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THEORETICAL AND LEGAL PRINCIPLES OF CROSS-BORDER AND
INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION IN CONDITIONS OF EUROPEAN
INTEGRATION

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Irrevocable and logical changes accompany most of the objects during their existence. Changes that lead to a new qualitative state of an object can be defined as development. In international relations, development today is very closely linked to the processes of integration and regionalization. A striking example of such changes is the European Union and its policy on the development of the regions. This policy applies not only to the region as a territorial unit, but also to the region as a holistic socio-economic system. Thus, the emphases on international relations' implementation are set precisely at the regional level. So, interregional, border, cross-border cooperation comes to the fore. Investigation of regional development's regulation and stimulation in the conditions of European integration and intensive "promotion" of Ukraine's participation in international relations today is not only a tribute to the "academic fashion", but also a really urgent task. After all, although scientists study these questions, every day there are more and more new forms and instruments of international cooperation.

Coming into force of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU has enabled the Ukrainian side to implement the newest approaches of regional policy. One of the most popular approaches is cross-border cooperation, which is even spelled out in the text of the agreement itself. So, Chapter 27 of the Agreement has four articles devoted to cross-border and regional cooperation. The most popular organizational form of cross-border cooperation is Euroregion, which operate in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Cross-Border Cooperation" on the basis of

bilateral and multilateral agreements on cross-border cooperation. Cross-border cooperation implies the presence of a border between interested parties in cooperation. There are quite a lot of definitions. We dwell on the legally enshrined, as presented in the Law of Ukraine “On Cross-Border Cooperation”. Cross-border cooperation is joint actions aimed at establishing and deepening economic, social, scientific, technical, environmental, cultural and other relations between territorial communities, their representative bodies, local executive authorities of Ukraine and territorial communities, relevant authorities of other states within the competence, defined by their national legislation [1].

As we see, the legislator does not focus on the situation of the parties with respect to the border, which means that according to the interpretation in European legal acts, cross-border cooperation may have similar forms, tools and mechanisms of implementation, as well as interregional. According to the Commentary of the European Framework Convention on Cross-border Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities, provided by the team of authors, interregional cooperation is understood as a special system of interaction between regions that do not have a common border [2, 84]. A similar explanation can be found in the Statute of the Assembly of European Regions. Thus, the border becomes “conditional”; it should not separate territorial units, but give them additional opportunities. The European Framework Convention sets out the definition of cross-border co-operation as any joint action to strengthen and deepen good neighborly relations between territorial communities or authorities under the jurisdiction of two or more contracting parties; and to conclude with that the purpose of any necessary agreements [3].

Interregional and cross-border cooperation are components of the system of international relations, at the same time, these are elements of regional development. In our opinion, interregional cooperation can be called a generalized form, and cross-border cooperation is its special case. Consequently, the first and second types of cooperation will be based on the same principles. Among the most generalized researchers determine the general and specific principles of cooperation [4, 20].

The list of general principles can be quite long and, unlikely it can be exhaustive, because these principles should be based on the basic principles of the existence of society, the interaction of its participants, and the implementation of various forms of activity. In addition, in our opinion, a good illustration of the formation of general principles of interregional cooperation may be the European Union's motto – United in diversity [5]. In the context of the study, this can mean that cooperation should be in accordance with the national legislation of the participating countries, and not violate international agreements. The identity and uniqueness of the region should not, however, contradict the unified provisions of the various spheres of activity. In addition, the principle of mutually beneficial cooperation should be decisive, when each side will benefit from interaction and the opportunity of the so-called “one gate play” will be excluded. Specific principles stem from the practice of cross-border cooperation. We can formulate the following list of specific principles: 1). equal rights of the parties; 2). legality in the distribution of tasks, powers, responsibilities between the participants of the cooperation; 3). unification of requirements; 4). autonomy in decision making; 5). assistance in achieving the goals of the regional, state and interstate institutions; 6). solidarity; 7). strategic planning.

An appeal may be appropriate to the principles of international relations, which were enshrined by the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. In particular, the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the states, sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual and equitable benefits, peaceful coexistence, equality and self-determination of peoples, peaceful settlement of disputes, elimination of injustice arising from the usage of force and depriving the nation of means for its normal development, respect for international obligations, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, lack of aspiration for hegemony in the spheres of influence, promotion of international social justice, international cooperation for development, free access to the seas for countries that are not in it [6].

Cross-border and interregional cooperation does not have well-defined and

regulated forms of implementation. Historically, some of them are more widespread. One can assume that this is due, firstly, to their efficiency (including economic), and secondly, the convenience of administration and management. So, today the most common forms of cross-border cooperation in Europe are: Euroregions, labor unions and unofficial associations. These forms of cross-border cooperation can be called institutional forms of cooperation. The legal institutional character of the regional cross-border unit is confirmed by the recognition of such an international instrument of cooperation by international law, which regulates relations in the cooperating regions [7, 127]. In modern Europe, the regions have gained sufficient political weight, allowing them to form contact independently with institutions such as the Council of Europe, to open a representative office in Strasbourg, Brussels. Thus, there is direct cooperation with the EU [8, 126].

In the national legislative acts we can find such possible forms of cross-border cooperation as, again, the Euroregion, agreements on cross-border cooperation in certain spheres, and the establishment of mutually beneficial contacts between subjects of cross-border cooperation [1]. Cross-border cooperation is not limited to these forms. The law of Ukraine determines that, entities may choose other forms at their discretion. It is clear that they should not contradict the current legislation. Other forms of cross-border cooperation may be transboundary clusters and cross-border production zones that are created for the purpose of conducting joint business activities.

The analysis of available information in the open access shows that more attention is paid to cross-border cooperation, while the interregional is mentioned only in some sources. There is no separate Law of Ukraine on interregional cooperation at all. Perhaps this is due to underestimation of the state's and regions' management the possibilities of interregional cooperation. In fact, it cannot be the worst tool for solving regional development problems than cross-border cooperation. In addition, the positive experience of such cooperation may be not so popularized and a significant problem can be called a weak institutional component. After all, it should be the main driving force behind the development of cross-border

cooperation. The institutional segment should coordinate joint efforts; engage enterprises and organizations in cooperation and networking, while avoiding coercion as much as possible.

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