International Economy

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EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF EUROINTEGRATION ACTIVITY OF ENTERPRISES IN ZAKARPATTIA REGION

Abstract

Empirical research of Zakarpattia enterprises as the main entities of the economic component of integration processes in particular towards European Union is examined. The main factors of influence on the efforts of enterprises to enter EU and provide the further cooperation towards Eurointegration are considered. The scheme of regional approaches to Eurointegration of the entrepreneurial structures of Zakarpattia are formed.

Key words:

European Union, Eurointegration, international entrepreneurship, international cooperation, advantages and risks of Eurointegration.

JEL: F50.

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Introduction

The processes of international integration at the world and regional levels influence on the economic development and international cooperation of the countries. One of the specific features of which are transnationalization of entrepreneurial activity. Therefore, the development of all forms of entrepreneurship – small, medium and big business, which is an important vector of economic policies of the country and its regions.

Changes of the external geopolitical and geoeconomic conditions at the European continent promote the necessity of analysis and consideration of Ukraine's economic policy. Especially, this question is urgent for the near-border regions of Ukraine, where the important condition of integration processes is orientation on the well-balanced development of big, medium and small enterprises as the principal Eurointegration agents.

To realize the given research, a wide range of questions among enterprises, which are the entities of external and international activity, are examined. For that purpose, the Managers of enterprises filled in the questionnaire. Therefore, the object of given research are 90 enterprises from all 13 districts of Zakarpattia region, at that, the sample amounts 10%.

Results of research

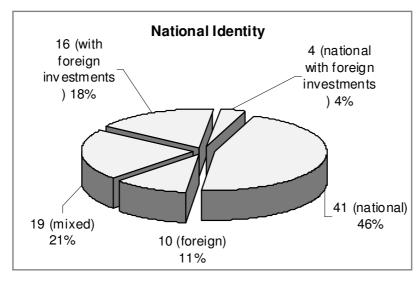
At the first stage we analyze the identification data of the object of research. About 90% of enterprises wee founded in times of Ukraine's independence and have the private form of ownership (80 enterprises - 89%). The national identity of enterprises was defined in the course of questionnaire (Figure 1).

On the basis of the Figure 1, we may say that from the one hand, the correlation 46 % of national enterprises and other 50 % firms, which refer to the foreign entities of entrepreneurship, is the good indicator. From the other hand, taking into consideration the considerable factor of near-bordering of Zakarpattia region, this indicator should be bigger.

All enterprises which were examined have certain directions of international cooperation (Table 1). Enterprises which deal in two types of entrepreneurial activity dominate in the Table 1 (11 of them).

Figure 1

National identity of the examined enterprises of Zakarpattia region, 2010



Source: prepared by the author.

Table 1.

Directions of international cooperation of examined enterprises of Zakarpattia region, 2010

Directions of enterprises' international activity	Number of enterprises
One direction of activity	12
Export	1
Import	3
Export and import operations	2
Joint entrepreneurship	1
Foreign enterprise	0
Enterprise with foreign investments	3
Enterprise which cooperates with the firms from EU	2
countries	
Two directions of activity	11
Three directions of activity	2
Four directions of activity	1
No response	1

Source: prepared by the author.

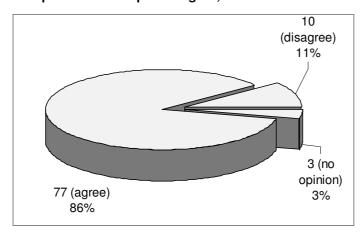
of Enterprises in Zakarpattia Region

Having analyzed the first general part of questionnaire, in other words identification data concerning enterprises, let us analyze the main part of it.

The first question of this part was: Do you want Ukraine to enter EU? The answers are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2

Determination of the desire of Ukraine to enter EU among examined enterprises of Zakarpattia region, 2010



Source: prepared by the author.

Thus, Tak 77 enterprises, in other words 86 % of enterprises accept the entry of Ukraine to EU, 10 firms (11 %) – disagree with such decision of our country. Enterprises were offered to define advantages and risks for the region after the entry of Ukraine to EU, which are presented in the Table 2. 1 means the most important advantage and 2 – the less important advantage than 1 etc.

For the effective analysis of the Table 2, it is expedient to divide the all factors of advantages (13) and risks (7) for three groups: the most important (for advantages -1-5, for risks -1-3), of medium importance (for advantages -6-9, for risks -4,5) of minimal importance (for advantages -10-13, for risks -6,7) (Table 3).

Table 2

Advantages and risks from the entry of Ukraine into EU, at the example of Zakarpattia region (enterprises' responses), 2010

List of factors of advantages and risks	At the level of the region
Advantages	
Level of salaries	13
Unemployment payments	12
Medical provision	7
Free movement of capital among the countries	3
Free movement of labor force	5
Ecological standards	9
Improvement of living standards	1
Increase of the level of political freedom	10
Economic stability	2
Access to European outlet markets	4
Access to European capital markets	11
Access to the new technologies	8
Transition to European standards of education	6
Risks	
Partial loss of sovereignty	6
Insufficient competitiveness of products of domestic producer	2
Increase of prices' level	1
Possibility of reduction of the share of domestic production	4
Increase of the unemployment level	3
Loss of well-skilled personnel	5
Asymmetry of relationships among the entrepreneurial structures	7

Source: prepared by the author.

Having analyzed the Table 3, let us define the peculiarities of the most important factors of advantages. Thus, without doubt all enterprises wish to increase the living standards and economic stability, which will enable to increase the purchasing ability of citizens and realization of products. Free movement of capital among the countries, access to European outlet markets and free movement of labor force will influence on the international division of labor and international capital movement, which is one of the most important conditions of economic integration of the countries.

Table 3
Grouping of advantages and risks for Zakarpattia region according to the level of importance (enterprises' responses), 2010

	T .	I		
№ accord- ing to the level of im- portance	Factors of advantages	Factors of risks		
	the most import	tant		
1	Increase of the living standards	Increase of the prices' level		
2	Economic stability	Insufficient competitiveness of products of domestic producer		
3	Free movement of capital among the countries	Increase of the unemployment level		
4	Access to European outlet markets			
5	Free movement of labor force			
	of medium import	tance		
1	Transition to European stan-	Possibility of reduction of the		
	dards of education	share of domestic production		
2	Medical provision	Loss of well-skilled personnel		
3	Access to the new technologies			
4	Ecological standards			
	of minimal importance			
1	Increase of the level of political freedom	Partial loss of sovereignty		
2	Access to European capital	Asymmetry of relationships among		
	markets	the entrepreneurial structures		
3	Unemployment payments			
4	Level of salaries			

Source: prepared by the author.

At the same time the enterprises consider increase of the level of prices, insufficient competitiveness of products of domestic producer and its products and increase of the unemployment level as the most important risks the enterprises. Such choice is stipulated by the nearness of borders and information from the neighboring countries, which enter EU in 2004. All these countries within the first years of membership, met with the considerable increase of prices, noncompetitiveness of national enterprises, and as a conclusion, their massive closure or reorganization. The above mentioned is followed by the reduction of the

share of domestic production (factor of risk of the middle level of threat), providing the increase of the level of unemployment, and international migration and as a consequence, the loss of well-skilled personnel.

After the most important factors of advantages, the group of advantages of the middle importance includes issues concerning education, science, medical provision, access to the new technologies and ecology. In accordance with the Table 3, after obtaining of the above mentioned advantages, citizens think about the increase of the level of political freedom and provision of the right of choice, likewise increase of the social standards and guarantees: social provision, unemployment payments, increase of the level of salaries.

The minimal risks for citizens are the partial loss of sovereignty and Asymmetry of relationships among the entrepreneurial structures of different countries.

The next question is to define the opinion of the representatives of enterprises concerning events which are necessary to conduct for the speed-up of the entry of Ukraine into EU and formation of the regional model of promotion of this in the political and economic sphere.

Table 4

Political and economic events for the speed-up of Ukraine's entry into EU (responses of enterprises of Zakarpattia region), 2010

Necessary events for the speed-up of Ukraine's entry into EU	At the level of the region
In political sphere	
Ensure freedom of parliament and presidential elections and elections to the local administration	8
Ensure conditions for the creation and functioning of democratic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and independent mass media	2
Step up struggle with organized crime activity and corruption	1
Ensure protection of personal liberties of citizens	
Step up struggle with laundering of money	
Create effective institutes in the sphere of justice and internal affairs	6
Counteract discrimination in all spheres of social life	5
Ensure independence of judicial power and improvement of judges' work	4
Ensure legal protection of minority rights	9
Ensure awareness of society about political advantages and risks of Ukraine's entry into EU	3
Form consciousness of society as a part of political Europe	5

	At the
Necessary events for the speed-up of Ukraine's entry into EU	
	the region
In economic sphere	
Ensure macro-regional economic stability	4
Create market institutes	6
Create favorable environment for business doing	2
Improve competitive conditions	9
Form legal/ normative provision of market transformations	5
Create favorable investment climate	1
Realize administrative and structural reforms	8
Liberalize trade regime	7
Ensure qualification improvement of labor force	3
Improve structure of export, diversify it	11
Ensure reduction of material and energy intensity of production	8
Ensure awareness of society about economic advantages and risks	6
of Ukraine's entry into EU	0
Form consciousness of society as a part of economic Europe	10

Source: prepared by the author.

In the given matter, it is expedient to divide all political and economic events into three groups: the most important (for political events -1-4, for economic events -1-5), of medium importance (for political events -5-7, for economic events -6-8) of minimal importance (for political events -8-9, for economic events -9-11) (Table 5).

Analysis of the Table 5 enables us to define the peculiarity of the most important political events. Such item of group as step up with struggle with laundering of money and organized crime activity and corruption speaks about the fact that the above mentioned is available in Zakarpattia region. Besides it, President of Ukraine V. Yanukovych considers such struggle priority in his economic policy [1]. In its turn, this will provide opportunities for the speed-up of the development of medium and small business; provide proper conditions for improvement of investment climate. Businessmen understand this fact and emphasize about this in their responds. The next important event for the entrepreneurial environment is provision of information awareness of society concerning political advantages and risks of entry of Ukraine into EU. Of no less importance for the representatives of entrepreneurial structures is independence of juridical power and improvement of judges' work. Inasmuch as for Zakarpattia business and all Ukraine the big problem is to defend in courts their property and activity. Especially, it is connected with foreign investments.

Table 5

Grouping of political and economic events (responses of enterprises of Zakarpattia region) according to the level of importance, channeled on the speed-up of Ukraine's entry into EU, 2010

№ according to im-	Political events	Economic events		
portance	portance			
	The most impo			
1	Step up struggle withlaunder- ing of money; Step up struggle with organized crime activity and corruption	Create favorable investment climate		
2	Ensure conditions for the creation and functioning of democ-	Create favorable environment for business doing		
	ratic institutions, non- governmental organizations, and independent mass media	Ç		
3	Ensure awareness of society about political advantages and risks of Ukraine's entry into EU	Ensure qualification improvement of labor force		
4	Ensure independence of judicial power and improvement of judges' work	Ensure macro-regional eco- nomic stability		
5		Form legal/ normative provision of market transformations		
	Of medium impo			
1	Counteract discrimination in all spheres of social life; Form consciousness of society as a part of political Europe	Create market institutes; Ensure awareness of society about economic advantages and risks of Ukraine's entry into EU		
2	Create effective institutes in the sphere of justice and inter- nal affairs	Liberalize trade regime		
3	Ensure protection of personal liberties of citizens	Realize administrative and structural reforms; Ensure reduction of material and energy intensity of production		
Of minimal importance				
1	Ensure freedom of parliament and presidential elections and elections to the local administration	Improve competitive conditions		
2	Ensure legal protection of mi- nority rights	Form consciousness of society as a part of economic Europe		
3		Improve structure of export, diversify it		

Source: prepared by the author.

Among the most important economic events, the enterprises consider creation of favorable investment climate and mezzo- and macro-environment for the entrepreneurial activity doing in the region. For that purpose, it is necessary to improve the qualification of labor force, providing mezzo- and macro-stability. But conducting of such events is impossible without corresponding level of legal and normative provision of market transformations both at the level of the region and the country.

Criterion of counteraction of discrimination in all spheres of social life was referred to the medium level of importance. This problem emerges because of the availability planned approaches in the solution of economic and political questions. Entrepreneurs refer the criterion concerning struggle with laundering of money, corruption and organized crime activity. It is consider that in Zakarpattia region there is no big business, there is no clans of oligarchs, but there is unfair competitive struggle with medium and small business. It is confirmed the responses of the representatives of business, who want the adopted Law of Ukraine to be the same for everybody. Such approaches are supported by the representatives of Council of Europe. They consider these approaches to intensify the interest to Ukraine and will influence on the Eurointegration processes.

The economic criteria of the medium importance include creation of market institutions (there is no much information about their functioning in Zakarpattia region); ensuring of information awareness of society concerning economic advantages and risks of Ukraine's entry into EU. Besides it, the entrepreneurial environment is aimed at liberalization of trade regime, and implementation of administrative and structural reform. The emphasis on these criteria speaks about the obstacles before business, looking for the ways of their proper solution. Business requires distinct positions, simple rules of behavior. Such approaches will promote integration.

Ensuring of reduction of material and energy intensity of production, in other words scenario of development of economy of the region on the innovation basis is of medium importance for businessmen, at the same time in the developed countries of Europe they are priority.

To the political events of minimal importance in accordance with the Table 5, businessmen refer the ensuring of the freedom of parliament and presidential elections and elections to the local administration.

We partially agree with the representatives of enterprises concerning the fact that with the years the elections in Ukraine becomes more democratic. At the last place according to the minimal level of importance is ensuring of legal protection of minority rights in Zakarpattia region. In our region there no problems because of multinationality.

Among the less important economic events the businessmen consider the improvement of competitive conditions. Along with this, the formation of consciousness of entrepreneurial environment is not very important.

Such economic event as improvement of export and its diversification is contradictory. From the one hand, it is the insufficient understanding of export transactions for external economic activity of Zakarpattia region. Instead of it, from the other hand, economy of our region has no such export-oriented products, as for example, in the industrial East regions of Ukraine.

The third chapter of questionnaire refers to the multi-sided relation and communications of enterprises. Enterprises were asked to estimate their relationships with the organs of state power and local self-government, social and non-governmental organizations, higher educational establishments and scientific institutions towards Eurointegration? Situation is characterized by the following.

Only in 55 % the cooperation between the organs of state power and local self-government is observed, speaking about the insufficient attention, which is paid to the entrepreneurial sector by the organs of state power and visa verse entrepreneurial structures weakly cooperates with the government agencies.

Enterprises do not cooperate with the third sector (93 %). In such a case, it is necessary to accept measures concerning activization of cooperation between these two important sectors. It is necessary to use the experience of European countries; organs of power should develop mechanisms of promotion of such kinds of relationships.

Cooperation of enterprises with higher educational establishments and scientific institutions towards Eurointegration should be better. Indicator of 85% of absence of relationships with higher educational establishments and scientific institutions towards Eurointegration speaks about it. It means that businessmen are not involved into the holding of international conferences, seminars, round tables concerning vital questions of the region towards. Therefore, there is no scientific rationale of the majority of economic questions in the sphere of international external economic activity. The authorities of the region should develop measures concerning improvement of relationships between entrepreneurship and education and science. There is corresponding resource and potential for that.

The next question was channeled on the determination of the main parameters of cooperation, in other words number of agreements and their qualitative interpretation. This question was asked in view of countries for the period of the last five years. On the basis of the answers, the Table 6 was formed.

Table 6

Number of agreements of enterprises of Zakarpattia region with the enterprises of different countries for the period of 2006–010.

Number of	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
agreements	187	177	190	217	260
EU mem- ber-states with which the agree- ments are concluded	Czechs Republic, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, England, Belgium, Italy, Poland, Denmark, France	Czechs Republic, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, England, Belgium, Italy, Poland, Denmark, France	Czechs Republic, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, England, Belgium, Italy, Poland, Denmark, France	Czechs Republic, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, England, Belgium, Italy, Poland, Denmark, France	Czechs Re- public, Aus- tria, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, England, Bel- gium, Italy, Poland, Den- mark, France
Other countries of the world	Russia	Russia	Russia Israel	Russia Israel, USA	Russia Israel, USA, Belarus, Ka- zakhstan , Turkmenistan, New Zealand, India

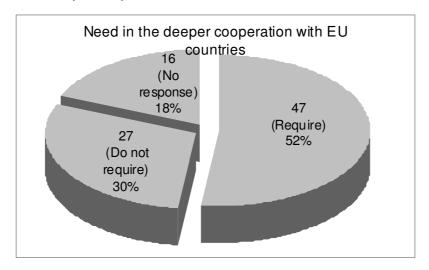
Source: prepared by the author.

According to the Table 6, the number of agreements between the EU member states within the period of 2006–2010 increased for 73,39 %. This is the positive dynamics, which speaks about the activization of business relations between the entities of entrepreneurship of Ukraine and EU countries, which is qualitative positive indicator of economic Eurointegration. The geography of economic relations between the entrepreneurial structures of the different countries of the world and Ukraine considerably expands.

The next question deals with the availability or absence of the need of enterprises in the deeper cooperation with the EU countries. Responses are divided as the following (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Need of the enterprises of Zakarpattia region in the deeper cooperation with EU countries, 2010



Source: prepared by the author.

In Figure 3, we may see that from more than half of enterprises (52 %) – 47 require deeper cooperation with EU countries, which is proved by the data from the Table 6, which speak about the fact that the majority of signed agreements were concluded with the enterprises-recipients of countries-EU members. Enterprises define the directions of their activity – investment, economic and technological, ecological etc.

Enterprises are informed about the experience of the regional cooperation of EU countries which can be useful at the level of the region in order to develop the regional model of promotion of Ukraine's entry into EU, this is: a) cooperation "Zakarpattiaoblenergo" with EU countries; b) cooperation with the countries of V4 Visegrad Countries, which will provide the quicker entry into EU.

Enterprises define regional peculiarities and unimproved opportunities of Zakarpattia, which will assist in formation of deeper integration of enterprises of the region with the entrepreneurial structures of EU member states (Table 7).

Table 7

Regional peculiarities and unimproved opportunities of Zakarpattia concerning promotion of formation of deeper integration of enterprises of the region with the enterprises of EU member states (responses of enterprises), 2010

Peculiarities	Unimproved opportunities
Geographical arrangement, nearness to the border, neighborhood with EU	Historical belonging to Europe, cultural proximity, household activities and traditions with the boundary countries of EU
General historical roots, multi-cultural population composition,	Scientific potential
Energetical and resource potential	Deepen possibilities for the conducting of business-forums, exhibitions.
Availability of well-skilled labor force	Energetical potential in hydro- and wind energy.
Availability of FEZ and TPD	Productive cooperation (usage of productive resource)
Favorable climate for investment, one of the factors of which is low level of citizens' welfare of the region, which makes their work cheap and attracts investors.	Improvement of conditions for business with neighboring countries; changes in tax field.
Experience of cooperation with the neighboring countries and countries Central and Eastern Europe in different spheres	Natural resources, qualified labor resources
Powerful recreation and tourist potential	Cancellation of visa regime on conditions of valid cooperation with EU
Developed transport infrastructure	
Common ecological cooperation	
Developed forest industry	
Gradual expansion of economic relations	
110110	

Source: prepared by the author.

Data from the Table 7 are of practical recommended character. Enterprises define the priority directions for the nearest period and form the models of Eurointegration process in Ukraine at the regional level.

The last question of the third chapter of questionnaire is based on the determination of the most important available factors of business, which promote or brake the formation of regional example of promotion of Ukraine's entry into EU. All answers are noted in the Table 8.

Table 8

Available factors of business which promote or brake the process of Eurointegration at the level of the region (responses of enterprises), 2010

Available factors of business	Promote	Brake
Level of business innovativeness	1	3
Level of human resources development	4	7
Information provision	6	12
Financial resources	5	5
Connections, traditions, and strategies of development of external economic activity of business	9	4
Technological level of enterprises	3	11
Standards and quality of products	8	9
Level of labor productiveness	2	8
General image of success/ failure of business	9	10
System of employees' encouragement	7	2
Placement of business in the special regimes of economic activity (detail please)	5	6
Culture of productive or another activity	10	1
Other: Cancellation of visa regime	11	_
Other: Customary barriers; Unwillingness of foreign partners to work with Ukrainian enterprises because of unfavorable business and political climate	-	13

Source: prepared by the author.

For the effectual analysis of the Table 8, it is expedient to divide all available factors of business into three groups: the most important, of medium importance and of minimal importance (Table 9).

Table 9
Grouping of available favorable and braking factors of business according to the level of importance (responses of enterprises), 2010*

Nº according		
to the level of	Favorable	Braking
	ravorable	Draking
importance	The most import	ont
	The most import	ant
1	Level of business innovative- ness	Culture of productive and other activity
2	Level of labor productiveness	System of employees' encouragement
3	Technological level of enter- prise	Level of business innovative- ness
4	Level of human resources development	Connections, traditions, strate- gies of development of external economic activity enterprises
5	Financial resources; Placement of business in the special regimes of economic activity	Financial resources
	Of medium import	
1	Information provision	Placement of business in the special regimes of activity
2	System of employees' en- couragement	Level of human resources development
3	Standards and quality of products	Level of labor productiveness
4		Standards and quality of products
Of minimal importance		
1	Connections, traditions and strategies of development of external economic activity enterprises; General image of success/failure of business	General image of success/failure of business
2	Culture of productive and other activity	Technological level of enter- prise
3	Cancellation of visa regime	Information provision
4		Customary barriers; Unwillingness of foreign part- ners to work with Ukrainian en- terprises because of unfavor- able business and political cli- mate

 $^{^{\}star}$ – analyzing Table 10 it is necessary to note that responses on the same offered questions were given by the different enterprises, therefore there is some discrepancy while grouping of favorable and braking factors.

Source: developed by the author/

Having analyzed the Table 9,we may say that the most favorable available entrepreneurial factors of the process of integration of Ukraine at the regional level is innovativeness and producibility of enterprises, labor productiveness and human resources, likewise financial resources, and availability of special economic zone (SEZ) and territory of priority development (TPD). At that, the available culture of productive activity, lack of employees' encouragement, weak level of innovation component of some enterprises, insufficient level of external economic activity development of enterprise and absence of corresponding strategy and for the majority of firms – lack of financial resources are breaking factors.

At the medium level there are information provision, system of employees' encouragement, standards and quality of products as favorable factors and placement of business in the special regimes of economic activity (SEZ and TPD), level of human resources development, level of labor productiveness as braking ones.

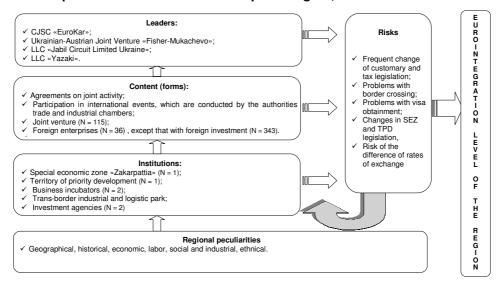
The favorable factors of minimal importance on businessmen opinion are: connections, traditions and strategy of development of external economic activity of enterprises; general image of success/failure of business; culture of productive activity; cancellation of visa regime. The braking factors of minimal importance are available standards and quality of products, general image of success/faire of business, technological level of enterprise and information provision.

The fourth final part of questionnaire highlighted the comments and propositions of enterprises concerning development of the regional model of promotion of Ukraine's entry into EU in Zakarpattia region. They were offered to add those questions and answers, which were not comprehended by the questionnaire, but are very important. Such questions were added:

- political stability;
- increase of employees' qualification;
- examination of experience of the most developed and its realization in Ukraine;
- low level of living standards.

As it was mentioned above, entrepreneurial structures are one of the main entities pf Eurointegration processes of Ukraine at the regional level. The author highlighted the level of involvement of enterprises of Zakarpattia to the process of Eurointegration. On the basis of complex analysis, the scheme of the regional approaches to Eurointegration of enterprises of Zakarpattia region is shown in the Figure 4.

Figure 4
Regional approaches to the process of Eurointegration of entrepreneurial structures of Zakarpattia region, 2010



Source: developed by the author

Figure 4 consists of blocks which include the components of the regional approach to the process of Eurointegration of entrepreneurial structures of Zakarpattia region. The interrelations among blocks are shown.

- Block 1 enterprises-leaders of Eurointegration process: CJSC «Euro-Kar», Ukrainian-Austrian Joint Venture «Fisher-Mukachevo», LLC «Jabil Circuit Limited Ukraine», LLC «Yazaki»
- Block 2 content form, which consists of such Eurointegration events: Agreements on joint activity; participation in international events, which are conducted by the authorities, trade and industrial chambers; joint venture, foreign enterprises, except that with foreign investments.
- Block 3 Special economic zone «Zakarpattia», territory of priority development, business incubators, trans-border industrial and logistic park, investment agencies.
- Block 4 geographical, historical, economic, labor, social and industrial, ethnical.

Block 5 – Risks: frequent change of customary and tax legislation, problems with border crossing, problems with visa obtainment, changes in SEZ and TPD legislation, risk of the difference of rates of exchange.

Therefore, these answers can be a basis for the development of the program of entrepreneurship development in Zakarpattia in the context of European integration of Ukraine and its regions.

Conclusions

Having examined the main entities of Euriointegration process – entrepreneurial structures, we can conclude that the majority of enterprises (86%) are agreed with Ukraine's entry into EU and look for the further fruitful cooperation towards Eurointegration.

The political and economic advantages of Ukraine's integration, connected with the creation of mechanisms of political and economic stability and democracy were underlined. Coming closer with EU is a guarantee and fulfillment of its requirements — instrument for the construction of democratic institutions in Ukraine. Besides it, on the opinion of the examined enterprises, membership in EU will provide more effective coordination of actions with European countries; promote activization of international entrepreneurial activity in conditions of internationalization, integration and globalization.

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The article was received on on February 27, 2012.