



**Opening Remarks**

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**EUROPEAN INTEGRATION  
OR EUROPEANIZATION?**

**Abstract**

The author advances a concept of the priority need for solving the problems of Europeanization as against the problems of European integration at the modern stage of Ukraine's development.

**Key words:**

European integration, Europeanization, European nation, European Union.

**JEL:** F59; F15.

The Ukrainian economic science has long got used to notion of «European integration». Aside from multivalence of the term, politicians and economists use it widely, often filling it with anything but a single sense. At the political level dominate the aspects of Ukraine's distancing from Russia in result of its

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movement towards the European Union. The economists investigate mostly the questions of trade and cooperation in the science and technology sphere.

However, the enlargement of the EU, especially towards the East, has strengthened the actuality of understanding the underlying processes on the European continent. The emerging phenomena gave rise to the appearance of the term «Europeanization», the interest in which has recently grown much stronger. This term might probably be able to reflect important aspects, which – unless solved – will hamper the Eurointegration processes in Ukraine.

The concept «European integration» is usually related to the process, during which the political actors in several national entities are forced to re-direct their loyalty, expectations and political activity towards the new centre – with powers larger than those of the nation states. The end result of such a process is – the new political community. In other words, the European integration (as well as any other) can be represented as the evolution of the decision-making system between nations in time.

What concerns the term «Europeanization», its appearance, beyond doubt, reflects new phenomena in European integration. However, the available theoretical definitions testify that scientists haven't yet found its deep interpretation, and thus, it is almost impossible to find out the differences between European integration and Europeanization. Take, for example, the definition by Risse / Cowles / Caporaso: «We define Europeanization as the emergence and development at the European level of distinct structures of governance, that is, of political, legal, and social institutions associated with political problem-solving that formalize interactions among the actors, and of policy networks specializing in the creation of authoritative rules» [2: 2]. For comparison, let us look at the definition by Radaelli, who explains Europeanization in the following way: «Europeanization refers to: Processes of (a) construction (b) diffusion and (c) institutionalization of formal and informal rules, procedures, policy paradigms, styles, 'ways of doing things' and shared beliefs and norms which are first defined and consolidated in the making of EU decisions and then incorporated in the logic of domestic discourse, identities, political structures and public policies» [1, 3–4].

Of course, there are lots of differences among European nations and states. However, there are much more similarities. The similarities are something that suffices for their political and economic integration. Along with that, separate nations or states on the European continent have lack of sufficiency in the way of thinking, political manners and beliefs necessary to enter the European political community. The separation of such differences allows forming the level of admissibility for the political integration of the country.

Therefore, Europeanization – is the process of mastering the values of the countries of the European Union, which enable the accession of a certain country to this commonwealth of the European states. These are the values that encompass all spheres of life, but in the first place relate to political norms, support to the functioning of democratic institutions according to the principles and practice effective in the European Union.

Using the notion «Europeanization» is urgent today for Ukraine. Ukraine – is the European nation with highly developed culture, science and education. Along with that, this nation was fated to belong for centuries to different state formation, with different traditions and with different relations with the European countries. This has brought our people to have different views on the feasibility of integration into the European community, different understanding of its benefits, and finally, different readiness to adopt and especially keep to the values necessary for the membership in the European Union. The comprehension of these differences creates grounds for development of the policy of Europeanization of the country and preparation of the decision on its accession to the European Union.

### **Bibliography**

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## ROUNDTABLE PROCEEDINGS

### **ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE XXI<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: INTERNATIONAL AND UKRAINIAN DIMENSIONS**

On January 22, 2008, Ternopil National Economic University hosted a Roundtable meeting. The discussion concentrated around the ideas advanced in the multi-authored monograph «**Economic Problems of the XXI<sup>st</sup> Century: International and Ukrainian Dimensions**» edited by Doctor of Economic Sciences, Professor Serhiy Yuriy and Doctor of Economic Sciences, Professor Yevhen Savelyev and published by the Publishing House «Znannya».

The participants of the Roundtable discussed the following questions:

1. Is Ukrainian economy ready for fundamental reforms?
2. What priorities should be set for economic reforms?
3. What should be the starting point for economic reforms?
4. Does Ukraine have adequate resources for building a new economy?
5. Which industries should become representative of the Ukrainian economy?
6. How can the growth of Ukrainian citizens' life quality be accelerated?
7. Which unpopular measures should be taken during the economic reformation, and how can their negative effects on the society be mitigated?
8. How to mobilize the society for economic reforms?

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