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Cross-Border Cooperation between Russia and the European Union, Kaliningrad and Northern Dimension in Studies in Publications of Russian Researchers

Russian researchers pay special attention to cross-border cooperation between Russia and the European Union. This special attention could be explained by less importance of political factors and the practice-oriented nature of cooperation in this area in contrast to other areas of cooperation between Russia and the European Union. For the Russian scholars, it is important to examine, on the one hand, influence of framework agreements between Russia and the EU on the development of various forms of cross-border cooperation, and, on the other hand, the impact of the cross-border projects on the development of EU-Russia relationship. Studies of cross-border cooperation also are stimulated by Russia's concerns about EU activities in different European sub-regions, for example, the Baltic Sea region and the Black Sea region. The neighboring states, including Russia, want to study potential consequences of the EU activities in these regions. Russian researchers are highly interested in the development of cross-border cooperation in Northern Europe. This region is particularly challenging for scholars as it could be divided into several other subregions: the Baltic Sea region, the Barents Sea region, the Arctic region. An important framework program of the European Union, the Northern Dimension, is being implemented in this region. In addition to the European Union, various international organizations operate in this region, for example, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Northern Council, and others.

This review of Russian academic publications devoted to the problems of cross-border cooperation between Russia and the European, the Northern Dimension program and the problems of Kaliningrad is based on publications in academic journals (for example, the Baltic

region, Contemporary Europe, Issues of Economics, World Economy and International Relations, Bulletin of St. Petersburg University, Series 6), publications of the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg State University, report from the academic conferences, etc. The issues of cross-border cooperation are particularly popular among researchers working in the regions directly involved in cross-border cooperation (Kaliningrad, Northwestern Russia, Karelia, etc.).

This review enables to determine key issues studied by the Russian scholars dealing with cross-border cooperation. Firstly, many authors examine regional approaches of Russia and the European Union, various forms of interregional interaction of border regions, for example, Euroregions, various aspects of regional academic discourse. Secondly, the Russian researchers try to determine major tendencies in the development of cross-border cooperation between Russia and the European Union. Some researchers study implementation of cross-border cooperation projects in specific regions (in Northern Europe, in the Baltic Sea region, in the North-West of the Russian Federation). Of course, Kaliningrad is perceived as a special case of regional cooperation due to its historic background and unique geographical position. Kaliningrad plays an important role in relations between Russia and the European Union. There are numerous projects involving Kaliningrad. Another interesting topic studied by Russian researchers is the Northern Dimension and various issues related to its development and implementation. Finally, many Russian scholars research implementation of cross-border cooperation in specific areas: innovation policy, environmental policy, educational cooperation, tourism, etc.

Of course, the issues of cross-border cooperation between the regions of Russia and the European Union are very important for Russian researchers. There are multiple publications devoted to cross-border cooperation. The list of publications analyzed in this review is not exhaustive, but this review gives an idea about major tendencies demonstrated by the Russian scholars, their research interests and priorities.

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