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Poland's Impact on the Development of Ukraine's Western Region under the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement

Summary

Poland as the direct neighbour of Ukraine has a great impact on the development of its Western regions especially when it concerns the Volyn and Lviv regions. These regions are closely linked with Poland not only culturally, but also by trade and economic ties. The purpose of the article is to analyse the impact of Poland on economic potential development of Ukraine's Western regions before and after the signing of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in terms of trade relations, investment, and participation in joint cross-border projects.

The results of the research show that Poland's share in exports of Lviv, Volyn and Ternopil regions as well as the share of Polish investments in their economy increases yearly. As the major partner in the cross-border cooperation Poland transmits its experience to Ukraine that in turn strengthens the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises and stimulates the development of trade relations between Ukraine and Poland. This article is of the research nature.

Key words: Poland, Western Ukraine, free trade area, association agreement, investments, cross-border cooperation.

JEL codes: F10, F15, E2

Introduction

Poland has played and still plays an important role in Ukraine's integration into the EU. Poland, together with Sweden, was an initiator of the Eastern Partnership. The signing of the joint declaration of the "Eastern Partnership" in Prague on May 7, 2009 by the heads of states and governments of the EU on the one hand, and six Eastern European countries on the other, was an important event. Poland was the initiator of the Eastern Partnership, and actively supported our country in the way of signing the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

The signing of political and then economic parts of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (2014) finally determined the vector of Ukrainian's politics. The free trade area (FTA) is an integral part of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union and is nearly 85% of the total volume of the Agreement. The provisions of this part stipulate a liberalization of trade in both goods and services, liberalization of capital movements and to some extent labor movement.

The EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (AA) offers a number of opportunities for the industrial sector of Ukraine, particularly of the Western region. The immediate proximity of Ukraine's Western regions with the European Union cannot, but create a favorable environment for the development of the region's economic potential. In the context of expansion of cooperation between Ukraine and the EU the need of re-interpretation of Ukraine's inter-regional cross-border cooperation model in the new realities of European integration is felt. In particular, analysis of cross-border cooperation between Ukraine's Western regions and Poland, as well as Poland's impact on the economy of the Western Ukraine deserves a special attention (in particular, it concerns two border regions – Lviv and Volyn).

There are many studies in the literature of the potential effects of the FTA for Ukraine and the EU. There is much less studies that analyzed the impact of Poland on the development of the Western regions of Ukraine in the context of the AA. That is why the article is aimed at the study of the influence of Poland on industrial development in Ukraine's Western regions.

Ł. Ambroziak, E. Kaliszuk (2009) analyzed the effects of the FTA between Ukraine and the EU, which showed that the cancellation of tariffs as a result of a free trade area between Ukraine and the EU would have a minimum impact on Poland's GDP (0.04%). A positive impact would be reflected in the growth of Polish exports into the Ukrainian market, though this effect, as the authors note, would be moderate, even with full trade liberalization. The main reason for that was an already low tariff protection in Ukraine. And as a consequence since the average rate of effective tariffs in the EU are lower, the effects of trade on the side of imports will be lower (Ambroziak, Kaliszuk 2009, p. 160).

B. Kowalko (2011) noted that the border between Poland and Ukraine created a number of barriers to the development of border regions that in turn would create inconveniences for the population and economic entities. However, the appropriate use of the chances of that border presence could create many opportunities to activate the Polish and Ukrainian border regions (Kowalko 2011, p. 58-59). The signing of the Association Agreement only contributes to this process, because opening of the markets would only facilitate an interregional and international trade.

I. Babets, V. Borshchevskyy (2011) developed the criteria of competitiveness of the economy in the Western regions of Ukraine in the context of taking the advantage of inter-regional and cross-border cooperation.

N. Baglai (2013) analyzed the evolution of the modern development of the Polish-Ukrainian interregional cooperation at regional level. He stated that Poland and Ukraine have reached a new qualitative stage of development where interregional cooperation for Ukraine (in the context of the long-term EU membership expectation) is practical and perspective direction of modern adaptation of Ukrainian regions to the European standards.

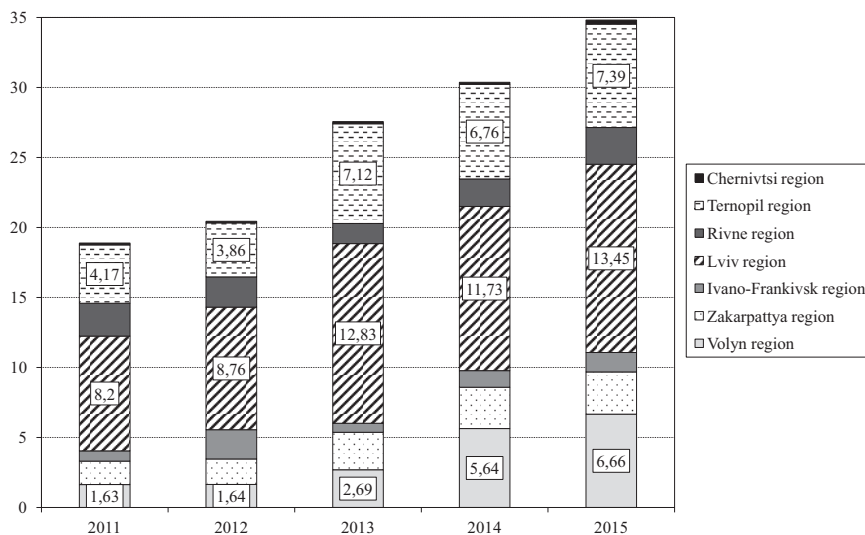
Trade relations between Poland and Western regions of Ukraine

When Poland joined the European Union in 2004, it implemented a common trade policy towards the third countries. Nevertheless, it did not forget about its eastern neighbour, and

was the most active Ukraine's "advocate" in Brussels. In February 2008, the EU and Ukraine launched negotiations on key elements of the Association Agreement, the political part of which was signed on March 21, 2014. Since April 23, 2014, the EU trade policy envisaged unilateral customs preferences (the UCP) for goods originating from Ukraine, as determined by the Regulation (EU) No 374/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on the reduction or elimination of customs duties on goods originating in Ukraine. The UCP was a part of the EU assistance package to Ukraine in connection with extraordinary economic and political situation in the country. Their adoption was a political decision and de facto unilateral implementation of the trade part of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in the form of so-called deep and comprehensive free trade area, provisions of which came into force on January 1, 2016.

One-third of the Ukrainian exports to Poland, as well as imports belong to the Western region of Ukraine, and it is not surprising given the fact that Poland is the geographically closest large sales market. The largest share of trade with Poland among the regions of the Western Ukraine is covered by Lviv, Ternopil and Volyn regions (see Fig. 1). Above all those are the regions, which are connected with Poland by the mutual history and strong economic and cultural ties. The graph shows that the share of exports of Lviv and Ternopil regions to Poland in total Ukraine's exports of goods began to rise in 2013. The probable reason of that could be the gradual reorientation of the Ukraine's exports from the Russian markets into the EU markets and EU unilateral provision of autonomous trade preferences to Ukraine, the ap-

Figure 1
The share of exports of goods of Western regions of Ukraine to Poland in total Ukrainian exports of goods to Poland



Source: authors calculations.

plication of which started on April 23, 2014, immediately after the signing of the Association Agreement and remained in force until December 31, 2015.

Thus, based on the performance of economic agents in the Western regions of Ukraine during 2015 in markets of over 90 countries, Poland became, in the terms of foreign trade turnover volume, the first business partner of Lviv and Ternopil regions, the second – of Volyn and Zakarpattya region, and the fourth – of Ivano-Frankivsk region. Exports growth of the most regions took place in 2014 – the year of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement signing. 2015 was characterized by a decrease in the foreign trade turnover between Poland and Western regions of Ukraine from one side, and an increase of the Ukrainian western regions' share in trade between Ukraine and Poland from the other. The largest volume of exported and imported goods of Lviv region in 2015 was covered by Poland and amounted 22% and 24% of the total exports and imports (Зовнішня торгівля товарами Львівської 2016, p. 1). Even greater share Poland had in exports and imports of goods of Ternopil region, 46% and 54% respectively (Зовнішня торгівля товарами Тернопільської 2016, p. 1). Somewhat lower Polish share was in exports and imports of Volyn region, 21% and 13% respectively (Географічна структура 2016, p. 1).

Among the goods exported to Poland by Lviv region during 2015 the dominance belonged to wood and wood products, furniture, textile clothes, sewn on tolling, electrical equipment, which is produced at the enterprises with investments. Ternopil region exports to Poland mainly electric machines and equipment. The lion's share belongs to products of the company "SE Bordnetze-Ukraine". In total exports of Volyn region dominated electrical equipment, wood and wood products, mechanical appliances, plastic, plastics, furniture, textile clothes, fruit juices, meat and by-products, dairy products, fats and oils, cereals, seeds and oilseeds fruits.

In turn, Poland exported to Ukraine in 2015 the following goods: electromechanical industry products, chemical products, mineral products; agri-food products, light industry products, metallurgical products and articles of wood and paper to Ukraine. Within these product groups in comparison with 2012 there increased export of mineral products (by 72,5%) and agri-food products (by 13,5%).

The Association Agreement creates conditions for advancing of trade and economic relations between regions of Western Ukraine and Poland. Polish companies can do business in Ukraine under the same conditions as in the EU. The FTA in the short-term perspective will increase EU exports of goods to the Ukrainian market without the risk of a significant increase in imports of Ukrainian goods to the EU, because many Ukrainian goods were facilitated with an access to the EU market due to the use of generalized system of preferences of the EU. Today, about 12 thousand Polish companies, most of which are small and medium enterprises, cover Ukraine's imports. The examples of above mentioned polish exporters are: "Tomrol" (export apples), "Spomlek" (export of dairy products); "Trading Company Import – Export Ireneusz Forest" (export of used agricultural machinery), "Puławski" (export of used agricultural and construction equipment), "Complex" (parts of industrial machinery, automotive and agricultural); "Polan" (export of seeds); "Sanitec Kolo" (bathroom equip-

ment); “CCC” (footwear industry); “Reserved”, “Cropp Town”, “Mohito” (fashion industry); “OFNE enamel SA” (Export enamelware); “Alda SA” (product of aluminum / stainless steel); “Relpol” (producer controllers, relays, industrial automation equipment, Relpol half of the production is exported) (*Export*).

The introduction of the provisions on the FTA will be more beneficial for businesses involved in the export to Ukraine of goods for which a serious problem was a relatively high tariffs on certain groups of goods. For this reason, significant potential can be seen in the goods exported by Poland. These products include, for example, sugar beet (which is subject to 50% entry customs), meat (20%), and some industrial goods such as cars – with customs rate of 10%. The FTA in this area anticipates a gradual (5-10 years) reduction of customs on industrial, agricultural and agricultural-food products. Each group of products has a separate schedule of customs reductions (Appendix A and B to the Agreement) that entered into force on 1 January 2016. Customs on imports of the European goods to Ukraine will decrease gradually. Furthermore, in the context of agricultural products the EU reserved quotas for sensitive products such as meat, milk, eggs and honey. Ukraine has reserved quotas for a number of goods such as pork (10 thousand net tons), poultry (8 thousand tons per year and up to 10 thousand tons within 5 years) and sugar (20 thousand tons) (*Materialy* 2014, p. 4). Therefore, one can conclude that the FTA provides a substantial liberalization of trade in goods, including agricultural products. The abolition of tariff barriers on industrial products will also offer opportunities for support or strengthening of the Polish goods position on the Ukrainian market. This applies especially items such as hygiene products, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, detergents and others.

Polish investments in the Western regions of Ukraine

In addition to the fact that Poland is the main trading partner of Ukraine's Western border regions, it is their main investor in the Lviv region, leading investor (second after Cyprus) in the Volyn region and is one of five major investors in Ternopil region.

The analysis of Poland's investment capital flow into the economy of Lviv, Volyn and Ternopil regions (table 1) makes it possible to draw some conclusions. First, the total investments in the economy of the above-mentioned three areas during 2011-2015 slightly fell. In particular there was a significant decline in investments during 2014, which was politically and economically unstable. There was a significant collapse of the national currency – hryvnia, and a threat of a full-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine. However, against the background of falling investment volumes, there was a constant increase of Poland's share in FDI as a donor of FDI in Ukraine (in average 2% rise during 2011-2015).

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Table 1**Polish investments in Volyn, Lviv and Ternopil regions**

| Specy- fication | Volyn region | | | Lviv region | | | Ternopil region | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--|--|------------------------|--|--|------------------------|--|--|
| | Total, (mln USD) | Polish invest- ments, (mln USD) | Share of Polish invest- ments (in %) | Total, (mln USD) | Polish invest- ments, (mln USD) | Share of Polish invest- ments (in %) | Total, (mln USD) | Polish invest- ments, (mln USD) | Share of Polish invest- ments (in %) |
| 2011 | 241,2 | 31,1 | 12,89 | 1358,2 | 384 | 28,27 | 61,9 | 5,3 | 8,56 |
| 2012 | 361,2 | 32,4 | 8,97 | 1634,8 | 397,9 | 24,34 | 64,6 | 4,6 | 7,12 |
| 2013 | 339,3 | 38,9 | 11,46 | 1706,0 | 422,2 | 24,75 | 68,2 | 5,4 | 7,92 |
| 2014 | 271,8 | 38,0 | 13,98 | 1374,9 | 392,1 | 28,52 | 56,4 | 3,6 | 6,38 |
| 2015 | 248,1 | 36 | 14,51 | 1248,1 | 382,9 | 30,68 | 50,1 | 3,2 | 6,39 |

Source: authors calculations on the basis of regional statistical offices of Lviv, Volyn and Ternopil region.

In Lviv region from the amount of Polish FDI received in 2015, the biggest part was assigned for financial and insurance activities (81% of total Polish investments) and enterprises of process industries (13%). In Volyn region, the biggest part of Polish investments was assigned for enterprises of process industries (92%). 80% of Polish investments in the Ternopil region was assigned for transport, warehousing, postal and courier activities.

The most successful examples of Polish investments in Western Ukraine are the following:

- Polish bank «Kredobank» (PKO Bank Polski), the principal amount of branches (66 of 111) is located in Western Ukraine (Lviv region - 40, Volyn region - 7, Zakarpattia region - 6, Ivano-Frankivsk region - 5, Rivne and Ternopil region - 3, Chernivtsi region - 2);
- Polish-Ukrainian joint venture paints and varnishes plant "Sniezka-Ukraina" (Lviv region);
- Meat processing plant "PKM Duda", which includes agroindustrial group of companies "Rosan-Agro" (Lviv region);
- Insurance company "PZU Ukraine" (geographically is represented throughout Ukraine, but the basic number of branches are located in Lviv and Volyn regions);
- Factory of building ceramics "Cersanit" (Volyn region)
- Furniture manufacturer "Gerbor-Holding" (Volyn region);
- Polish-Ukrainian joint venture "Modern-Expo", a manufacturer of store fixtures and furniture for offices and shops (Volyn region);

- Polish bank «PEKAO Ukraine», with offices in Kyiv and Volyn regions;
- “BRW Ukraine” – one of the largest furniture manufacturers in Europe (Volyn region).
- “Groclin Karpaty” – manufacturer of car seats in Uzhhorod (Zakarpattia region)

The rest of Poland's investment projects are based in central Ukraine: wooding floor manufacturer “Barlinek” (Vinnytsia region), factory metal processing “Polimex Mostostal Ukraine” (Zhytomyr region), a manufacturer of the bottles for beverages “Can-Pack Ukraine” (Kyiv region), and “Torun factory of dressing materials” (Kiev region).

As one can see, most of the companies with Polish capital are located on the border areas. Successful examples of Polish investments in Lviv and Volyn industries are the paints and varnishes plant “Sniezka-Ukraina”, joint venture “Modern-Expo” and building ceramics factory “Cersanit”. “Sniezka-Ukraina” has been on the Ukrainian market since 2000 and it holds 20% of market share within all paints plants in Ukraine (Гут, Банах 2014, p. 105).

Since the establishment in 1997 Ukrainian-Polish joint venture “Modern-Expo” is one of the largest manufacturers of commercial equipment, furniture for offices and shops in the country (*History*). In 2000 the company bought the Soviet defence industry plant “Iskra” and reequipped it. Since 2005 this company has been very active on the international market. In 2009 Modern-Expo Group opened subsidiaries in Berlin (Germany) and Dubai (UAE). In 2014 the company started construction of a plant in Vitebsk (Belarus).

The above mentioned ceramics factory “Cersanit”, being a subsidiary company of the manufacturer of equipment for bathrooms and tiles Cersanit Group (Poland), received the credit from EBRD in 2006. The credit consisted of two credits in the amount of: A 40.4 million euro provided by EBRD and B 40.4 million euro loan, which was syndicated to commercial banks. The project had a significant Transition Impact derived mainly from supporting the regional expansion of a Polish Sponsor to a neighbouring country, encouraging foreign direct investments into Ukraine, competition strengthening, skill transfer as well as demonstration effect of environmentally sound ceramics production facility in Ukraine. The skill transfer will take place thanks to training programmes, innovative business processes and capital investments in modern, high-tech production machinery (*Cersanit-invest*).

Poland currently has at least a dozen companies with Ukrainian capital. The most crucial Western Ukraine investment projects in Poland are the projects of Lviv region: lights plant “Helios” (investor – “Iskra”), fruit processing plant “T.B. Fruit Dwikozy” (investor is the owner of the trade mark is “Yablunevj dar”), Mazowiecki cheese factory “Ostrowia” (investor is a Group of companies “Milkiland”) (Економічний 2015, p. 21).

With the opening of borders, more and more Polish companies are interested in cooperation with Ukrainian companies. According to the Economic Bulletin of the Embassy of Ukraine in Poland the Polish company “AGRAM” that supplies equipment, mills, boilers, mechanical grates, which are heated by the coal (or gas, is ready to organize and implement on a long-term basis supplies of Polish coal (gas). Polish firm “Kingfisher Sourcing Eastern Europe” is interested in establishing cooperation with Ukrainian companies that produce coatings for floors, sinks and furniture (Економічний 2015, p. 25).

Polish impact within Cross-border cooperation

The other thing that encourages the expansion of trade relations between Poland and Western Ukraine is the participation in various EU programs. Poland as an EU member is able to support Ukraine through European Neighbourhood Instrument (in frames of a cross-border cooperation program). With the introduction of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument strategic and political nature of the EU assistance was enhanced by the increase of cross-border funding programs (Бабець et. al. 2011, c. 5).

Poland is participating in the biggest ENI Cross-Border Cooperation program “Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013” that amounted 186,201 million euro. For comparison, funding for the ENI Cross-Border Cooperation program “Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine” amounted 68,638 million euro and for “Romania-Moldova-Ukraine” – 126,718 million euro. On December 17, 2015 European Commission adopted a Decision № C (2015) 9138 that approved the ENI Cross-Border Cooperation program “Poland-Belarus-Ukraine” for 2014-2020. The first meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee that will discuss starting conditions of the program is scheduled for March 2016.

The formation of the competitive border economy is the dominant trend of cross-border cooperation between Ukraine and the EU (priority 1). For the program period of cooperation (case of cross-border programs “Poland-Belarus-Ukraine” 2007-2013) the volume of financing the priority 1 amounted 55 million euros, or 31% in the total (Book 2015, p. 8). It aimed to improve conditions for business development. Improving the quality and availability of infrastructure, including new technologies, promoted investment attractiveness for both domestic and foreign investors. This area also promotes so-called “soft-type” projects aimed at socio-economic development of the target area. Support was provided to projects that include, among others: regional marketing, trade promotion and investment, SME development, the development of local and regional labor markets, the development of the information society, new technologies, improvement of cooperation between research and business institutions, the socio-economic and environmental rehabilitation technologically transformed and contaminated areas.

Within Priority 1 there were 11 interregional projects aimed at creating better conditions for businesses (*Priority*). These projects can be divided into two types: the first one where the Polish side initiates the project, which is aimed primarily at developing the competitiveness of SMEs, and the second one where the Ukrainian side takes over Poland’s experience in the development and modernization of small and medium enterprises.

An example of the first type of projects where the Polish side acts as an initiator are the following projects:

- the project “Enterprise development through making investment areas of the Municipality of Lubaczów accessible and the recultivation of degraded areas of Yavoriv and Novyi Rozdil districts”, where the lead partner is Lubaczów Municipality (Poland) and the other partners are The Institute of Regional Development (Ukraine); City Council of Novyi Rozdil (Ukraine); Yavoriv Raion Council (Ukraine); Commune Lubaczów (Poland).

The project was aimed at attracting external capital as an opportunity for the development of entrepreneurship among local communities and creating new jobs. Polish and Ukrainian partners have similar problems: degraded infrastructure, in particular the one, which is relevant for economic growth.

- the project “Science and experience for business”, where the lead Partner is Rzeszow Regional Development Agency (Poland) and the other partners are Lviv Regional Center for Investment and Development (Ukraine), Malopolska Institute of Economy in Rzeszow (Poland), Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (Belarus). The idea of the project was to activate SME entrepreneurs in the Polish border regions, Ukraine and Belarus to cooperate through the dissemination of knowledge about the conditions of doing business and creating platforms for the exchange of experiences and networking. 450 businesses and 30 business environment institutions from Grodno and Lviv Oblasts and Krosno - Przemyśl sub-region received direct support. After the end of the project, business support programme in the border areas is continued by www.cooperation-pl-by-ua.eu portal.

An example of the second type of projects where Ukrainian side takes over Poland's experience in the development and modernization of small and medium enterprises were the following projects (*Priority*):

- the project “Development of the small and medium entrepreneurship in Rivne and Lublin”, where the lead partner is the Executive Committee of Rivne City Council (Ukraine) and the other partner is Municipality of Lublin (Poland). The activities under the project contributed to the establishment of a permanent dialogue between the representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises and the administration of Rivne. The election of local authorities of Lublin as a partner for the project allowed the Ukrainian side to use Polish experience, as well as facilitate the entrepreneurs of both cities to establish business contacts, establish the companies and develop trade exchange. An important result of the implementation of the project was the establishment of Business Service Center for Rivne City Council.
- the project “Cross-border system of investor acquiring Poland-Ukraine”, where the lead partner is Volyn Regional Entrepreneurship Support Fund/ Lutsk (Ukraine) and the other partner is Centre for Promoting Innovations and Development/ Białystok (Poland). The project was aimed to promote Podlaskie Voivodeship and Volyn Oblast as attractive areas for foreign investors. The activities related to the implementation of this plan were coordinated by the established Cross-Border Investment Agency. Foreign investors have for years bypassed the areas located on the eastern border of the EU. The reason for this is that they do not have access to interesting and professional offers originating from these regions. Also, they are discouraged by the unfriendly investment climate. The activities carried out under the project are aimed primarily to mitigate such barriers through the education of personnel in the local government units and simultaneous creation of a database of current investment offers. The Cross-Border Investment Agency was set up to deal with these tasks.

- the project “Time for Business. Creating the conditions for business development in rural areas of the Volyn Oblast of Ukraine and the Lublin Province of Poland by means of diversifying the agricultural production”, where the lead partner is Gorokhiv Raion Council (Ukraine) and the other partners are Public organization “Volyn Agricultural Extension Service” (Ukraine); Volyn Oblast Charitable Foundation “European Vector” (Ukraine); Agricultural Extension Centre in Kon’skovoli (Poland). The project supported the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas of Volyn Oblast and Lublin Voivodeship through training of farmers in the introduction of new, profitable crops, use of modern technology and creation of a system of cross-border flow of information about markets for agricultural products. Project activities focused primarily on increasing the farmers’ knowledge about modern cultivation and provision of updated information about the current trends and prices in agricultural markets in Poland and Ukraine.

Conclusions

Thus, since the signing of the Association Agreement, the trade turnover between Poland and the Western regions increased, indicating the positive effects from the AA. Poland has an impact on their foreign trade as a major investor in the border area, giving impetus to the development and modernization of industrial enterprises. Poland promotes industrial development in Ukraine’s Western regions (including Lviv and Volyn regions), being not only a major trading partner and investor, but also as participant in joint cross-border projects. As one can see, the cross-border cooperation, which is mainly aimed at the maintenance of the competitiveness of the small and medium enterprises, stimulates in turn the development of trading ties. A new stage of relations between Ukraine and the EU offers new opportunities for Ukrainian industry. The EU launches new programs aimed at supporting and financing Ukraine’s economic development. As experience shows, Poland as a direct neighbour of Ukraine, is the best partner in implementation of such projects. The evidence of this is success in projects implementation within the framework of the European neighborhood policy in 2007-2013.

Poland treats the Ukrainian Western regions as partners with high potential and real capabilities of economic cooperation. The evidence of this is the signing of agreements between the Polish and Ukrainian regions at different levels, including governmental agencies of regional importance. In Ukraine, these agreements create a favorable business climate for the development of economic cooperation between the businesses. The presence of business representatives in the regions, and therefore exporters, manufacturers, investors and bankers provides opportunities to learn about Ukrainian partners, their offers and capabilities. Direct contacts are sources of the effective cooperation. The participation in regional fairs and exhibitions, as well as specialized investment forums promotes the establishment of active links between the Polish and Ukrainian entrepreneurs.

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Wpływ Polski na rozwój regionu Zachodniej Ukrainy w świetle funkcjonowania Układu o Stowarzyszeniu UE-Ukraina

Streszczenie

Polska jako bezpośredni sąsiad Ukrainy ma wielki wpływ na rozwój regionu zachodniego Ukrainy, a zwłaszcza obwodów Wołyńskiego i Lwowskiego. Regiony te są ściśle powiązane z Polską nie tylko kulturowo, ale także gospodarczo. Celem rozważań jest analiza wpływu Polski na rozwój potencjału gospodarczego regionu Zachodniej Ukrainy przed i po podpisaniu Układu o Stowarzyszeniu UE-Ukraina w stosunkach handlowych, inwestycji i udziału we wspólnych projektach transgranicznych.

Wyniki badań wskazują, że udziały w eksporcie regionów wołyńskiego, lwowskiego oraz tarnopolskiego do Polski, jak i udział polskich inwestycji w gospodarkę wymienionych regionów corocznie się zwiększa. Polska, jako główny partner we współpracy transgranicznej, przekazuje swoje doświadczenia Ukrainie, co z kolei wzmacnia konkurencyjność małych i średnich przedsiębiorstw oraz stymuluje rozwój stosunków handlowych między Ukrainą i Polską. Artykuł ma charakter badawczy.

Słowa kluczowe: Polska, Ukraina Zachodnia, strefa wolnego handlu, umowa o stowarzyszeniu, inwestycje, współpraca transgraniczna.

Kody JEL: F10, F15, E2

Влияние Польши на развитие областей западного региона Украины в условиях действия Соглашения об ассоциации Украины с ЕС

Резюме

Польша как непосредственный сосед Украины имеет значительное влияние на развитие ее западных регионов, в частности Волинской и Львовской областей. Две последние тесно связаны с Польшей не только культурными, но и торгово-экономическими связями. Цель статьи – анализ влияния Польши на развитие экономического потенциала областей западного региона Украины до и после подписания Соглашения об ассоциации Украины с ЕС, с точки зрения торговых отношений, инвестиций и участия в совместных трансграничных проектах.

Результаты исследования показывают, что доля Польши в экспорте Львовской, Волинской и Тернопольской областей с каждым годом растет. Это касается и инвестиций Польши в экономику перечисленных областей. Как основной партнер в трансграничном сотрудничестве Польша передает свой опыт Украине, что в свою очередь способствует улучшению конкурентоспособности малых и средних предприятий, а также стимулирует развитие торговых отношений между Украиной и Польшей. Статья имеет исследовательский характер.

Ключевые слова: Польша, Западная Украина, зона свободной торговли, Соглашение об ассоциации, инвестиции, трансграничное сотрудничество.

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