

THE SPACE OF COUNTER INTEGRATIONS IN THE PARADIGM OF STABLE EUROPE

In the early 90s of the previous century almost simultaneous disintegration of the Soviet space and consolidation of the European Economic Community into political EU bloc have laid a new path of development of the European continent. The front border of the European Union has been moving for two decades eastward until it stopped at the Ukrainian-Russian boundary where during the armed conflict of 2014-2016 a new geopolitical configuration of the continent began to form. This configuration now includes new hot spots (Transnistria, Donbas) and active intervention of external players in relation to the continent, (USA, China).

Modern systematic mechanism of the European Neighbourhood Policy that was carefully built on over 25 years through the TACIS instruments, PHARE, ENPI and ENI in successive programming periods since 1989 (Phase PILOTE) collided with oncoming integration model of the Eurasian Economic Union at the time of global turbulence in 2007-2013. Calls were so strong for security of the entire European continent that sectoral cooperation platforms lined up for this program period proved ineffective in the new programming period of 2014-2020. Hot spots have extended the range of influence and become a continental factor of instability.

Paradigm of sustainable development of Europe and the European integration have thus resulted in encumbrance to overcome which resources have not been provided. The Ukrainian-Russian border which few people thought about in Europe has raised its status to the maximum level during 25 years. Interrepublican status that existed in the Soviet Union was replaced by inter-state in the framework of CIS and at the moment with obtaining Ukraine to associate membership this border has reached interblock status.

Weak institutionally euroregions to which emphasis was placed while implementation of the European instruments of cross-border cooperation into the EU's external area were absolutely useless in smoothing the armed conflict in the east of Ukraine and overcoming the escalation of inter-state Russian-Ukrainian relations. Integration initiatives which the EU had in the early 2000s in its outer region was thus completely blurred. The advantage was replaced by parity and for the next phase – stabilization in the area of counter integrations – one requires a new approach that will be built on the account of the interests of both sides.

This approach, in our opinion, should be focused on a different spatial scale of interaction and planning. This is transition to an agreed integration model between two models – macro-regional strategy encompassing a large geographic area with the most critical parameters for both sides. A geographical area can be the area of river basins of the Dnieper and Don. The focus of macro-regional DD-strategy is double transboundary basin of Seversky Donets within which there is a new hotspot "Donbas" today.

Transition from the intergovernmental dialogue (Ukraine-Russia) to the inter-bloc (EC-EAEC) through the coordination of complementary parameters of macro-regional strategies at the level of the European Commission – the Eurasian Commission provides a new generation of tools to meet the challenges of sustainable development of the European continent.

CONCLUSION

1. Over the last 25 years on the European continent a wide system of management tools of spatial development was created - INTERREG, CEMAT, PHARE, TACIS, MEDA, ISPA, ESPON, URBACT, INTERACT, Macro-regional Strategy Approach.

2. Russian-Ukrainian border since the conflict in Donbas 2014-2016 has acquired the role of a key link in the system of the European borders, so its state reflects long-term trends of integration / disintegration of the European continent.

3. The use of macro regional approach to the EU's external area, first of all, to the Extreme External Border Zone, means inclusion in long term, stabilization and mutually beneficial cooperation among the various participants (actors) in the space of common neighborhood:

- European Union – Eurasian Economic Union (*Continental level*)
- ENI - EANI (*Macro-Regional level*)
- Border regions of western and eastern parts of Ukraine (*National level*).

4. The complete line of instruments of the European Territorial Cooperation in the framework of macro regional strategic approach will ensure spatial consolidation after 2020 (transport corridors, cross-border growth axis, cross-border innovation systems) across the European continent and prevent the appearance of hot spots in the its eastern part.

Vision 2020+
Post 2030

D-D model (functional territorial approach)
D^{3*} model (integrated territorial solutions)

*Don-Dnieper-Dniester