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INTER-REGIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF FORMING COMPETITIVENESS OF STATES: WORLD EXPERIENCE AND CONCLUSIONS FOR UKRAINE

Formation of the competitiveness of states has always been and remains today the most important task facing every country in the world. The increasing importance of interregional relations in this process is primarily due to the progressive globalization and the accompanying regionalization of the world, when states lose some of their functions in the interests of their regions.

The article explores the nature and role in the modern world of inter-regional economic relations. Interregional ties are defined as integration processes, interregional, cross-border, international cooperation. Modern forms of interregional cooperation and new transformational factors of interregional relations are highlighted.

It is concluded that interregional communication is a powerful tool that should be properly used as it can lead to both positive and negative consequences. Therefore, when forming interregional ties, it is necessary to monitor the country's trade deficit. The effectiveness of interregional economic ties is directly dependent on the stage of development of the country. For developing countries, problems can be caused by a high share of raw material exports, and for developed countries by high labor costs.

The article identifies the largest trading partners of Ukraine to which the Russian Federation and EU countries belong. The dynamics of the balance of export-import of goods and services of Ukraine is analyzed. The main problems and advantages of Ukraine's inter-regional ties are identified. The main problem today is the negative balance of exports and imports of goods and services with a tendency to deteriorate. The advantages in ensuring Ukraine's competitiveness are due primarily to the low cost of labor, which is not a long-term factor. Therefore, it is concluded that today it is desirable to develop industries and services that have the latest technologies, including smart specialization, and can secure high competitive position of Ukraine at the global level.

Keywords: interregional economic relations, interregional cooperation, competitiveness, trading partners, export, import, export-import balance of goods and services, smart specialization.

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