

On the economic interests and social contradictions of contemporary integration processes

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Abstract. The article examines the scientific approaches to assessing the integration processes in the countries of the Economic Belt of the Great Silk Road (EB GSR). The methodology for multi-criteria evaluation of the activity of integration processes is developed and tested. Methods of comparative analysis and economic and statistical methods are used in the study. The assessment of the activity of integration processes in the EB GSR countries at the macro- and meso-levels indicates an increase in labor and educational migration, an increase in the role of cross-border remittances in global financial flows, a change in the role of countries in the international division of labor.

Keywords: Economic Belt of the Great Silk Road, social contradictions, integration processes, integral indicator

1. Introduction

Modern integration processes of the economy and society, accompanying any international interaction space, determine the need to improve economic and social security. The need to ensure economic interests and social security is largely due to the activation and complication of the interaction of social and economic systems, the growth of social contradictions. This paper presents results of a study of economic interests and social contradictions for the countries of the Economic Belt of the Great Silk Road (EB GSR) in the zone of influence of the new Silk Road, in connection with the Chinese initiative of the Silk Road Economic belt.

2. Materials and Methods

To assess economic interests and social contradictions, our research methodology is built on the basis of an integral indicator capturing the activity of integration processes, which is determined using a multi-stage procedure for determining the particular criteria that characterize the development of socio-economic systems. Particular criteria for the activity of integration processes are determined based on the ranking of statistical indicators of the subjects of integration. Integral indicators of the activity of integration processes are used to determine the rating of subjects of integration at the macro and meso level.

To assess the integral indicator of the activity of integration processes by integration subjects at the macro-level, private criteria are used. They characterize economic development, infrastructure, international capital migration, population migration, and the development of foreign trade [1, 2, 3, 4].

The method of determining the integral indicator of the activity of integration processes at the meso-level uses the following criteria: economic development, infrastructure, demographic situation, labor market development, territorial attractiveness for investment and residence [5].

3. Results

Approbation of the methodology for assessing the activity of integration processes at the macro-level using the example of Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and China has been carried out within the framework of our research. It was revealed that China (an integral indicator of the activity of integration processes – 5) and Russia (an integral indicator – 7) belong to the countries with a high activity of integration processes. Low activity of integration processes is observed in Mongolia (10), and Kazakhstan (10) (Figure 1).

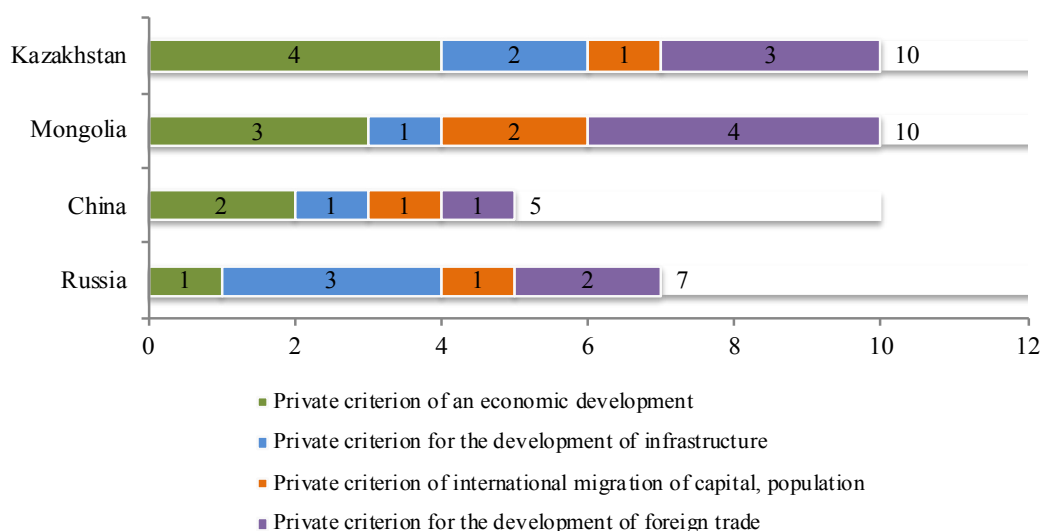


Figure 1. Assessment of the activity of integration processes in Russia, Kazakhstan, China, and Mongolia at the macro-level.

Approbation of the methodology for assessing the activity of integration processes at the meso-level was carried out on the example of the territories of federal districts of Russia. 2 groups of federal districts are highlighted: (a) those territories that are attractive for the influx of migrants (North-West Federal District, Central Federal District, Ural Federal District, Southern Federal District); and (b) the areas with the observed migration outflow of population (North-Caucasian Federal District, Volga Federal District, Siberian Federal District, Far Eastern Federal District).

The research also shows that those federal districts have a high activity of integration processes, in which the conditions for establishing a favorable business environment are created, investment in fixed assets is carried out, living conditions are created, education and health care systems are developed, there are vacancies in local labor markets, etc. (Figure 2).

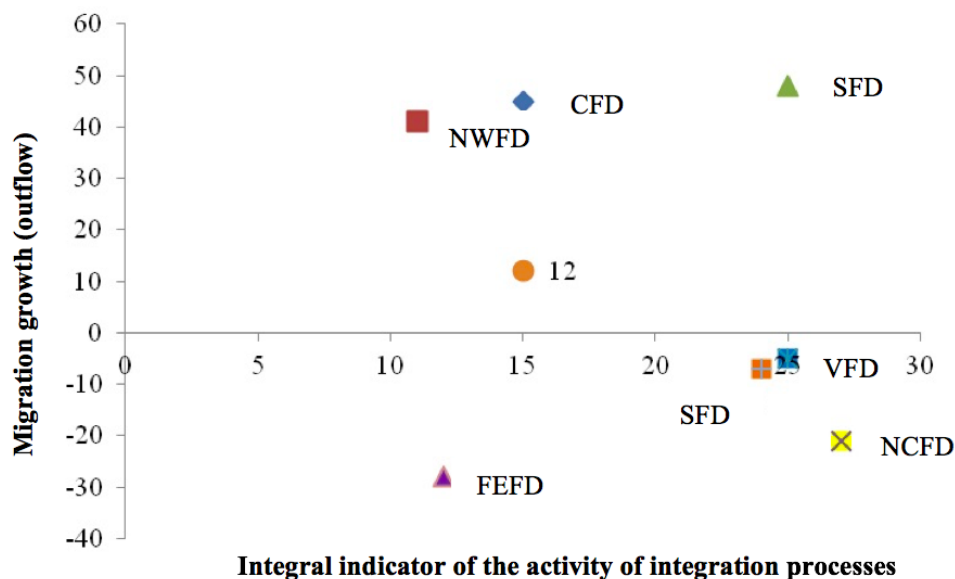


Figure 2. Assessment of the activity of integration processes of federal districts of the Russian Federation.

4. Discussion

There are many scientifically based approaches to the content of the essence of integration. The change in conceptual approaches from the idea of creating a single market space (regardless of state policies, national and international legislation) to the concept of creating a global socio-economic space with the mediation of functional international organizations is revealed in our research.

The assessment results of the integration processes in the EB GSR countries show social contradictions associated with the intensification of international migration, migration interdependence of labor-rich and labor-poor countries, stratification of society, and changes in the international division of labor. The country's role and place in the international division of labor is already determined by the quality of human capital, and not by the availability of cheap labor [9, 10]. The following factors play a key role in the international division of labor: the policy of transnational companies and their gradual transfer of production to developing countries, as well as virtual labor migration, i.e. the creation of qualified services by labor migrants who do not leave the country but work for another country [6]. The economic interests of countries are due to increased cross-border remittance flows. Mostly, these transfers are related to the labor activities of migrants form their basis [7]. There is an increase in migration educational flows. For the period 2010-2017, the increase in the number of foreign students in Russia was by 2.6 times from Kazakhstan, 4.5 times from China, 22 times from Mongolia [8]. In China, the increase in the number of foreign students was 1.66 times. The main groups of foreign students were coming from the Republic of Korea (66.7 thousand people), USA (21.9 thousand people), Thailand (19.9 thousand people), Russia (16.2 thousand people), Kazakhstan (13.2 thousand people), and Mongolia (7.5 thousand people) [11].

5. Conclusion

Our assessment of integration processes in the EB GSR countries at the macro- and meso-levels indicates increasing labor and educational migration, increasing role of cross-border remittances in global financial flows, changing roles of countries in the international division of labor, and developing virtual labor migration. High activity of integration processes is observed in the territories of China, and Russia, low activity of integration processes is typical for Mongolia, and Kazakhstan.

The approaches and methods developed in this work can be used to develop measures to enhance integration processes, in the field of regulating socio-economic territorial development, as well as increasing its attractiveness for investment and living.

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