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**ФІНАНСОВІ МЕХАНІЗМИ ПІДТРИМКИ МАЛОГО ТА СЕРЕДНЬОГО
БІЗНЕСУ В ПЕРІОД ПАНДЕМІЧНОЇ КРИЗИ: ДОСВІД КРАЇН
ЗАХІДНОЇ ЄВРОПИ**

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**ФИНАНСОВЫЕ МЕХАНИЗМЫ ПОДДЕРЖКИ МАЛОГО И СРЕДНЕГО
БИЗНЕСА В ПЕРИОД ПАНДЕМИЧЕСКОГО КРИЗИСА: ОПЫТ СТРАН
ЗАПАДНОЙ ЕВРОПЫ**

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**FINANCIAL SUPPORT MECHANISMS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
DUE TO THE PANDEMIC CRISIS: THE EXPERIENCE
OF WESTERN EUROPE COUNTRIES**

The article reveals the impact of non-economic crisis, namely Covid-19 pandemic crisis, which led to economic stagnation and decrease of almost all macroeconomic indicators. The object of the research is to analyze the policy responses due to the mentioned pandemic crisis in countries of Western Europe exemplified as Austria, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, France. The main focus of the article is directed to conduct analysis of SME support tools due to the Covid-19 pandemic crisis that will be useful in order to recover as quickly and with the least possible losses and return the economy to a state of development.

The analysis is aimed at developing recommendations for Ukraine taking into account the national and economic characteristics of our country to select the most relevant policy responses regarding SME support.

The author examines the Temporary Framework Regulation on State aid measures to support the economy in the EU, which was adopted by European Commission. The main elements of the Framework included: direct grants, assistance in the form of loan guarantees, assistance in the form of subsidized interest rates on loans, assistance in the form of guarantees and loans received through credit institutions or other financial institutions, assistance for relevant research and development on COVID-19, investment assistance for testing and modernization of infrastructures, assistance in the form of deferred tax and / or social security contributions, assistance in the form of wage subsidies to employees to avoid redundancies during the COVID-19 outbreak, recapitalization measures.

The author identified, that the most common form of support in Western Europe was loan guarantees, as well as financing activities related to equity participation, debt write-offs, asset financing, etc. Focus on both economic and social effects in these instruments could be considered among the indisputable advantages. The problem of the temporarily unemployed population, due to the closure of enterprises, has been one of the most pressing and each of the analyzed states have allocated funds to support them.

Thus, all support tools used by Western European countries are similar to each other - they are financing health care costs, providing state guarantees, tax benefits and tax deferrals, supporting the liquidity of micro and self-employed people, and last but not least, support from the banking sector.

Keywords: small and medium business; financial support mechanisms; crisis; crisis management; pandemic; Covid-19.

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