

Natalia Zaslavskaya

Soft security cooperation between Russia and the European Union in studies abroad

The issues of soft security cooperation between Russia and the European Union were actively researched by the foreign scholars. Their interest to this area of EU-Russia cooperation is determined by various factors. First of all, the EU is traditionally more concerned about soft security issues rather than hard security issues. Moreover, today the EU faces multiple soft security challenges, including migration, terrorism, and border control. So dealing with the third countries, including Russia, the EU concentrates on the soft security agenda. Finally, the existence of an extended common border between the Russian Federation and the European Union further strengthens importance of joint actions between Russia and the EU in matters such as control over the border, and make cooperation necessary to confront security challenges of a transnational nature like environmental problems.

This review of foreign studies on the problems of cooperation between Russia and the European Union in the field of soft security is based on publications in academic journals (e.g., *Cooperation and Conflict*, *Environmental Politics*, *European Security*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *European Journal of Migration and Law*, *Geopolitics*, *The International Spectator*, *Journal of Baltic Studies*, *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*), publications of academic institutes (for example, the Center for European Policy Studies), collective monographs, collections of scientific conferences (e.g., *Conventions of International Studies Association*).

This review demonstrates that it is possible to identify several major topics related to EU-Russia soft security cooperation described by the researchers abroad. The first topic is theoretical aspects of cooperation in the field of soft security in general and in combating specific soft calls security; the second topic is EU-Russia cooperation in the area of Justice and Home Affairs with a reference to the Common Space for Freedom, Security and Justice; the third one is coordination of actions between Russia and the EU in the issue of regulating migration and simplification of the visa regime; the fourth topic is border control and management of cross-border issues; another popular topic was environmental cooperation also highly important due to geographical proximity of EU and Russia; finally, the European researchers also demonstrate interest in regional cooperation between Russia and the EU in the field of soft security.

Of course, the interaction of Russia and the European Union in the field of soft security is a highly important area of scientific research. The list of publications analyzed in this review is not exhaustive, but it enables to determine major concerns and research priorities of non-Russian scholars.