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PERSPECTIVES OF UKRAINE AFTER ACCESSION TO THE EU

The relevance of the issue under consideration is caused by the democratic choice of Ukraine's development and challenges that the country faces in the the war time . **The aim of this work** is to view the perspectives of Ukraine after her accession to the EU.

Ukraine's path to the European Union became irreversible after the Revolution of Dignity in 2014. Back then, Ukrainians made their choice in favor of European values, which was enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine. At that time, signing of the Association Agreement formally launched the integration with the EU. However, the harmonization of Ukrainian legislation with the European one has been still in process[5].

After the outbreak of the full-scale war, applying for EU membership became an irrevocable step, rather than a declaration of aspirations. On February 28, 2022, Ukraine submitted an official application, and in June, the European Commission issued a positive opinion, paving the way for Ukraine to be granted a candidate status. The seven basic requirements set for Ukraine to start negotiations have been almost fulfilled, and currently Ukraine is on the verge of the second stage - the accession negotiation process[2].

It is believed that Ukraine's membership in the European Union opens numerous prospects for the country, including political stability, strengthening of democracy and the rule of law. As stated in the EU's founding documents, any European state that shares the values of freedom, democracy, equality, and human rights can join the EU. Thus, Ukraine will not only be able to strengthen her democratic institutions, but will also receive constant support for their further development[3].

Besides, EU membership opens one of the world's largest markets for Ukraine, which will contribute to economic growth and improve the quality of Ukrainian goods and services. The European Union's single market admits Ukrainian businesses to free trade zone, allows provision of services for EU citizens and insures fair competition. Access to free trade will both allow the Ukrainian economy to strengthen and stimulate the improvement of quality standards for goods and services. This will contribute to positive changes in Ukraine's domestic economic policy[1].

Moreover, integration with the EU provides Ukraine with an opportunity to join the EU's social programs, which are designed to ensure high standards of living, modern healthcare, education and environmental standards. Participation in European programs will improve the quality of life of Ukrainians, promote the development of infrastructure and social services, thus providing support in key areas of public life. This, in particular, creates the basis for building a stable society and implementing high social standards[4].

Subsequently, Ukraine's membership in the EU will facilitate the exisitng free movement of labor within the EU. This, in turn, causes exchange of experience and professional knowledge between Ukrainian and European workers, which, in turn, will stimulate productivity growth, increase wages and improve the competitiveness of the Ukrainian economy. The possibility of legal migration and professional development within the EU will give Ukrainians a chance to move freely, work and develop their skills, which will also contribute to the overall development of the country[5].

Ukraine's membership in the EU will provide an additional level of security through participation in the EU's collective security initiatives. Despite the absence of united armed forces in the EU, collective security mechanisms will guarantee Ukraine the support of its partners in case of threats. This will ensure an additional level of protection and stability for Ukraine, which is important given the current security challenges[5].

Integration into the EU implies opening the borders for Ukrainian citizens, which has already simplified travel and has stimulated cultural and social exchange. These processes will be even more intensive. The ability to move freely within the EU allows Ukrainians to get acquainted with European cultural values, facilitate their integration into the European cultural space, and increase their awareness of the life of other EU member states[5].

Finally, EU membership will increase Ukraine's investment attractiveness, opening up new prospects for foreign investment and business development. Due to high standards of transparency and reliability, investors will be confident in the stability of the Ukrainian market, which will contribute to the creation of new jobs and the introduction of modern technologies. This economic impetus is essential for Ukraine's sustainable growth and integration into the global economy[1].

To sum up, joining the European Union offers Ukraine long-term benefits in the areas of politics, economics, social welfare, and security. Reforms and integration with the European market will open up new opportunities for Ukraine and strengthen its position in the international arena, giving Ukrainian citizens a chance for a stable future in the European community.

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