focused on economic recovery after military destruction. The 2024 government policy documents emphasize the feasibility of implementing reforms aimed at increasing the competitiveness of Ukrainian enterprises by expanding access to the domestic and European markets. In this context, attention is focused on creating a favorable regulatory environment for the development of small and medium-sized businesses, which is considered a driving force of economic sustainability. Accordingly, the Strategy for Recovery, Sustainable Development and Digital Transformation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises for the period up to 2027 was approved and the operational plan of measures for its implementation for 2024-2027 was approved [10].

At the same time, the development of integration processes shows that European integration is considered an important factor in the transformation of the public administration system. The transition to EU standards leads to the modernization of regulatory policy mechanisms, strengthening the institutional capacity of the state and improving public administration procedures. At the same time, in this context, the development of e-governance is of particular importance, which allows reducing the level of administrative barriers, minimizing corruption risks and ensuring transparency in managerial decision-making [5, p. 38].

These transformational trends are reflected in the strategic planning of the state, where one of the important tools for public regulation of economic development in the context of European integration processes is the National Economic Strategy for the period until 2030, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 03.03.2021 No. 179 [11]. This document consolidates the strategic course of the state towards full membership in the European Union and at the same time defines the priorities for decarbonization of the economy, which include improving energy efficiency, developing renewable energy sources, spreading circular economy practices and synchronizing with the European Green Deal initiative.

In the future, the specification of strategic priorities is reflected in the Government's Priority Action Plan for 2025, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, where the block "European integration reforms in the economy" is highlighted among the operational goals [12]. An important element of this direction is the support of the process of European integration of the agricultural sector, which provides for the normalization of approaches to the use of pesticides and the screening of chapters 11–13 of the negotiation dossier. Specific steps are envisaged to implement these tasks, in particular: launching negotiations with the EU in the direction of cluster 5 "Resources, Agriculture and Cohesion"; preparation and conduct of bilateral screening meetings with the European Commission under Sections 11 "Agriculture and Rural Development", 12 "Food Security, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy" and 13 "Fisheries and Aquaculture"; support of legislative initiatives in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine aimed at bringing national norms in line with EU law. In particular, this applies to draft laws on the regulation of veterinary medicine, organic production, and the organizational principles of state support in the agricultural sector [18].

An important addition to the outlined areas is the development of mechanisms for the creation and functioning of the Payment Agency, which is designed to ensure transparency and efficiency of the administration of financial support for the agricultural sector. This reflects the systemic desire to introduce European approaches to agricultural regulation, which provides for the harmonization of legislation, as well as the improvement of the institutional environment for the implementation of the state agricultural policy. In continuation of this direction, the next aspect of the implementation of the priorities of European integration reforms is to ensure the preparation of sectoral positions of Ukraine on the adaptation of legislation in the areas of responsibility, including the free movement of goods (in particular, "industrial visa-free travel"), state aid, competition, protection of intellectual property rights and environmental protection [12]. Achieving this task involves the formation of Ukraine's negotiating position, taking into account the interests of national business, adjusting the regulatory framework, submitting reports to the European Commission on the implementation of the Plan of Ukraine for 2024-2027, as well as supporting the draft law "On the protection of waters from pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources". The systemic nature of these tasks demonstrates the transition from the formal coordination of individual regulatory legal acts to the comprehensive reproduction of European standards in public management of economic development. This allows integrating Ukraine's strategic interests with the requirements of access to the EU internal market, creating the basis for increasing the competitiveness of the national economy and the formation of new regulatory policy instruments focused on sustainable growth.

Based on this, one of the important tools for improving public regulation of economic development in the context of European integration transformations is the adoption of the Export Strategy of Ukraine until 2030. Its development is aimed at ensuring the stability of the national economy, strengthening the technological potential and forming a model of export-oriented growth. The central objective of the strategy is to stimulate the export of goods and services with high added value, which creates the basis for integration into global production chains. It should be noted that the process of preparing the strategy is implemented with the participation of the TIPSTER project, which is implemented by the NGO "Reform Support Fund in Ukraine" in cooperation with the German government and with the support of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH [13].

The benchmarks set by the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine reflect the desire to achieve growth in exports of goods and services to USD 77 billion per year, to increase the share of exports in the GDP structure to 33% and to reduce the level of dependence on raw material exports to 59%. The conceptual content of the Strategy is determined by three basic areas: strengthening the institutional capacity of the state in the field of export support, creating a favorable environment for export activities and increasing the production potential. Within each direction, it is envisaged to introduce new tools and improve existing mechanisms, including the development of the system of government financial support for exports, the modernization of existing financial instruments, the expansion of the functions of the Export Credit Agency and the Entrepreneurship and Export Development Office, as well as the creation of the Export Development Fund [14].

Taking into account the needs of post-war recovery and adaptation to the standards of the European Union, the implementation of the Strategy will contribute to the modernization of the export structure, increasing the competitiveness of national goods and services, as well as harmonization with the regulatory requirements of European markets [14]. This will allow combining institutional and market development mechanisms with long-term priorities of European integration, which will create the basis for systematically strengthening Ukraine's position in global markets.

One of the important innovations in this context is the integration of digital solutions into export administration processes. This provides for the introduction of unified electronic platforms for business, the development of an electronic certification system and the use of analytical tools for monitoring foreign trade flows. The implementation of such solutions creates opportunities for increasing transparency, reducing transaction costs and more effective control over the compliance of export products with international standards, which strengthens the effectiveness of state support.

In addition, the formation of partnership mechanisms between state institutions, business associations and international organizations is becoming relevant. Such interaction allows concentrating financial, organizational and expert resources to support exporters, especially in the context of instability in world markets. As a result, Ukraine's position in global trade is gradually strengthened through the use of strategic planning tools and targeted state support, which creates prerequisites for long-term economic growth [20].

A significant role in improving the instruments of public regulation of economic development is played by the Communication Strategy on European Integration of Ukraine for the period until 2026, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on December 9, 2022, No. 1155-r [15]. The main purpose of this document is to form in Ukrainian and European society sustainable support for Ukraine's full membership in the European Union, as well as to establish a vision of integration into the European economic, cultural and political space. At the same time, the Strategy defines the priorities of the communication policy aimed at increasing trust in the reform processes, strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring effective interaction between the state, civil society and business.

The logic behind the development of this document lies primarily in the creation of new mechanisms of social mobilization to support structural reforms. Thus, communication policy becomes a direct tool of public administration, which allows harmonizing internal transformations with the legal, economic and value standards of the European Union. This emphasizes the close relationship between the image and functional aspects of public administration. A new analytical aspect laid down in the Strategy is the emphasis on the relationship between economic reforms and communication practices. This means that informing citizens and involving them in the discussion of European integration processes is considered a factor in increasing the effectiveness of economic policy implementation. Accordingly, the communication dimension ceases to be auxiliary and becomes an integrated element of economic development, which determines the sustainability of reforms and their public perception [19].

In addition, the Communication Strategy on Ukraine's European Integration for the period up to 2026 creates conditions for strengthening international cooperation, in particular by consolidating Ukraine's foreign policy efforts and intensifying information campaigns in the EU Member States, which contributes to strengthening confidence in Ukraine as a partner capable of implementing systemic changes in accordance with European rules and standards, as well as forms additional incentives for the modernization of the institutional architecture of the state management.

Therefore, summarizing the above provisions, it is expedient to systematize important areas of improvement of the instruments of public regulation of economic development, which allows for a comprehensive presentation of their content and features of implementation in the context of European integration transformations (Table 1).

Table 1. Mechanisms for Improving the Instruments of Public Regulation of Economic Development in the Context of European Integration Transformations

Mechanisms for improving the instruments of public regulation of economic development	Features of implementation
Regulatory adaptation to EU standards	Harmonization of legislation, unification of procedures, introduction of an "industrial visa-free regime", and bringing the regulatory framework in line with EU law
Institutional strengthening of public administration	Increasing human and resource capacity, strengthening anti-corruption institutions, and developing a democratic political system
Building digital infrastructure and e-governance	Introduction of electronic platforms, development of the certification system, reduction of administrative barriers, and ensuring transparency
Formation of industrial parks and economic zones	Creation of infrastructure, co-financing of investments, unification of conditions of state support, and attractiveness for investors
Implementation of recovery and development strategies	National Economic Strategy 2030, SME Recovery Strategy 2027, Focus on Competitiveness and Sustainability
Implementation of the export strategy	Promotion of exports with high added value, creation of funds and export support agencies, and digitalization of procedures
Development of a socially oriented market	Combining market efficiency with social responsibility, ensuring equity and well-being
Communication Policy in the Field of European Integration	Building trust in reforms, public mobilization, international cooperation, and strengthening Ukraine's image in the EU

Source: Summarized based on [1–15].

6. Conclusions

Thus, summarizing the results of the study, it should be noted that the improvement of the mechanisms of public regulation of economic development in the context of European integration transformations involves a combination of institutional, legal and economic instruments aimed at improving the efficiency of public administration. In addition, the analysis made it possible to determine the need to harmonize the national regulatory framework with the EU acquis, which in turn leads to modernization of administrative procedures, digitalization of public services and strengthening the institutional capacity of the state. The expansion of these processes is directly reflected in the implementation of industrial parks, the creation of special economic zones and the introduction of export support strategies, which ensure the intensification of investment processes and contribute to increasing the competitiveness of the national economy. At the same time, the results of the study showed that European integration processes are accompanied by increased requirements for transparency, social responsibility and innovation of public administration, which form the necessary prerequisites for sustainable economic growth. As a result, the results obtained confirm the relevance of an integrated approach to the formation of modern instruments of state regulation, which integrates the strategic guidelines of European integration with the tasks of national recovery and modernization.

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