

## THE ROLE OF ECONOMIC TRANSFRONTAL COLLABORATION IN INTEGRATION PROCESSES

**Problem setting** In modern conditions the most effective way to solve the common problems of regional development and deepen mutually beneficial contacts between the populations of neighboring countries is cross-border cooperation. The development of cross-border cooperation became a characteristic feature of integration and sub-integration processes in Europe at the turn of XX - XXI century, and today it takes quite an important place in the system of priorities of both socio-economic development and European integration of Ukraine.

**Recent research and publications analysis** A significant contribution to the study of the nature of cross-border cooperation and economic one in general made the following scientists: V. Budkin, O. Honta, V. Hudak, V. Dmytruk, P. Eberhard, Ya. Zhalylo, N. Kosolapov, A. Lavrenchuk, N. Levra, P. Lutsyshyn, N. Mikul, S. Romanov, I. Studiennikov, R. Feda, S. Fedoniuk, A. Yarosh and others.

**Paper objective** The aim of the article is scientific justification of the role of economic cross-border cooperation in integration processes, analysis of the experience of cooperation and definition of ways of improvement and opportunities for provision of effective economic cooperation.

**Paper main body** The initial phase of cross-border cooperation of independent Ukraine with post-socialist states had some significant negatives. The largest among them should be considered excessive dominance of the political, not economic component in cross-border relations. International relations of Western border regions with foreign partners were often limited by contacts of bureaucratic structures of local authorities and governments, and mostly by sporadic and unsystematic political and declaratory actions. Economic cooperation developed mainly spontaneously and didn't result in creation of a strong economic base for cross-border cooperation during 1990s - early 2000s.

**Conclusions and prospects for further research** In the end, it is expedient to note that cross-border economic cooperation is a part of the global integration process and the specific level of an integrated system of international economic relations of global order. It is a kind and part of the system of international relations at the local and state levels, where the results of global and European integration materialize and practically emerge, and is a necessary part of the process of European integration based primarily on cooperation between border regions of neighboring countries.