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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32782/2520-2200/2021-5-1>**Antoci Natalia**PhD Faculty of Economic Sciences
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IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION****ЕКОНОМІЧНА БЕЗПЕКА РЕСПУБЛІКИ МОЛДОВА
В КОНТЕКСТІ ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКОЇ ІНТЕГРАЦІЇ**

This article addresses economic security which is an indispensable resource of daily life that enables the individual and the human community to achieve their aspirations. It depends a lot on how effective Moldova's economic relations with the rest of the world are. The state of transition of the Moldovan economy, the need to overcome the crisis urgently requires a substantial increase in economic and political relations with developed countries. The country needs foreign capital and investments in advanced technologies, imports of food and consumer goods. At the same time, the expansion of these relations should not lead to the country's economic dependence and loss of security. Economic security is the state of the economy, which ensures sustainable economic growth, meeting social needs, efficient management, protection of economic interests at national and international level. Economic security includes the system of the following levels: international, national, at the level of individual economic structure and personality.

Key words: economic security, national economy, economy, economy in transition, regional security.

У цій статті йдеться про економічну безпеку, яка є незамінним ресурсом повсякденного життя, що дозволяє індивідууму та людській спільноті реалізувати свої прагнення. Багато в чому це залежить від того, наскільки ефективні економічні відносини Молдови з рештою світу. Стан перехідної економіки Молдови, необхідність термінового подолання кризи потребує значного зростання економічних та політичних відносин з розвиненими країнами. Країна потребує іноземного капіталу та інвестицій у передові технології, імпорт продовольчих та споживчих товарів. Водночас розширення цих відносин не повинно призвести до економічної залежності країни та втрати безпеки. Економічна безпека – це стан економіки, який забезпечує стійке економічне зростання, задоволення суспільних потреб, ефективне управління, захист економічних інтересів на національному та міжнародному рівнях. Економічна безпека включає систему таких рівнів: міжнародного, національного, на рівні індивідуальної економічної структури та особистості.

Ключові слова: економічна безпека, національна економіка, економіка, перехідна економіка, регіональна безпека.

В этой статье рассматривается экономическая безопасность, которая является незаменимым ресурсом повседневной жизни, позволяющим человеку и человеческому сообществу реализовать свои чаяния. Это во многом зависит от того, насколько эффективны экономические отношения Молдовы с остальным миром. Переходное состояние молдавской экономики, необходимость выхода из кризиса срочно требует существенного расширения экономических и политических отношений с развитыми странами. Стране нужен иностранный капитал и инвестиции в передовые технологии, импорт продуктов питания и товаров народного потребления. В то же время расширение этих отношений не должно вести к экономической зависимости страны и потере безопасности. Экономическая безопасность – это состояние экономики, которое обеспечивает устойчивый экономический рост, удовлетворение социальных потребностей, эффективное управление, защиту экономических интересов на национальном и международном уровне. Экономическая безопасность включает систему следующих уровней: международный, национальный, на уровне индивидуальной экономической структуры и личности.

Ключевые слова: экономическая безопасность, национальная экономика, экономика, переходная экономика, региональная безопасность.

Introduction. Economic security is the state of the economy that ensures sustainable economic growth and development, sufficient satisfaction of human needs, efficient management and protection of economic interests at national and international level. It is a complex and dynamic concept. Its complexity derives from the economic, social, financial processes and phenomena it implies. On the other hand, globalization intervenes here, seen both as a process and as a phenomenon that acts systematically and permanently on national economies. Its dynamism is given by the fast pace of economic processes and phenomena that occur both nationally and globally. The highest priority in the field of national security has economic efficiency, competitiveness, both in external and internal markets. This is a key element of the security system. Economic security should be understood as an essential factor of national security, namely that which ensures the resources and the dynamic balance of the other components of this system. "It is one of the dimensions of national, regional and planetary security, the desideratum of every individual, human community, nation state, etc." Theoretical foundations of economic security have been addressed over the years but the last works such as the authors D. Yergin., Amstutz Mark R., A. Kovacevic., Grinin L., Didic V., mentioned its essence and role at the international level.

Theoretical background. Broadly speaking, the term "security" is used in connection with many events. It reflects not only the individual characteristics specific to a particular security case of the subject, but includes something common, which allows the use of this category in various areas of human life and society. Economic security is the state of the economy that ensures sustainable economic growth and development, sufficient satisfaction of human needs, efficient management and protection of economic interests at national and international level. It is a complex and dynamic concept. Its complexity derives from the economic, social, financial processes and phenomena it implies. On the other hand, globalization intervenes here, seen both as a process and as a phenomenon that acts systematically and permanently on national economies. Economic security is an even more than just a component of national security. Externally, a state intends to integrate into a multidimensional economic space depending on the degree to which its economic security is ensured. Of course, of normal tendencies, according to the national will expressed democratically and not by the forced processes, imposed most often from outside [5]. The problems related to the economic security of the Republic of Moldova, as an indispensable

tool of its rebirth, are attracting more and more attention of politicians, scientists, civil society. Such attention is welcome. The magnitude of the threats and even the real damages brought to the economic security, advance in the foreground the problems mentioned above. Frivolity and attempts to minimize the real situation of threats are unacceptable. Science has a major responsibility and its role in developing the concept of economic security is significant. And it's not about simple verbal exercises and searching for beautiful formulas, different classifications of external and internal threats, long-term and ongoing. It is fundamentally important to reveal the essence of the problems, to identify real threats and to provide constructive and effective methods of reflection. As international experience shows, ensuring economic security is the guarantee of the country's independence, stability and efficiency of society. That is why ensuring economic security is one of the most important national priorities. Most countries in the world are currently involved in some form of international economic cooperation, especially free trade areas or customs unions, with specific features due to the region in which they operate but which retain the general conditions. The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Moldova emphasizes that "The national security of the Republic of Moldova cannot be conceived outside the context of European security [3]. Taking into account the fact that the European Union is a stabilizing factor, important for the national security system, the Republic of Moldova will make efforts to advance in the process of European integration. Prospective accession to the European Union will strengthen the country's security, with the Republic of Moldova becoming a beneficiary and a source of stability and security. Negotiating a framework for cooperation that unequivocally reflects the prospect of accession remains a strategic objective for the Republic of Moldova.

Research objective and methodology. Particular attention will be paid in the integration efforts to intensifying cooperation with the EU on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the CSDP, aimed at strengthening national and regional security. The Republic of Moldova will cooperate with the EU in the fields of conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. " The process of integration, of preparation for accession to the European Union, will make the national economy structurally similar to the economies that operate within this integration organization. The phenomenon of national security is one of the current topics on the agenda of political debates in the Republic of Moldova.

The issue becomes controversial, with the questioning of the status of permanent neutrality of the state, but also with the adoption of the new Concept of National Security [2].

National security – is one of the fundamental priorities of the state. Ensuring national security means guaranteeing territorial integrity, sovereignty and the independence of the state. With the collapse of the USSR, the Republic of Moldova ceased to be part of the Soviet security system. In the early 1990s, Moldova refused to join the CIS's defense structures, with the Chisinau leadership making efforts to promote its own security policies based on the principle of permanent neutrality. Given that the eastern districts were under the occupation of the former 14th Army, the concept of neutrality aimed (and currently) to ensure optimal conditions for the defense of independence, sovereignty and national security at 4 levels: individual (citizens), collective (associations of interests), national (state) and international (in the external environment). This meant a continuous adjustment of the national security system to the external and internal environment to face the new security challenges and problems in all fields: political, military, economic, ecological and societal. To this end, the normative framework on security and defense of the country was developed. The strategic goal of ensuring economic security is to ensure economic development, which would provide satisfactory conditions for the life and development of the individual, socio-economic, military and political stability, preserving the integrity of the state and the position that would diminish the influence of internal and external threats.

Results and discussion. The strategy of national economic security should aim primarily at maintaining sufficient levels of production, scientific and technological potential, to avoid reducing the standard of living to limit values, capable of causing social tensions, preventing conflicts between individual strata and social groups, nations, and peoples. The state strategy in the field of economic security should be implemented primarily through the resistance system, which consists of legislative, executive and judicial authorities, public organizations and associations. The state strategy can be successfully implemented only if some requirements are met. First of all, the functions of the apparatus of the President, the Government and the Parliament, as well as the local administration, must be clearly defined. Secondly, we need adequate information support for the state regulatory function. Some of the important provisions regarding the state's efforts to ensure economic security should be taken into account in the elaboration of the

social and economic development projects of the Republic of Moldova and the state budget for each subsequent year. The national strategy in the field of economic security is developed and implemented as part of economic policy, the main priorities of which are ensuring individual economic stability, socio-economic, military and political, ensuring constitutional rights and freedoms of man and citizen, respecting the law by all, including public authorities. For the National Economic Security Strategy to be effective, a secure and viable system of state influence over the economy should be formed, which would allow for with minimal loss of control over major economic reforms, including interaction between them, and capable of to perform the functions of managing and maintaining the country's economy at a safe level. This should clearly define the limits and criteria or conditions for state intervention in the economy, in particular the limits of the public sector, as well as to ensure the development of effective state regulation. The limits and criteria or conditions for state intervention in the economy, in particular the limits of the public sector, should be clearly defined, as well as the development of effective regulatory methods. The formulation and definition of the strategic objectives of economic security will not be an effective policy tool and targeted action, unless the tasks for ensuring it are specified. To this end, the state should implement a series of measures to get out of the crisis, which will guarantee the country's economic security [1]. These measures should be taken in all areas of the economy. This means that the implementation of measures to ensure economic security should take place in line with the implementation of active structural and social policies, the increase of state activity in the investment, transactional, financial, monetary and foreign exchange spheres and the continuation of institutional reforms. European integration is a process that involves both benefits and risks to the economic security of the states involved. For the Republic of Moldova, a state that is going through a period of transition, EU integration would certainly bring more benefits than risks. The advantages of Moldova's integration into the EU would be:

- application of European standards;
- financial means allocated through the programs;
- investments that would make it possible to increase the well-being of ordinary citizens;
- the sales market will expand, if there would be an orientation from east to west;
- stricter respect for human rights;
- a possible faster settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, as the Transnistrian issue would turn into an EU issue.

But in addition to advantages, integration also has certain disadvantages.

Whenever a people agrees to adhere to such structures, it voluntarily relinquishes to some extent its own sovereignty and accepts the imposition of the rules of that structure. The disadvantage would be the increase in taxes, because the Republic of Moldova will have to submit to EU rules. Foreign investments will increase, but they will benefit foreign investors, but not domestic ones. Domestic producers may not be able to cope with competition and high EU standards which can lead to serious problems in sectors of the national economy.

A requirement imposed by EU structures on states wishing to integrate into the EU is the satisfaction of the so-called "Copenhagen Criteria":

- achieving a stability of the institutions that ensure democracy and the rule of law;
- the existence of a functioning market economy;
- the ability to cope with competitive pressures and market powers in the EU;
- the possibility to assume obligations, including the achievement of the objectives of political, economic and monetary union;
- ensuring that the country's accession will not weaken European integration Moldova must make a major effort in this area, as the current situation is incompatible with the requirements imposed by the "Copenhagen criteria".

It follows that with the gradual fulfillment of the necessary requirements for EU integration, resistance to both internal and external threats to economic security will increase. EU accession is a powerful engine that can provide us in a short time a strong and well-structured economy, even with the conditions of strict compliance with all stages of economic change and correct implementation of reforms that will take into account the specific situation of Moldova. The Republic of Moldova needs structural and institutional reforms to significantly reduce its problems that can lead to economic and social instability over time, as well as economic disparities with advanced economic countries. What should be of most concern to the politicians of the Republic of Moldova are the structural features of the state, which do not allow a quick approach to the European Club. But with perseverance and hard work, with political and economic intelligence, we can achieve this goal.

Among the measures to be considered to contribute to meeting the EU's economic convergence criteria are:

- more transparency in the development of financial operations, in the overall functioning of the economy;
- strengthening the prudential supervision of the banking system and its prophylaxis;

- avoiding large external deficits, difficult to finance;

- avoiding large and repeated fiscal deficits, which are difficult to finance and which undermine confidence in economic policy;

- favoring capital inflows in the form of direct investments and discouraging speculative capital;

- avoiding short-term indebtedness;

- avoiding excessive exposure to external risks of local banking institutions;

- practicing flexible exchange rates, in the conditions of volatility and uncertainty in the external economic space;

- looking for possible institutional arrangements with strong neighbors (this is the case of the candidate countries for EU membership);

- introduction of international accounting standards;

The objectives of ensuring the economic security of the Republic of Moldova are economic growth, modernization and increasing the competitiveness of the domestic economy both internally and externally, European integration of the Moldovan economy. These will eliminate the existing problems in the Moldovan economy, which will increase the reduction of risks to the state's economic security. These objectives can be achieved only by implementing economic strategies and policies appropriate to the European socio-economic and political context, conducive to the period we are going through.

Conclusions. The state of transition of the Moldovan economy, the need to overcome the crisis urgently requires a substantial increase in economic and political relations with developed countries. The country needs foreign capital and investments in advanced technologies, imports of food and consumer goods. At the same time, the expansion of these relations should not lead to the country's economic dependence and loss of security. Economic security is the state of the economy, which ensures sustainable economic growth, meeting social needs, efficient management, protection of economic interests at national and international level. Economic security includes the system of the following levels: international, national, at the level of individual economic structure and personality. Economic security has two components: internal and external. The internal component presupposes the stability of the economy, society and governing institutions to the natural and intentional threats that have arisen in the country. The external component represents spontaneous and intentional threats, which derive from the actions or intentions of foreign economic or political entities. Based on the situation created in the economy of the

Republic of Moldova and the negative trends in the reform process, we can highlight the following economic threats:

- consolidating the structural deformation of the economy;
- diminishing investment and innovation activities and destroying the scientific and technical potential;

- increasing dependence on imported fuel and raw materials;
- increasing dependence on imports;
- the problem of money transfers;
- increasing the stratification of society;
- external debt;
- excessive opening of the economy;
- criminalization of economic relations.

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