

**Regionalization and integration**

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**THE CONCEPT OF «THE GATES
INTO THE GLOBAL WORLD»
AND INTEGRATION
OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES****Abstract**

Regionalization of the world economy, based on integration blocs, creates conditions for transfer of «multipolar» development through creation of economic activity regions («the gates into the global world»).

Therefore, a problem of precise time- and space-priority determination as well as appropriate economic mechanisms' elaboration acquires special significance and relevance for Eastern European countries. The integration of Eastern European countries based on the formation of common innovation and investment network should be considered as a way of multipolar development model realization for a macro-region, based on the combination of interests of small integrated regions.

Key words:

Centrifugal tendencies, competitive advantages, European integration, formal and real integration, interregional cooperation, macroeconomic indices, national economy, new regionalism.

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The collapse of the world bipolar system caused essential changes in the parameters of the entire European development and created new impulses for the regionalization process. We are talking about an increase of the role that a macroregion plays in the architecture of European continent, development of European integration and overall European cooperation. This process is stipulated by processes of market globalization and European integration on the one hand, and by necessity for unity of efforts of weaker national economies to overcome troubles of economic development, acquire additional competitive advantages, as well as compete against major agents of the world economy, on the other hand. This stimulates the emergence of a new stage of regionalization in Europe, resulting in a division of the economic area into two parts: the EU and the «third» countries, which include countries of Eastern Europe. Under these conditions, the choice of the global development concept for Europe and determination of the place of Eastern European countries in these processes become a major problem.

The author based her research of theoretical problems of new regionalism on the works of A. Andersson, D. Andersson (theory of « the gates into the global world»), B. Hettne (globalism and new regionalism). In the author's view, the concept of «center-periphery» does not correspond to realities of the current stage of international relations development any longer. The concept of «the gates into the global world» as a method to realize multipolar developmental model of Europe, including countries of Eastern Europe, has therefore been made the basis.

Analytical elaborations of U. Ivanov, B. Ryabushkin, N. Ziyadulayev, A. Makarichev, T. Zonova, O. Domoryonok allowed to single out specific features of Eastern European countries' regional activity, and work out conclusions concerning possible developmental schemes for this area and consequences for Ukraine. Special attention is paid to necessity of overcoming centrifugal tendencies in the region and renewing common innovation and investment network. The science and technology sphere should be made a core of real integration of Eastern European countries, and creation of a free trade zone – a precondition to it. This behavioral model will allow Ukraine to use its regional integration-related competitive advantages to full extent and develop pre-conditions for increasing its technological advantage.

The author, in her turn, takes a note of the fact, that separating territories as relatively autonomous agents of the world economy requires revision of priorities and mechanisms, construction principles of institutional structures and managerial models, as well as a change of approaches to national competitive advantages development.

1. Contradictions of Modern Regionalism and Their Influence on Integration Processes in Europe

The famous «center-periphery» concept, based on specifics of economic and technological development at a national economy level, is no longer able to reflect the whole variety of forms and structures of modern international relations [10]. Along with appearance on the world arena of industrial countries and countries with transition economies, characterized by private specific interests and availability of considerable human, scientific, technological, and economic potential, a new type of economically active agent has emerged. Of course, at the moment it is difficult to relate these countries to the economically and technologically developed «core», but we cannot regard them as a «periphery» as well. Moreover, despite an obvious strengthening of interdependency, the countries of the «core» will not manage to form a single decision-making center, capable of creating a situation of «monopolarity». It is only a matter of developing existing mechanisms of external coordination among these countries. And «state border deterioration» stemming from globalization, raises an issue of transforming state structures and mechanisms, and delegating part of state power to supranational bodies. International organizations try to ensure control over the use of traditional methods and possibilities by «periphery» states influencing national economy and international economic relations. External trade liberalization policy, initiated by the WTO, and integration of blocs-based regionalization of the world economy contribute to this. In this way, conditions for switching to «multipolar» development, based on creating economic activity regions, are set up.

The model of «the gates into the global world» [13], that is an interactive system of several small-scale regions, which accumulate all major financial, intellectual, economic, and communicative resources, and through which financial, product, and migration flows pass, appears to be more adequate under such conditions. In fact, each of such «gates» serves as a center of economic, political and social activity that concentrates communication flows and resources of a larger region¹. The process of globalization is carried out through establishing a network of contacts and communication flows between such «gates», and thus, creating regions of international economic and political activity. Increasing regional abilities' potential by means

¹ Periodic expansions of the EU confirm that there is a need to accumulate resources of a considerable territory to ensure dynamic development of such centers. There are at least four multifunctional «gravity» centers on the territory of Europe; they are: «Big London» (which, in this case, implies all South-Eastern England), «Amsterdam-Rotterdam» region, «Big Frankfurt» with surrounding Rhein territories, and «Big Milan» (Northern Italy from Venetia to Turin and Genoa). It is obvious, that there are several «gates», that are at the lower level [10].

of «gravity center»² effect, minimizing transaction expenses, creating more favorable business conditions and, therefore, possibility of acquiring additional competitive advantages are the principal economic stimuli to form such main centers.

Under these conditions, not national states and their unions, but regions, which are «the gates into the global world», have the best opportunities to become the poles of influence. At the same time, certain competition between economic «centers of influence» and «centers of state authority»³ can arise. It should be underlined, that they are not as much «power poles» as «influence poles», founded on close cooperation of transnational network of institutions and organizations. In fact, in such «influence poles» a situation of distributed system of power will appear, in which supranational organizations that ensure regional development on the basis of state interests harmonization and socio-economic and political managerial mechanisms coordination become major actors.

Thus, as a matter of fact, the process of regional integration includes establishing close relations among such «gates» and not covering the whole area with communication networks.

Neither can we ignore the factors that urge the «core» countries to accelerate the development of political integration mechanisms. For example, potential pressure by poor «periphery» countries and strengthening of external policy action coordination by large transition counties (Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan etc.) stimulated the fifth enlargement of the EU, qualitatively characterized by deeper and wider development of integration. In its turn Russia, by conducting independent and rather active external policy, started to unite around itself neighboring countries and create organizational preconditions to development of integration processes on the territory of Eastern Europe.

Contradictions of world globalization and European regionalization lead us to following conclusions:

- a) As a result of expansion of European integration new geo-economic situation appeared in Europe, which reoriented the countries of the continent towards western and eastern development poles, that essentially influenced foreign economic priorities of the new enlarged EU and the «third» countries;
- b) Modern foreign economic priorities of the EU represent a new paradigm of relations between postindustrial West and «periphery» countries, realized through

² One understands the «gravity center» effect as an additional inflow of investments, an ability to receive higher income and to create additional work places by means of development of modern infrastructure, that can serve considerable international flows of goods, services, information, financial and technological resources.

³ If the rest of the territory is in the state of deep economic depression condition, such regions can manifest a wish to receive attributes of a government. A movement for independence of Northern Italy can be an example in this case. Small states, the areas of which coincide with the region territory (Netherlands, Luxemburg), since it allows them to avoid competitiveness between state government and economic center are in more favorable condition.

deepening and widening of single-vector development of international economic relations;

c) Eastern European countries, including Ukraine, should solve existing problems of transformation and economic development by themselves, so as to overcome centrifugal tendencies within the region, in order to reach an appropriate growth rate.

The unprecedented deepening of regional integration (completion of the Economic Union formation, gradual transfer to realization of a political union) and the widening of its scale within the EU is objectively accompanied by essential changes in the structure of this bloc - internal and external mechanisms of its activity. This influences, first of all, developmental conditions of the neighboring countries of the enlarged EU as well as world politics and economy. Here several questions arise:

- What is the place of Eastern European countries in this global system?
- Is it possible to realize the concept of multipolar development on the territory of Eastern Europe (see the theory of «new regionalism» by Swedish professor B. Hettne [14: 7–8])?
- How will new the European regionalism effect geo-economic interests of Ukraine?

Successful development of the EU has a double influence on the other countries of Europe. They split up into three conventional groups:

1. Countries that have determined joining the EU as a priority task of their development (a single-vector development model, directed at the EU);
2. Countries that have determined widening of cooperation directions with the EU as a strategic goal of development, and stimulating equal bilateral partner relations with neighboring countries as a tactical task (a multi-vector development model with time- and space- priority determination, oriented at local market of the region).
3. Countries oriented at development of cooperation and participation in the integration processes within Central and Eastern Europe (a single vector development model, oriented at regional local market).

Therefore, the problems of exact time- and space- determination of external economic vectors and setting up appropriate economic mechanisms attain special significance and urgency for Ukraine. Indetermination can transform the country into a buffer state, unable to compete with its neighbors. In our opinion, consideration of this situation and analysis of the state of cooperation among CIS member-countries allows to single out peculiarities and priorities of regional cooperation of the Eastern European countries.

2. Peculiarities of Eastern Europe and CIS Countries' Regional Activity

Statistical data analysis showed that in 2001 the countries of the CIS managed to maintain relative economic stabilization tendency, which began in 2000. This became apparent in an increase in basic macroeconomic indicators (Table 1): GDP (the value of which increased by 7,84% in the CIS overall), industrial and agricultural production (the value of which increased by 8,02% and 8,7% accordingly), investments in fixed capital (increased by 6,8% overall), retail commodity turnover, foreign trade turnover, etc [4: 125]. In addition, the sub-regional bloc of European-Asian Economic Union (EAEU) shows the largest increase in the basic macroeconomic indicators, second comes the Union of Russia and Belarus (URB), third is the Union of Georgia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova (GUUAM), and finally – the Central Asian Union (CAU) (Table 2).

Table 1.

**Indices of industrial and agricultural production, investments
in fixed capital (prices are unchanged) in the CIS member-countries, %**

Countries	Industrial production		Agricultural production		Investments in fixed capital	
	In %, 2001 to 2000	In %, 2000 to 1999	In %, 2001 to 2000	In %, 2000 to 1999	In %, 2001 to 2000	In %, 2000 to 1999
Azerbaijan	105,1	106,9	111	112	117	103
Belarus	105,4	107,8	102	109	94	102
Armenia	103,8	106,4	112	98	114	127
Georgia	98,9	110,8	106	85	114	66
Kazakhstan	113,5	115,5	117	96	121	149
Kyrgyzstan	105,4	106,0	107	103	84	137
Moldova	114,2	107,7	104	97	98	85
Russia	104,9	111,9	107	108	109	117
Tajikistan	114,8	109,9	111	113
Ukraine	114,2	112,4	110	110	117	114
Total, CIS	108,02	109,53	108,70	103,10	107,550	111,11

Source: [4: 125] (with additional author's calculations).

Table 2.

**The share of the CIS regional blocs
in the basic macroeconomic indices in 2000 (the CIS=100%)**

Regional blocs	Popula- tion	GDP	Industrial Produc- tion	Agri- cultural Production	Retail Commo- dity Turnover
The EAEU	64,6	78,0	71,8	63,0	79,4
The URB	55,4	71,3	67,0	55,4	74,7
The GUUAM	32,3	20,1	26,9	35,9	19,9
The CAU	17,9	12,7	11,4	20,4	13,5

Source: [2, 116].

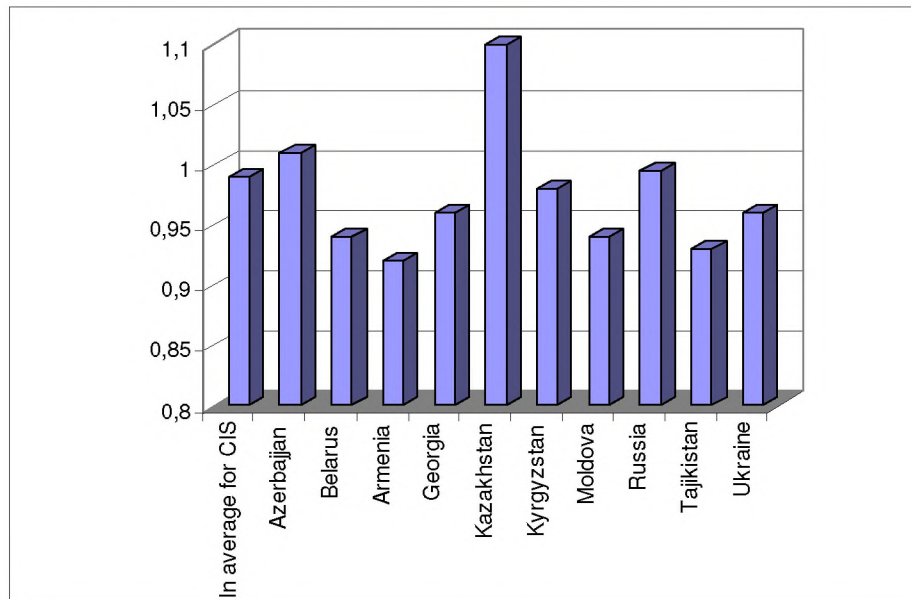
Taking into consideration the changes in all basic macroeconomic indices, we can conclude, that economic growth rates, integral estimates of economic situation are higher in such countries as Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Russia than average rates for the CIS. Although there were positive changes of the macroeconomic indices in the other countries, their growth rates remain lower than average rates for the CIS (Chart 1).

Analysis of the CIS member-countries' investments in fixed capital showed that despite increase in investments in most countries (Kazakhstan by 21%, Azerbaijan and Ukraine by 17%, Armenia and Georgia by 14%, Russia by 9%), their volume remains insufficient to build up economic potential and raise new competitive advantages. The share of foreign investments of the total investments during 2001 amounted to 39% in Kyrgyzstan, 26% in Armenia, 22% in Kazakhstan, 23% – Tajikistan, 21% – Moldova, 4% – Ukraine, and 1% – Belarus [4,p.126]. However, in general, the real sector investments market of the CIS remains hardly attractive for either national or foreign investors. Sharp decrease of income of population during the transition period can be considered as one of the main reasons for the low investment rates, which are unable to maintain an adequate level of fixed capital and capacity build-up. If the production indicators fall below critical level and the rate of investment into fixed capital remains too low (as a result of minimal income levels), the countries can fall into a poverty trap (it is a real threat for Ukraine and Russia today, the low investment rates of which are mostly caused by imperfections in institutional and macroeconomic conditions).

The analysis gives us a reason to draw a conclusion that despite an increase in basic macroeconomic indicators, economic growth rates are not sufficient for accumulation of economic potential and development of a favorable business climate.

Chart 1.

Integral coefficient of the economic growth rate in the CIS [6: 63]



The other peculiarity of Eastern Europe is the strengthening of centrifugal tendencies and the development of disintegrative features, exposed in the dynamics of export-import flows of the CIS member-countries. Thus, inter-regional trade of Western European countries outperforms internal trade 22,06 times (in cost index), while a share of intra-regional and inter-regional trade flows in total regional exports is 2,5 higher in Western Europe than in Eastern Europe (Table 3). A share of intra-regional trade in total exports exceeds 61% in the EU, while it has been gradually reducing in the CIS (72,1% in 1990, 55% in 1995) and amounted only to 40% in 2000 [2: 120].

In 2001 internal trade flows (mainly exports) of the CIS countries diminished, while imports from the «third» countries increased faster than from the CIS.

The fact that the amount of trade with the «third» countries prevails over intra regional trade remains typical of the CIS. Thus, total exports of the CIS to other countries was 3,7 times greater than intra-regional one (78,9% of exports to the other countries of the world and 21,1% – to the CIS) and imports were 1,7 times greater (63% from the «third» countries, and 37% from the CIS) at the end of 2001. Therefore, about only 29% of total trade turnover of the CIS countries was mutual

trade and about 71% was trade with the «third» countries. The largest share of mutual export is from Moldova (60,5%), Belarus (59,4%), Georgia (59,4%), and the smallest from Azerbaijan (9,7%) and Russia (14,8%), which have the highest economic growth rates in the CIS. The rest of the countries export on average about 31% of their total exports to their co-partners in the CIS. Belarus (69,4%), Tajikistan (57,1%), Ukraine (57,1%), Kyrgyzstan (55,9), Kazakhstan (51,1%) are the largest regional importers, while internal imports share of the rest of the countries is about 30% on average (according to WTO [18]).

Another characteristic feature is a simultaneous decrease of the share of highly processed products in the structure of trade turnover of the CIS: fuel and energy resources and products of metallurgical, chemical and partial machine-building industries prevail. This situation is a consequence of ineffective economic mechanisms and resource- and raw-materials based trend of transformation of national economies that develop apart.

At the same time, potential market volume of the CIS countries is estimated to be about \$1600 billion, while today GDP is \$580–600 billion in prices of 1997 today [7,p.65]. It proves that the CIS member-countries have a considerable joint economic potential which, in our opinion, can be realized, if they combine their efforts in the scientific sphere to overcome structural degradation of their national economies and develop new competitive advantages.

Table 3.

Intra- and inter- regional trade, 2001 (billions USD, and %)

Destination	Value of intra- and interregional trade, billions, USD			Share of intra- and interregional trade in exports of separate regions, %			Share of intra- and interregional trade in the world exports goods, %		
	Western Europe	CEE / Baltic States / the CIS	World	Western Europe	CEE / Baltic States / the CIS	World	Western Europe	CEE / Baltic States / the CIS	World
Western Europe	1677	147	2485	67,5	5,9	100,0	28, 0	2,5	41,5
CEE / Baltic States / the CIS	158	76	286	55,2	26,6	100,0	2,6	1,3	4,8
World	2429	252	5984	40,6	4,2	100,0	40,6	4,2	100,0

Source: Author's calculations based on the WTO data [18].

Still, it is difficult for the CIS countries to cooperate today, since technological and commercial vectors of cooperation have experienced a radical centrifugal reorientation (mainly to the West). Although the countries have declared decisions to cooperate and signed an agreement to reconstruct a common scientific and technological space, the latter is actually being dismantled. Agreements of joint researches are usually concluded between separate research institutes, higher educational establishments and enterprises. At the same time, new opportunities and prospects to cooperate with international organizations, non-state institutions and corporations of Western countries develop⁴. A system of reconstruction of research and innovative activity is limited only to changing some old command structures of administrative influence on science in most of the countries. Under such circumstances intellectual cooperation is preserved but loses a basis for practical realization. The aforementioned calls for the need to work out the strategic objectives oriented at maximal scientific potential preservation and its simultaneous adjustments to conditions of market economy.

In order to solve this and other problems Eastern European countries should modify the currently trivial integration into a real one. According to the theory of transaction costs, the countries of the CIS and its sub regional blocs have insignificant economic base today due to insufficient maturity of national economies and divergent geopolitical interests. Specifically, creation of the EAEU allowed Russia to strengthen its geopolitical and economic positions in the post-Soviet area. And the GUUAM agreement became a corresponding «power balance». The members of the Eastern European integration blocs did not even manage to create a free trade area (FTA), which is the initial stage to mutual rapprochement of national economies. As a result, the members of such integration blocs as the CIS, the Black Sea Organization for Economic Cooperation (BSOEC), and the European Asian Economic Union (EAEU) will not be able to achieve real integration, if political decisions are not further supported by economic mechanisms.

Countries of the region continue to develop historically formed trade relations, without removing the barriers to deepening mutual division of labor and cooperation. In this way, the countries limit their ability to get over the narrowness of their domestic markets, to use the gains from such market expansion, and to continue «to work» for one another, proceeding from existing national development level, thusly losing an opportunity to create a more effective economy.

Consequently, the fact remains that the states do not use advantages of the region and are further on the stage of illusionary integration, only declaring political intentions to increase the level of their mutual cooperation.

⁴ A transfer to global government structures in scientific and technical sphere shows itself through widening of a foreign capital share in financing researches, an increase in an interfirm cooperation among companies from different countries, a cooperation of national universities and foreign industrial companies and an international cooperation. A development formation of regional and local innovation systems becomes one of typical features of the process. Their main developing impetus is common economic, financial, social and ecological interests of the regions and neighboring countries.

3. «New Regionalism» of Eastern Europe: Development Scenarios

By determining «new regionalism» as a modern version of multipolar development of regional integration, which includes economic, political, social, and cultural aspects, we can state that there must be process of economic organizational and institutional preconditions' development for creation of a new regional identity on the territory of Eastern European countries. The existing micro- and macroregions do not fulfill their main function of ensuring a stable development of economic, social, etc. unity within the determined territory. Out of the five developmental vectors determined by B. Hettne [14], which characterize a level of integration, the countries of this region possess only two and partly the third parameter (they are precisely determined as a geographical and ecological unit having natural borders; as a historical entity, its members having special identity and potential; as a group resulting from development of cooperation in cultural, economic, and military spheres). Creation of «regional complexes» (e.g. economic safety, industrial or information complexes), a provision of social communication process and convergence of values within the region, coordination of institutional mechanisms and development of common infrastructure remain unsettled tasks.

It is also unlikely that the other approach («the gates into the global world») is feasible because economic activity centers, which can serve international goods, services, capital, and information flows, are not precisely determined. Low capacity of national economic systems, absence of time and geographical development priorities in most of the Eastern European countries, unstable growth and insignificant innovative attraction prevent prospective «gravity centers» with common economic infrastructure and logistical networks to develop in the nearest future.

Taking into consideration the abovementioned arguments, we should consider as most realizable and prospective the forms of international cooperation that are well-established, directed at solving highly-specialized tasks and intensifying foreign trade, financial, and innovation flows at the level of national economy, interregional cooperation, and joint entrepreneurship. Russian government considers growth of international economic activity of the Russian regions to be an important step to social democratization and governmental system decentralization [9]. Entry of the Russian regions into the international scene is also linked to mastering the experience of interregional transborder cooperation that will further increase Russian regionalization processes, growth of investment activity, and mutual enlargement of financial, technological, natural, and intellectual resources [1; 3].

4. Conclusions for Ukraine

The new regionalism of Europe, along with the newly developing integration environment due to the expansion of the EU to the East, requires Ukraine to generate an effective export policy and intensify the optimization process of the national economic structure. Solution of this problem will create real preconditions to growth of competitiveness of the national economy and achievement of strategic task of joining the European integration.

After the enlargement of the EU, Ukraine will encounter a threat of losing its sales markets and increasing its foreign trade structure incompatibility with new market structure of the EU. The threat of crowding out of Ukrainian products in the Central European markets will increase at the same time. Although the average customs tariff is lower⁵ in the EU, Ukrainian terms of trade can worsen in some cases (e.g. with the Baltic States)⁶. Therefore, we can assume that Ukrainian exports under the influence of new geo-economic conditions in Europe, may be redirected to the CIS members countries, which are the main consumers of national products, and consequently their share in Ukrainian foreign trade turnover will increase.

The situation intensifies a need for development of multi-vector international economic model of a country's behavior with exact determination of geographical and time priorities. Cooperation with Central and Eastern European countries within regional blocs, trans-regional cooperation, promotion of scientific and technical international cooperation (integration of scientific potentials) supported by an adequate innovation and investment policy acquire priority in the short- and medium-term outlook. Scientific and technological sphere should be the base of real integration of Eastern European countries, and a free trade area – its precondition. Such behavioral model will allow Ukraine to use competitive advantages related to integration processes in the region most fully, and to create preconditions for increase of its technological advantage.

Creation of an integration bloc by Eastern European countries on the basis of joint innovation and investment network will result in division of Europe into two global «gravity centers» (Western European and Eastern European) with corresponding relations and interdependencies. This, in fact, can be considered as a way to realize the multipolar development model of the macroregion on the basis of consolidation of the integrated regions' interests.

Today, however, Eastern European countries and the CIS find themselves in a situation, which does not allow to use the scientific and technological development

⁵ Tax on the processed goods is near 8% in Central-Eastern Europe and 1% in the EU.

⁶ Baltic States entering the EU would result in the liquidation of bilateral agreement about free trade with Ukraine, which according to experts estimations would cause a 15-20% reduction of domestic exports in this direction.

factor to its maximal efficiency⁷. This should be viewed as an additional stimulus for intensification of integration processes on the territory of Eastern European region. Moreover, modern realities of cooperation and division of labor require science-based integration. For this reason, a necessary precondition to economic growth of the Eastern European countries and subregional blocs is the enlargement of the production cooperation base on the basis of increasing production factor flows, and, first of all, of technologies as the capital embodiment. Leading the development in the technological sphere creates conditions for adaptation of economic agents to new conditions and structural transformation of economic complexes.

Thus, the new European regionalism requires Ukraine and the rest of the post-socialist countries that have not yet achieved the EU applicant countries' level of development to increase the scale of mutual cooperation with focus on integration in the research and development sphere.

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⁷ A long-lasting crisis in the sphere of science and innovative applications of the scientific and technological achievements is characterized by: a sharp reduction of demand for research works in an industrial sector, caused by decline, mainly in high-tech industry (that get under relatively larger pressure of taxation and insufficient turnover asset; a reduction of governmental support to science in all economic programs of the New Independent States, caused by their budget deficits, liabilities to foreign creditors, political and economic instability and the crisis, lack of strategic development programs or means to realize them; a collapse of a system of material and technical provision of researches in a military complex caused by increase of prices for services and research equipment; problems of scientific research conversion in the military complex, caused by conducting conversion using only domestic means without any additional financing, which provoked a mass phenomenon of destroying conversion; difficulties with establishment of national science management systems, caused by lack of organizational, legal, and economic support to development of an appropriate infrastructure, economic interest, political influence; a sudden fall of scientific work prestige caused by chronic deficit of financing and insufficient government privileges and subsidies to scientific and innovative work, on the one hand, and by decline in complicated and science-intensive production; ambiguous domestic commercial realization of a scientific product, on the other hand; a weak or even non-existing in some countries social security of science workers, which exists along with «brain drain», decrease in number of personnel, and new obstacles in the way of researches and career growth.

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