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Systematic and historical approaches on Russia-EU relations in the studies in Russia

Systematic and historical approaches have dominated the studies on the Russia-EU relations that have been published in Russia. It is important to note that since the Soviet times, the research on the European integration and the relations between the European Communities and other countries have been carried out mainly in the field of international relations by the Soviet scholars, while in the West the researchers of the European integration mostly explored these processes in the frameworks of the political science. Regarding the systemic approach in its broad sense it allows to analyze the object of research in its systemic integrity and interrelations, including the elements of the system and the various types of relationships and correlations between them, the structure of the system and its main parameters that, in many ways, are crucial both for the functioning of the system, and for its subsystems and elements.

In general, within the frameworks of systemic and historical approaches it is possible to single out a number of studies that have analyzed the variability of individual elements of the system of bilateral relations, that is, the European Union and Russia, as well the impact of changes within the EU and Russia on the systemic level of their interactions. The number of the studies devoted to the analysis of the impact of internal transformations in Russia on the development of Russia's policy towards the EU are quite limited. Much larger number of the academic literature that have been published in Russia have focused on the various aspects of the internal changes and evolution of the European Union and their impact on the EU's foreign policy and Russia-EU relations. Thus, multiple academic studies have analyzed the changes within the EU caused with its eastern enlargement and their implications for its relations with Russia. In addition, a significant number of researches have been devoted to the influence of the individual EU member-states on the EU's policy towards Russia and the transformation of the

system of relations between Russia and the EU and, vice versa, some papers have explored the influence of the system of relations between the EU and Russia on the individual EU members and Russia.

Relatively large group of studies within the framework of the systemic approach has been devoted to the analysis of the various aspects of structure of the system of Russia-EU relations, as well as to its key subsystems. They, in turn, can include the particular aspects of the relations between Russia and the EU (e.g. interaction in various economic and socio-humanitarian fields or in the area of international security) and the key factors affecting the system Russia's relations with the EU (e.g. the factor of regional interaction between Russia and the EU in the Baltic region, and, especially, in the post-Soviet space, or the factor of the EU and Russia's participation in a number of international regimes, for example, in the WTO). It can also be noted that a number of studies have focused on the most important factors that could determine and maintain sustainability of the Russia-EU relations system or transform this system in the times of crises.

In general, the systematic and historical approaches used by a big number of the Russian scholars have made a significant contribution to the formation, accumulation and deepening of knowledge in the fields of European integration studies and relations between Russia and the European Union, becoming one of the starting points of the development of the European studies in Russia.