

new economic conditions and changes in the strategies of their competitors, which often involve mergers and acquisitions. The importance of M&A can be seen from the extremely high ratio of cross-border M&A values to foreign direct investment worldwide (over 85% in 2000). Multinationals, in particular, need information on where, in what form and why competitors are investing so that they can make effective investment decisions themselves. Lastly, academics, regulators and policymakers need to understand companies' strategies and their impact on economic performance so that they can design and implement policies which will help increase prosperity and raise living standards over time.



Fig. 1. Mergers and acquisitions in Europe.

Source: [compose by author by: <http://www.ima-institute.org/statistics-mergers-acquisitions.html>]

The bulk of European M&As of the 1990s was expected to improve efficiency as they triggered substantial share price increases at the announcement, most of which were captured by the target-firm shareholders. We find large announcement effects (of 9%) for the target firms compared to a statistically significant announcement effect of merely 0.5% for the bidders. Including the price run-up, the share price reaction amounts to 21% for the targets and 0.9% for the bidders. However, we show that market expectations about takeover profitability depend on the different attributes of the bids. For instance, the type of takeover bid is an important determinant: hostile takeovers trigger substantially larger price reactions to the target shareholders (15.5% on the event day) than friendly M&As (3%). This stands in marked contrast with the share price reaction of bidding firms: a hostile acquisition triggers a negative abnormal return of -0.4% whereas that of a merger or friendly acquisition generates a positive abnormal return of 0.8%.

MANGU KAMARA

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UKRAINE, AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

The role and place of this region in the modern system of international political, economic and security co-ordinates define the importance of Ukraine's relationship with the Middle East.

Mutual aspiration of Ukraine and Middle Eastern countries to promote relations is evidenced from their broad diplomatic presence: Ukraine has its Embassies in Jordan, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and the Representative Office of Ukraine functions in the Palestinian National Authority. Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates have established their Embassies in Kyiv.

Ukraine's interestedness in expanding trade and economic cooperation with the countries of the region is prompted by their relative geographic proximity, strong demand for Ukrainian products (mainly metals and agriculture, chemical industry and mechanical engineering), and the possibility of diversification of energy sources, significant investment potential.

Ukraine and countries in the region are also tied by human factor: thousands of Ukrainian nationals live in the Middle East, while thousands of students from Middle Eastern countries study at Ukrainian higher education institutions. Promotion of human contacts is facilitated by steps taken recently by Ukraine to liberalize visa regime for citizens of some countries in the region; in addition, visa regime with Israel was abolished in 2011. Direct flights are established between Ukraine and Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, and the UAE.

Recent events in the Middle East have led to a slowdown in the activity of political contacts and decline in Ukraine's trade with countries in the region (2012 – \$5.6 billion, 2013 – \$4.1 billion, first half of 2014 – \$1.9 billion.); about 90 per cent of the trade is accounted for by the Ukrainian export.

Hopefully, these phenomena are temporary, and the Middle East will continue to be one of the priority areas of mutually beneficial cooperation for Ukraine. Work aimed at removing trade barriers with countries in the region is intended to facilitate such relations. In particular, negotiations are underway on a free trade agreement with Israel; Ukraine has initiated contacts with the General Secretariat of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, etc.

Building a large-scale cooperation with Africa is one of the priorities of Ukraine's foreign policy, as reflected in the government's Program of Ukraine's cooperation with African countries for the period 2013–2015.

Political and economic interests associated with the integration of Ukraine into the global economic system, which is an important factor of its political image and development of the national economy, account for the importance of the African continent for Ukraine.

In recent years, African countries have greatly increased the political weight of the continent in international relations. Today there is no doubt about the readiness of African countries for further political and economic integration across the continent, the institutionalization of common supranational bodies within the African Union.

Regional integration trends are actively growing on the African continent, in particular in the framework of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), and others.

From the economic point of view, these countries are an important market for industrial, agricultural, military and industrial goods and services, as well as an important source of industrial and agricultural raw materials, strategic international communications hub.

Promotion of cooperation between Ukraine and African countries at this stage is aimed at enhancing political dialogue, strengthening cooperation in international organizations, as well as seeking new business partners and markets for Ukrainian products.

Trade and economic relations between Ukraine and African countries are gradually expanding. In particular, in 2014 the trade turnover between Ukraine and countries in Africa reached \$5.7 billion. Ukrainian exports amounted to \$5 billion. The trade balance is positive for Ukraine – \$4.3 billion.

Ukraine has established eleven Embassies in Africa: in Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Republic of Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, and Tunisia. Network of Honorary Consulates of Ukraine is expanding.

Ukraine is actively involved in UN peacekeeping in five African countries: Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sudan and South Sudan. The international community praised professionalism of Ukrainian military pilots in resolving the post electoral crisis in the Côte d'Ivoire.

Thousands of students from the African continent are enrolled in higher educational institutions of Ukraine.

Diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Nigeria were established on December 10, 1992. The Embassy of Ukraine in Nigeria started working in September 2001.

But the partner ties between the two countries could be traced back to the 1960–80 s, when thousands of Ukrainian specialists worked at the construction of industrial enterprises in Nigeria

and hundreds of Nigerian students studied in Ukrainian universities and institutes. Today numerous graduates of Ukrainian higher educational establishments work in government bodies, educational and health care institutions, and business structures of Nigeria. A.Wabara, the President of the higher chamber of the National Assembly of Nigeria – Senate, graduated in his time from Kyiv State University.

The two countries are among the most active participants of the UN peacekeeping operations, including those in Africa. In particular, Ukrainian and Nigerian peacekeepers have shown their worth in the peacekeeping operation in Sierra Leone. Ukraine is keen to deepen the all-round cooperation with Nigeria taking into account the weighty role it plays in the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries, the African Union, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

More and more active becomes trade and economic cooperation between Ukraine and Nigeria. During the last three years the trade turnover between our two countries doubled and run up to 200 million US dollars per year. The share of machinery and equipment, in particular, tractors, trucks, electric generators increases in the Ukrainian export to Nigeria.

Ukrainian engineers and technicians take part in the realization of such a big project launched with the assistance of the former Soviet Union as the completion of the Ajaokuta Steel Plant, the largest in West Africa. Specialists from Ukraine will begin soon the construction in Ajaokuta of a thermo-electric power station that would supply electric power not only for the plant, but for the local inhabitants as well.

Proved to be efficient such a form of business cooperation as the creation of joint ventures. Joint Ukraine-Nigeria Company for assembling and maintenance of tractors successfully works near the capital of the country Abuja. At the same time at present 6 joint ventures with the participation of Nigerian companies work in Ukraine.

Large Ukrainian companies, such as «АВТОКРА3» – leading producer of a wide range of trucks, «Motor Sich» – world-reputed manufacturer of electric power generators, JSC «КВАЗАР» – producer of solar heating systems for industrial and household needs are now working with their Nigerian counterparts on the deliveries of their products to your country. Air transport company «Ukrainian Helicopters» is offering its services in the field of cargo carriage, fire fighting, air photography.

The willingness of Ukraine and Africa to deepen their relations, the absence of divergences of views on questions of principle in foreign policy, positive experience of cooperation within the framework of international organizations, wide range of mutual interests of representatives of business give every reason for the conclusion that Ukraine-Africa relations will further develop in the line of ascent with increasing economic content and Nigeria will be one of the major partners of Ukraine in Africa.

OSMAN CHERNOR KAMARA

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND ITS IMPACTS ON THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

In the world today, rapid economic transformation has taken place gradually as a result of the innovation of Information Communication Technology. It has proven to be a means of efficient and effective communication, no matter the type of economic system of a country, the system of government, culture, religious background or social and ethnic group. These economic transformations has had influence on the world's economic sphere as it has curtailed most of the tedious tasks that were once referred to as a challenges not only to the people of a country but as well as the economy. Africa which happens to be one of the under developing continent of the world with poor standard of living and poor industrial base has witnessed drastic economic changes over the years as a result of Information Communication Technology. It has contributed immensely in government, business, communication, industries, health and education by the use of its resources such as television, landlinetelephone, mobiletelephone, computer equipment, Internet