

LEGAL DEVELOPMENT OF EURASIAN INTEGRATION: POTENTIAL AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Yermek Buribayev *
Zhanna Khamzina **
Indira Beisekeyeva ***

ABSTRACT

The concept of Eurasian integration has become a key and dynamic phenomenon in modern international relations. The present study is focused on assessing the potential of legal development of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), justification of measures for its adaptation to the changing social and legal reality. The current legal integration model of the EAEU is assessed. The focus of the study is on three interrelated issues: key aspects of legal integration, including the creation and development of legal frameworks, their principles, as well as the relationship between the national legal systems of the member states and EAEU law; the place of EAEU norms in the national legal system of Kazakhstan; and the justification of strategic paths and measures for the long-term integration evolution of the EAEU. In conclusion, this article offers findings on the legal complexities of Eurasian integration. The importance of legal cooperation and harmonization as essential components of the evolving project of regional integration is highlighted. The results of the study expand the potential of the theory of integration processes in Eurasia, fill it with new methodological content, and allow conceptualizing the implementation of further empirical studies of integration processes in the post-Soviet space.

Key words: *Eurasian Economic Union, Eurasian integration, Post-Soviet region, regional integration, legal integration, supranational status, enlargement policy.*

* Department of Law, Zhetysu University named after I. Zhansugurov, Kazakhstan, yermek-a@mail.ru

** Department of Law, Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University, Kazakhstan, 292803@mail.ru

*** World Economy Research Center of JSC «Economic Research Institute», Kazakhstan, indira.beiseke@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

In the current era of intensified international integration, the legal dimensions of inter-state interactions remain underexplored. Key questions persist about how the rules governing such interactions should be incorporated into national laws, the applicability of international law to integration associations, and the potential emergence of a new legal system that does not fit traditional definitions of either international or domestic law but constitutes a distinct “law of integration”. It is also crucial to determine this new system’s place within the global legal order.

Globalization and the deepening of integration processes worldwide raise significant questions for the academic community that require theoretical analysis within international law. These questions include the legal aspects of international economic integration, such as its essence, nature, institutionalization modes, and the criteria for recognizing the international legal capacity of integration structures. A variety of issues arise, such as defining the essence of contemporary and particularly Eurasian economic integration, analyzing its legal implementation forms, applying international law to Eurasian integration, and its role in shaping the “law of Eurasian integration”. Additionally, the relationship between this “law of integration” and international law is a distinct area of theoretical research within international law. This article seeks to address these questions, albeit partially, to fill existing gaps in knowledge.

When discussing various aspects of Eurasian integration and its legal regulation, the focus should be on international regional economic integration. The legal regulation of Eurasian integration results from its material basis – the integration process itself, which is complex and multifaceted. Currently, the primary indicator of Eurasian integration is defined through the activities and structure of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Discussions on Eurasian integration are now predominantly centered on the EAEU, and the terms “Eurasian integration” and “EAEU law” have become central in contemporary academic discourse.

This study is particularly relevant due to the need to delineate the place of EAEU acts within national and international legal systems. The aim is to identify approaches for optimizing the interaction between national and supranational law, constitutions, laws, and judicial acts while minimizing political, subjective, and evaluative factors. Numerous highly cited works address the relationship between international and national law, defining theoretical and practical approaches to law enforcement in this area.¹ The scholars’ works

¹ Nollkaemper, A., Nijman, J. E. (Eds.): *New perspectives on the divide between national and international law*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2007; Denza, E.: *The relationship*

present a comprehensive analysis of the evolving relationship between national and international law. They emphasize the growing interconnectedness of these two legal spheres and the need for coordinated legal measures to bridge the gap between national and international jurisdictions in addressing global issues. The theoretical foundations and practical implications of the relationship between international and national law are explored. Various integration models are discussed, and the ways in which different legal systems incorporate international norms are analyzed. Empirical research findings on the implementation of international law within national legal systems reveal significant differences in the degree and methods of incorporating international norms. The studies conclude that factors such as legal tradition, political stability, and judicial independence play crucial roles in shaping the relationship between international and national law. The research highlights the tension between constitutional sovereignty and the need to comply with international obligations, proposing a model of “constitutional pluralism” where international and national legal orders coexist and interact dynamically. Overall, the studies underscore the complexity and evolving nature of the relationship between international and national law. Key themes include the necessity of harmonizing legal frameworks to address global challenges, the importance of empirical research in understanding the implementation of laws, and the potential benefits of adopting a pluralistic approach to legal integration. The need for flexible, context-specific solutions for effectively integrating international norms into national legal systems, ensuring compliance, and enhancing overall legal governance is emphasized.

A number of studies have analyzed the legal nature of the Eurasian Economic Union and its rule-making process.² The aforementioned studies conclude that

between international and national law, *International law*, 4 2006, pp. 412-440; Verdier, P. H., Versteeg, M.: International law in national legal systems: An empirical investigation, *American Journal of International Law*, 109(3) 2015, pp. 514-533; Vereshchet, V. S.: New Constitutions and the old problem of the relationship between international law and national law, *European Journal of International Law*, 7(1) 1996, pp. 29-41; Mursaliev, A. O.: Correlation of international and Russian national law with regard to environmental protection of the Caspian Sea, *Journal of Siberian Federal University. Humanities & Social Sciences*, 14(5) 2021, pp. 636-661; De Mestral, A., Fox-Decent, E. Rethinking the relationship between international and domestic law, *McGill LJ*, 53 2008, pp. 573; Von Bogdandy, A.: Pluralism, direct effect, and the ultimate say: On the relationship between international and domestic constitutional law, *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, 6(3-4) 2008, pp. 397-413.

² Kapustin, A. Ya.: Pravo yevraziyskoy ekonomicheskoy integratsii v fokuse mezhdunarodnogo prava, *Gosudarstvo i pravo*, (6) 2017, pp. 79-88; Kurbanov, R.: Yevraziyskoye pravo. Teoreticheskiye osnovy, *Litres*. 2022; Abikenov, A et al.: The problems of effectiveness and implementation of the international legal norms of the states of the Eurasian economic union (EAEU), *Bulletin of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences*, 13(1) 2019, pp. 175-181;

there is a significant demand for creating a more cohesive and autonomous legal framework within the EAEU to enhance its efficiency and operational functionality. They assert that the harmonization of national laws with EAEU standards is essential for smoother integration and compliance with requirements. It is also recognized that harmonizing labor legislation and creating unified labor market regulations are crucial for addressing labor migration issues and improving working conditions. Recent geopolitical events, such as Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, have affected attitudes towards integration and highlighted the need for clearer communication and public support for the EAEU's objectives. However, the studies collectively emphasize the necessity of establishing a robust, harmonized, and autonomous legal system to support the EAEU's goals of economic and socio-political integration.

A large body of research is available on the implementation of legal and institutional instruments in various areas of Eurasian integration.³ The researchers'

Taitorina, B. A., Kassymbek, A., Sailibayeva, Z. Y. et al.: Development of the Eurasian Economic Union as the integration stage in the Eurasian (Post-soviet) area, *Journal of Advanced Research in Law and Economics*, 7(6) 2016, pp. 1509-1517; Amirbek, K., Kubeyev, Y., Bozhkarauly, A.: Formation issues and development prospects contractual base of Eurasian Economic Union, *Journal of Advanced Research in Law and Economics*, 9(33) 2018, pp. 842-854; Lushnikov, A., Lushnikova, M.: The Eurasian model of international labour legislation in the context of globalization, *Russian Law Journal*, 4(4) 2016, pp. 95-111; Khabrieva, T. Y.: The legal system of the Russian federation amid international integration. *Herald of the Russian Academy of Sciences*, 85(2) 2015, pp. 93-99; Anufriyeva, L. P.: Yevraziyskaya integratsiya i pravo YEAES v rakurse mezhdunarodnogo prava (voprosy teorii i praktiki), *Voprosy pravovedeniya*, (2) 2016, pp. 384-400; Drageva, R., Wolczuk, K. (Eds.): *Eurasian economic integration: Law, policy and politics*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2013; Verlaine, M., Shashkova, A. V., Kudryashova, E. V.: Amendments to Russian constitution and international institutions decisions: EAEU prospective, *Polis. Political Studies*, (5) 2020, pp. 164-176; Alimkhanova, S. K.: Legal aspects of harmonization of labor legislation of Kazakhstan and the Eurasian economic union countries (EAEU), *Journal of Advanced Research in Law and Economics (JARLE)*, 11(50) 2020, pp. 1080-1086; Khamzin, A., Buribayev, Y., Sartayeva, K.: Prevention of human trafficking crime: a view from Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries, *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, 17(1) 2022, pp. 34-53; Luzina, T., Khamzin, A.: Possibilities and perspectives for regulating labor migration in the SCO member countries, In: *Marochkin, S., Bezborodov, Y. (Eds.) The Shanghai Cooperation Organization*, London: Routledge 2022, pp. 116-130.

³ Mikhailiova, T. N.: Upgrading legal regulation of integration in the context of digital economy: The Eurasian Economic Union Agenda, In: Inshakova, A. O., Frolova, E. E. (Eds.) *Smart Technologies for the Digitisation of Industry: Entrepreneurial Environment*, Singapore: Springer, 2022, pp. 213-226; Kadol, N., Kalendzhjan, S. O.: Institutional basis for the integration of social entrepreneurship development processes within the framework of the Eurasian economic union, *International Journal of Entrepreneurship*, 25(4) 2021, pp. 1-9; Boklan, D. S., Janusz-Pawletta, B.: Legal challenges to the management of transboundary watercourses in Central Asia under the conditions of Eurasian Economic Integration, *Environmental Earth*

conclusions emphasize the importance of updating legal regulations within the EAEU to meet the requirements of the digital economy. They highlight the necessity of a harmonized digital policy and a legal framework that supports innovation and cross-border digital trade. The demand for creating a favorable legal environment and promoting institutional cooperation, which are crucial for the growth of social entrepreneurship, is also noted. Furthermore, the need for reliable legal frameworks to address issues of transboundary water management is identified. The challenges of aligning national interests with broader integration goals are underscored. Additionally, the legal support required for creating a unified environmentally safe space within the EAEU is analyzed.

Certain studies examine the effectiveness of the EAEU legal order compared to that of the EU.⁴ Despite the growing academic interest in the EAEU and

Sciences, 76 2017, pp. 437; Zakharova, M., Przhilenskiy, V.: Anti-Rawls or the Russian Way of Eurasian Integration, *Russian Law Journal*, 7(3) 2019, pp. 12-37; Kamolov, S., Glazyeva, S.: Shaping Digital Ecosystem of the Eurasian Economic Union: Issues and Resolutions, In: Polyakov, R. (Eds.) *Ecosystems Without Borders 2023*, Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2023, pp. 133-139; Aksenov, I. A.: Development of state support for export of agricultural products as an element of the integration policy of the Eurasian economic union, *Siberian Journal of Life Sciences and Agriculture*, 13(4) 2021, pp. 273-296; Bolgov, R., Zinovieva, E., Karachay, V.: Information society development in Eurasian economic union countries: legal aspects, In: Estevez, E., Janssen, M., Soares Barbosa, L. (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance*, New York: Association for Computing Machinery, 2014, pp. 387-390; Agabekyan, A. R. et al.: Analysis of International Legal and National Legal Support for the Formation of a Single Environmentally Safe Space in the EAEU, In: Popkova, E. G., Sergi, B. S. (Eds.) *Sustainable Agriculture. Environmental Footprints and Eco-design of Products and Processes*, Singapore: Springer, 2022, pp. 55-62; Osaulenko, L. N.: Provision of food safety and consumer rights protection in the Eurasian Economic Union law, *Health Risk Analysis*, (4) 2018, pp. 24-30; Kovalev, V. E. et al.: Influence of the customs instruments on implementing the common agricultural policy in the Eurasian Economic Union, *Ekonomika regional/Economy of Regions*, 15(2) 2019, pp. 534-546; Raysyan, M. G., Bekhorashvili, N.: Study of the single space of the Eurasian Economic Union: legal regulation of circulation of medicinal products, *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research*, 10(6) 2018, pp. 1472-1475; Dudko, N. A.: Promising development of scientific cooperation in Eurasia: comparative legal research of a jury trial in CIS countries. In *Advances in Natural, Human-Made, and Coupled Human-Natural Systems Research*, 1 2023, pp. 493-504. Cham: Springer International Publishing.

⁴ Pimenova, O. I.: Legal integration in the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union: comparative analysis, *Bulletin of international organizations*, (1) 2019, pp. 76-93; Davletgildeev, R.: International legal regulations of labour migration in the Eurasian region: a tentative attempt at approximating the EU's free movement of workers, *Journal of social policy studies*, 16(4) 2018, pp. 595-610; Petrov, R., Van Elsuwege, P. (Eds.): *Post-soviet constitutions and challenges of regional integration: Adapting to European and Eurasian integration projects*, Routledge, 2017; Lyutov, N., Golovina, S.: Development of labor law in the EU and EAEU: how comparable?, *Russian Law Journal*, 6(2) 2018, pp. 93-117; Burlyuk, O., Axyonova, V.: Protecting the rule of law in post-Soviet states: the relevance of European and Eurasian

integration in the post-Soviet space, the legal support and practical application of Eurasian law have not yet garnered significant scholarly attention. This study aims to address this gap in the literature. From a practical perspective, the lack of legitimacy of Eurasian law within the national legal systems of EAEU member states poses serious obstacles to its effective functioning and development. Therefore, the findings of this study will likely be of considerable interest to decision-makers in the supranational institutions of the EAEU and its constituent member states. Insights into the shortcomings of the current strategy for legitimizing Eurasian law could inform policy development.

Research conducted by Karliuk⁵ highlights that the EAEU lags behind the EU in both the autonomy of its legal system and its capability to ensure the effective operation of the organization. The EAEU's supranational capacity is limited, as it relies predominantly on intergovernmental elements to preserve the interests of all member states. For instance, Kazakhstan's participation in the EAEU strengthens economic ties and cooperation with other member countries while maintaining its state sovereignty. In recent years, member countries of the Eurasian integration entity, including Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, have experienced positive changes due to Russia's evolving role in the global economy. Factors such as the use of parallel imports, relocation of specialists, and the movement of companies have contributed to the economic growth of these countries. However, sustainable development necessitates analyzing these practices and exploring new development strategies. Given the increasing trade interdependence among EAEU member states, there is a need for enhanced cooperation and the development of mechanisms that support economic integration, particularly in strengthening cooperative links.

Completing the institutional and legal framework of the EAEU is essential to ensuring the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labour.⁶ Currently,

integration, In Petrov, R., Van Elsuwege, P. (Eds.) *Post-Soviet constitutions and challenges of regional integration: adapting to European and Eurasian integration projects*, Routledge, 2018, pp. 28-47; Entin, M., Galushko, D.: International human rights protection and regional integration: European and Eurasian integration processes compared, *InterEULawEast: Journal for the international and European law, economics and market integrations*, 7(1) 2020, pp. 21-45; Arynov, Z., Orazgaliyev, S., Issova, L.: Non-recognizing the Other? Discursive delegitimation of the EAEU by the EU, *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, 32(2) 2023, pp. 1-14.

⁵ Karliuk, M.: The Eurasian Economic Union: An EU-inspired legal order and its limits, *Review of Central and East European law*, 42(1) 2017, pp. 50-72.

⁶ Khusainov, B. D., Shirov, A. A., Baizakov, N. A.: The quality of growth and digitalization in the Eurasian integration countries: an econometric analysis, *Studies on Russian Economic Development*, 33(5) 2022, pp. 547-554.

the EAEU has implemented a common foreign trade and customs regulation and established a legal framework in various areas, including technical and antimonopoly regulation and subsidies for the real economy. There has also been noted cooperation in industry, agriculture, transport, energy, and the digitalization of these sectors, impacting economic growth. The integration of international obligations within the national legal systems of member states and the influence of various sources of EAEU law on national legislation remain pressing issues. Although the last decade has seen phases of “disintegration”, the legal development of Eurasian integration is now advancing towards stronger cooperation among countries interested in effective and mutually beneficial international collaboration. This progress is evident in both international legal regulations and the shift from recommendatory to legally binding decisions by the bodies of the interstate integration association.

The methodological approach of this study is based on a comprehensive analysis of the regional integration process, employing a systemic approach for an in-depth understanding of the topic. The research utilized various general scientific methods, including expert assessments, comparative and situational analyses, and abstract-logical reasoning. Additionally, structural, logical, historical-legal, comparative-legal, and formal-legal methods of analysis were employed, enriching the study with specialized approaches for a detailed examination of the subject.

The research employs systemic and comparative analyses, offering a comprehensive examination of the dynamics and characteristics of integration associations, while considering the external factors and conditions that influence them. Systemic analysis has identified key aspects of the formation and development of integration structures, elucidating the relationship between socio-economic prerequisites and the national interests of states. The comparative approach has enhanced the study’s validity by revealing the EAEU’s opportunities in the context of deepening integration processes. Modeling and forecasting methods were utilized to create a model of the integration structure and develop scenarios for its future development. The analytical work included examining specific situations and political events that affect integration processes, ensuring that the study addresses key aspects of the association’s activities.

The hermeneutic approach was applied to interpret international legal and national legal documents, as well as to analyze the interaction between integration and national legal systems. The normative and theoretical foundations of the research included international treaties, EAEU acts, national legal sources, and fundamental scientific works on the theory of international law and integration processes. These elements provided a deep and multifaceted understanding of the subject under study.

2. METHODOLOGY

The specific nature of this scientific research necessitated the use of a variety of general and specialized scientific methods, including analysis, synthesis, comparison, analogy, deduction, induction, and abstraction. Additionally, comparative legal, formal legal, and political and legal modeling methods were employed. Adhering to the principle of complexity, the study considers both the political and socio-economic aspects of forming and developing international legal support for regional state integration, as well as the relationship between legal regulation and the practical implementation of national legal regimes. The research on the formation of integration law is intertwined with an analysis of the challenges related to the organization and functioning of the international institutional system. The primary methods used in this research include descriptive and analytical approaches, which account for the socio-economic characteristics of the geopolitical regions involved. Comparative analysis methods further enhance the study by providing a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. EAEU: LEGAL ASPECTS IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The law of Eurasian integration, intimately connected to the political, economic, and legal interactions among EAEU member states, incorporates both contractual and institutional mechanisms of cooperation. This body of law is closely intertwined with international law, forming an integral part of the universal legal system. Despite the shortcomings in the language and approaches documented in international agreements and the actions of integration bodies or member states, these issues should not overshadow the fundamental international legal nature of integration associations and their constituent treaties.

The Constitutive Treaty of the EAEU⁷ introduced a new category in legal terminology – “EAEU law” –thus completing the formation of the international legal framework for Eurasian integration. With the adoption of this treaty and its accompanying agreements, integration arrangements were systematized and conceptualized within the framework of EAEU law. This distinguishes EAEU law from the legal acts and procedures of other international organizations, which are often treated in a more fragmented manner.

⁷ Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union (Astana, 29 May 2014).

The Treaty on the Establishment of the EAEU includes a comprehensive article titled “Law of the Union”, developed based on functional principles ensuring organizational and legal coherence. This article outlines the structure of EAEU law, providing a detailed list of its sources, establishing procedures for integrating the Treaty’s provisions into the national legal systems of member states, ensuring consistency between successive acts, and defining a hierarchy of sources to resolve conflicts between norms of different legal authorities. According to the architecture of the EAEU founding treaty, the Union’s legal system comprises two main types of international legal sources: international treaties and normative acts issued by the authorized intergovernmental structures of the EAEU, namely the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council and the Eurasian Economic Commission.

The structure of the EAEU treaty framework follows a hierarchical principle, organized from the general to the specific. This system distinctly categorizes three types of international treaties serving as sources of the Union’s law: the constituent treaty of the EAEU, international treaties within the Union, and international treaties concluded by the Union with third countries.

Based on general theoretical concepts regarding the essence and characteristics of constituent documents of international organizations, the 2014 Constituent Treaty of the EAEU is a pivotal element of the legal structure of this international organization. It serves as the fundamental act with the highest legal authority among the international treaties comprising the EAEU legal system. The Treaty explicitly states that in the event of any conflict between the Constituent Treaty and other international legal acts, the 2014 Constituent Treaty shall prevail. Additionally, this document is both programmatic and normative, establishing the foundation for the organization’s future legal development and providing for the creation of new international agreements essential for achieving the goals of Eurasian integration.

An analysis of the main aspects of the “Union law” category in the Constitutive Treaty of the EAEU reveals that it embodies an international legal approach to managing the integration process. The EAEU member states play a key role in the formation and application of “Union law” norms. They are responsible for the main document – the Constituent Treaty – as well as for the related international agreements within the Union. The effective implementation of the Union’s international treaties into national legal systems also depends on these states. Acts issued by the EAEU bodies are predominantly intergovernmental and require a traditional approach to national-level implementation, except in cases of direct effect. Furthermore, the EAEU Court’s use of universally recognized principles and norms of international law and international customs underscores the predominantly international legal nature of Eurasian integration law.

The development of “Union law” into an independent legal order and its role as a sub-regional subsystem of international law are shaped by the interplay of political, economic, and social factors resulting from the integration process. As the law of Eurasian integration continues to evolve, its conceptual model can take various forms, leading to numerous theoretical interpretations of its essence. At the current stage of Eurasian integration, this law can be viewed as an evolving set of international legal norms on a sub-regional scale, aimed at creating a common economic space for the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Its inter-state nature is undeniable. However, the presence of supranational features in the powers of bodies such as the Eurasian Economic Commission and the EAEU Court does not alter its international legal character. Ultimately, the concept of “Eurasian integration law as a legal system of a regional international economic integration organization” holds significant legal potential for achieving the strategic objectives of the Union’s long-term development.

3.2. THE PLACE OF EURASIAN LAW IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM OF KAZAKHSTAN

The dynamic evolution of Eurasian integration and its influence on the national laws of participating countries, coupled with the significant contributions of jurists⁸ in enhancing the theoretical understanding of globalization, regionalization, and integration, have led to the emergence of a new facet within Kazakhstan’s legal landscape: Eurasian law. This emerging segment can be viewed as a subset of international law integrated into the broader domain of international regional law, which, in turn, constitutes a component of international law. To effectively systematize and structure international regional law into distinct categories, proponents suggest utilizing regionality as a key organizing principle. This involves categorizing legal norms based on regional characteristics.

The experience of regionalization illustrates that countries establish regional groupings grounded in territorial, social, and functional considerations, often

⁸ Sarsembayev, M. A.: Status i granitsy polnomochiy Kollegii yevraziyskoy ekonomicheskoy Komissii i Pravitel’stva Respubliki Kazakhstan, *Vestnik Instituta zakonodatel’stva i pravovoy informatsii Respubliki Kazakhstan*, 3(27) 2012, pp. 25-29; Sarsembayev, M. A. Osobennosti statusa i deyatel’nosti Suda Yevraziyskogo ekonomicheskogo soyuza i Suda Yevropeyskogo soyuza, *European and Asian Law Review*, (1) 2020, pp. 76-91; Khamzina, Zh. A., Buribayev, Ye. A.: Formy i mekhanizmy razvitiya regional’nogo sotrudnichestva stran Yevraziyskogo ekonomicheskogo soyuza v sfere sotsial’nogo obespecheniya, *Mezhdunarodnyy zhurnal eksperimental’nogo obrazovaniya*, (7) 2016, pp. 136-144.

sharing doctrinal approaches. These countries frequently encounter similar challenges that necessitate collective efforts to address. Furthermore, the regional criterion gains support as states within a given region commonly participate in various sub-regional organizations operating within the same geographical area, profoundly influencing their legal frameworks. Additionally, established regions typically possess distinct legal systems. Through the establishment and operation of regional groupings, existing legal systems undergo integration, leading to the emergence of new legal realms that amalgamate elements of diverse legal traditions and orders.

When countries establish a new type of organization, they delegate certain sovereign powers to an international institution. These powers typically pertain to fundamental aspects of state authority, such as territorial management, population governance, and international interactions. What distinguishes integration associations from other forms of interstate economic and cooperative arrangements is the transfer of authority to the association's bodies for creating normative documents with broad applicability. These documents directly influence legal relations within member states and are utilized by national courts to resolve legal disputes.

The implementation of decisions made by international organizations by member states operates on the principle of supranationalism, indicating the legal status of these organizations. This status grants them the authority to issue binding decisions, even without the explicit consent of individual states. Supranationalism empowers international organizations to enforce decisions through established procedures agreed upon by their members, even in cases where the consent of a particular state is absent. This characteristic enables international organizations to effectively pursue the goals outlined in constituent treaties or other international instruments. Member states, recognizing this status, incorporate provisions into their national legislation that authorize international organizations to carry out functions typically associated with public administration.

The concept of supranationalism within the realm of international organizations entails a shared decision-making function that holds binding authority over member states and supersedes domestic law. However, it is crucial to consider the constitutional reservations of states regarding the recognition of the supremacy of an international act over domestic legislation. In the context of the EAEU, national governments wield significant influence in integration decision-making, with institutions, notably the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), primarily serving as platforms for their interaction. While it may be acknowledged that certain institutions within the EAEU possess supranational attributes, leading to the consideration of the EAEU as an organization with

elements of a supranational structure, this does not imply that the legal framework of the EAEU is analogous to the supranational legal order characteristic of the European Union, as per its established understanding and functioning.

Legislation stipulates three criteria for Kazakhstan's participation in and delegation of authority to an international organization. Firstly, such delegation must occur through an international treaty ratified in accordance with national laws. Secondly, the treaty must not infringe upon the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens. Thirdly, it should not contravene the foundational principles of the country's constitutional system. It is important to underscore that the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan and related constitutional acts do not grant the EAEU any exclusive privileges or additional legal significance within the national legal framework.

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, acts of international organizations ratified by the Republic hold precedence. Concerning decisions of international organizations and their bodies established through treaties ratified by Kazakhstan, the question of the priority of these decisions, if the constituent treaty of the international organization mandates their enforcement in Kazakhstan, was addressed in Normative Decision No. 6 of the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 5 November 2009.⁹ This decision provides the official interpretation of Article 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding the execution order of decisions made by international organizations and their bodies. The ruling of the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan states:

- In accordance with Article 4, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, decisions of international organizations and their bodies, established pursuant to international treaties of the Republic of Kazakhstan, must not contravene the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- decisions made by international organizations and their bodies, in which the Republic of Kazakhstan is a participant, can assume the legal characteristics of an international treaty ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan, provided that the international treaty ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan explicitly specifies the binding nature of these decisions for Kazakhstan;
- in the event of a conflict between a decision of an international organization and/or its body, which is binding on Kazakhstan, and the normative legal

⁹ Normative Resolution of the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 5 November 2009 № 6 "On the official interpretation of the norms of Article 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan in relation to the order of execution of decisions of international organizations and their bodies".

acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the decision of the international organization and/or its body shall prevail until such conflict is resolved;

- decisions made by international organizations and their bodies that violate the constitutional rights and freedoms of individuals may not be directly enforced and, therefore, take precedence over the normative legal acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The primary provision outlined in the discussed decision of the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan establishes parity between the international treaty ratified by the Republic and the actions of an international organization of which Kazakhstan is a member. This parity occurs when the treaty forming or joining the organization is ratified by Kazakhstan and explicitly states that the organization's actions are binding on its member states.

To illustrate this concept within the context of the issue at hand, consider Belarus's enactment of a revised version of the "On External Labour Migration" law in 2022, with the previous version dating back to 2010. This updated law, effective from July 2023,¹⁰ governs matters concerning external labor migration, encompassing the employment activities of both emigrant and immigrant workers. Notably, the law encompasses all forms of employment for Belarusian citizens, foreigners residing in Belarus, foreigners abroad, and foreign citizens within Belarus, with specific exceptions outlined by law. Article 3 of the "On External Labour Migration" law stipulates that relations within this realm are governed by legislation on external labor migration, international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, as well as international legal acts constituting the law of the Eurasian Economic Union. This provision employs the concept of "the law of the Eurasian Economic Union" as one of the sources of legal regulation. Such an approach appears appropriate and warrants emulation in Kazakhstan's legislation, given the current state of the regulatory mechanism.

It is worth noting that Belarusian legislation has adopted a new approach in recent years regarding the relationship between international and national law. Traditionally, the formulation stated that "if an international treaty of the Republic of Belarus establishes rules different from those found in a particular law, the rules of the international treaty shall prevail". However, this has been replaced with a provision indicating that "relations in the relevant sphere are regulated by legislation, international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, as well as by international law".¹¹

¹⁰ Law of the Republic of Belarus of 30 December 2022 No. 233-Z "On amendments to the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On external labour migration".

¹¹ Law of the Republic of Belarus of 5 January 2024 No. 344-Z On insurance activities; Law of the Republic of Belarus of 13 December 2022 No. 227-3 on insolvency resolution; Law of the Republic of Belarus of 19 April 2022 No. 164-3 On payment systems and payment services.

Article 6 of the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union, signed in Astana on May 29, 2014 (ratified by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 240-V ZRC on October 14, 2014), outlines the foundational elements of EAEU law. The Union's legal framework comprises: the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union itself; international treaties within the Union; international treaties of the Union with third parties; decisions and directives of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, and the Eurasian Economic Commission, enacted within the scope of their authority as stipulated by the Treaty on the EAEU and international treaties within the Union. Decisions of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council and the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council are to be implemented by member states in accordance with their respective national legislation.

It is important to recognize that the existence of Union law constitutes a distinct legal reality, separate from the concepts of "international treaties of the Republic of Kazakhstan" or "international obligations of the Republic of Kazakhstan". The system of EAEU law necessitates its integration within the legal framework of the Republic of Kazakhstan, requiring thorough research and official clarification and interpretation. However, if we adhere to a straightforward and consistent interpretation of the legal force of international acts, it becomes evident that the constitutional norm prioritizing international treaties ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan over its laws establishes the precedence of the new legal system outlined in the EAEU Treaty ratified by Kazakhstan over its domestic legislation.

Henceforth, the revised standard wording found in all enacted and existing laws of Kazakhstan, typically articulated in the second or third article, signifies a shift in legislative practice: "if an international treaty ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan establishes rules different from those contained in this Law, the rules of the international treaty shall prevail". This provision, uniformly embedded in all legislative acts, mirrors the constitutional dictate outlined in Article 4 of the Constitution, affirming that international treaties ratified by the Republic supersede its laws. Reflecting the current legal landscape, the aforementioned provision can be articulated as follows: "Relations in the relevant domain of public affairs (pertaining to the subject of legal regulation) are governed by sectoral legislation, international treaties of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as international legal acts constituting the law of the Eurasian Economic Union. If an international treaty ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan establishes rules divergent from those contained in this Law, the rules of the international treaty shall prevail".

In light of the above, the continuously updated Kazakh legislation should encapsulate the established and validated system of sources of international legal

regulation governing pertinent spheres of social relations. This includes the incorporation of the law of the Eurasian Economic Union into various domains.

Given that the Treaty on the Union addresses the regulation of a substantial spectrum of social relations, due consideration must be given to the domestic legislative process, acknowledging the regulation of specific domains within the EAEU, including specialized treaties. Therefore, it is imperative to adhere to the provisions of the Union's law in the matter at hand and prevent the incorporation into national legislation of norms that contravene the international treaties of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

3.3. FORMATION OF THE FUTURE PROGRESSIVE INTEGRATION DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAEU

The Eurasian Economic Union serves as a strategic endeavor aimed at enhancing and deepening collaboration among member states, with a primary emphasis on fortifying integration processes within the Union itself. This ambitious undertaking necessitates ongoing efforts to surmount disparities and bolster cooperation, contingent upon both the collective cohesion of the integration framework and the contributions of individual member states. The challenge of establishing the Eurasian Economic Union extends beyond ensuring its sustainability; it also entails maintaining the agility necessary to adapt to shifts in the economic, social, and global landscape. The realization of the EAEU's developmental potential largely hinges on the proactive utilization of its institutional framework, as delineated in the Treaty on the EAEU, to effectively pursue the objectives of the integration association.

Under the umbrella of the Eurasian Economic Union, the Fundamentals of EAEU Legislation have been formulated¹² as a mechanism for harmonizing national legislation among member countries, in contrast to less binding model acts. Regrettably, however, the Fundamentals of EAEU Legislation have yet to be implemented in any sphere of public affairs, with their application thus far limited to the development of conceptual frameworks. Given this circumstance, it appears prudent to expedite the utilization of such international legal instruments in an updated format under the auspices of the EAEU, while duly considering the distinctive attributes and level of integration within the Union.

In our view, when states delegate certain aspects of their sovereign authority to international organizations, they are not relinquishing these powers; rather, they are exercising sovereignty through such delegation. However, the imple-

¹² Annexes to the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union.

mentation of legally binding decisions made by international organizations at the national level remains inadequately explored, both within the scope of national legal theory and in practical legal application. Legislative regulations concerning such implementation are largely overlooked, with predominant attention given to the general principles governing the implementation of international treaties of the Republic of Kazakhstan in accordance with the country's Constitution and legislation. This line of inquiry is closely linked to the constraint of state sovereignty, the utilization of which warrants scrutiny and justification. The efficacy of integration endeavors among the states of the Eurasian Economic Union and other regional organizations hinges on the establishment of interstate bodies with specific competencies, the transfer of sovereign rights by member states, and the mechanisms for overseeing their activities. The presence of bodies endowed with supranational functions and subordinate competences is a defining characteristic of organizations serving as the institutional foundation for integration.

The issue of shaping and managing supranational authority within international organizations is pressing and primarily revolves around striking a balance between states' desire to preserve their sovereign identity despite delegating powers to supranational entities, and their inclination to utilize supranational mechanisms to advance their own interests by actively developing them. Concurrently, the ongoing process of globalization, which fosters a convergence of the international political-legal landscape, engenders institutional conditions conducive to curtailing state sovereignty through a reevaluation of the political role and significance of international institutions.

One of the factors impeding the optimal effectiveness of integration processes within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is the limited role played by international law in this context. To enhance the success of EAEU member states' integration efforts, there is a need to bolster the position of international law by developing legal mechanisms capable of effectively addressing pertinent challenges.

Specifically, efforts should be directed towards enhancing the efficacy of acts adopted within the EAEU, pursuing two key avenues:

Firstly, empowering EAEU bodies to issue decisions directly applicable within the jurisdictions of member states, without necessitating subsequent incorporation into national legislation. These decisions ought to possess binding legal authority and take precedence over national legal enactments in cases of conflict.

Secondly, endowing EAEU bodies with robust monitoring mechanisms grounded in traditional international legal frameworks, while also instituting other specialized legal mechanisms of integration within the constituent treaty.

The current inadequacy in control mechanisms overseeing act implementation, coupled with insufficient sanctions against EAEU member states for non-compliance with their obligations, results in a lack of adherence to acts adopted within the framework of this integration association. It is imperative to confer legal validity upon normative acts adopted within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, treating them with the same authority and significance as rigorously implemented acts. However, it's crucial to acknowledge that the normative acts sanctioned within the EAEU do not hold unconditional precedence over the national legislation of its constituent members. This discrepancy often leads to a lack of consistency and uniformity within national legal systems. A strategic approach to the integration process involves harnessing the resources and capabilities of member states to realize developmental objectives. The willingness and consensus among member states are pivotal in effectively achieving ambitious integration goals. Thus, the decision-making mechanism plays a pivotal role in ensuring the successful implementation of subsequent actions.

Our analysis reveals that the predominantly declarative nature of acts adopted within the EAEU, particularly concerning the assurance of human rights, stems from the lack of coordination among member states in executing relevant areas of domestic policy and the absence of standardized approaches to national legislation formation. Consequently, the advancement of EAEU legal policy should be directed towards addressing these underlying challenges.

The progression of legal integration within Eurasian cooperation embodies the deepening interaction among nations striving for effective and mutually beneficial international cooperation. This trend is evident in both international legal frameworks and the shift from advisory measures, such as model laws, to binding legal decrees of interstate integration bodies, notably the Eurasian Economic Commission. Yet, within the context of Eurasian integration, the relationship between states and their authorities is not the sole focal point. With the emergence of new dynamics in Eurasian integration, particularly within the post-Soviet landscape and the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union, there is growing anticipation for enhanced involvement of individuals in integration processes. While current integration primarily revolves around economic interactions among states, future prospects may encompass a broader spectrum of issues, placing individuals at the forefront of integration endeavors on the international stage. Consequently, there is a proposal to enhance the international treaty framework to grant direct access for individuals to treaty provisions, circumventing the complexities of national implementation legislation. Additionally, improving the accessibility and dissemination of international legal instruments concerning human rights and freedoms, optimizing the application of these instruments at the national level, including through

jurisprudence, and enhancing public legal awareness, particularly regarding matters impacting their rights and freedoms, are recommended.

A significant challenge facing the Eurasian Economic Union in the contemporary era is maximizing participation from citizens, organizations, and enterprises across its member states within its legal framework, essential for its comprehensive functionality. Presently, the EAEU concept predominantly emphasizes economic integration, with economic benefits serving as the primary incentive. However, an overly narrow focus on economic aspects creates a quandary concerning the balance between integration and national sovereignty, as well as the impact of supranational structures on member state sovereignty. There is a growing recognition of the imperative to incorporate political and socio-humanitarian elements into the integration concept and model within the EAEU. Harmonizing political, humanitarian, and economic integration, and broadening the integration process beyond institutional realms are pertinent considerations for the future of Eurasian integration.

Today, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is reevaluating the role of human capital within the integration process, emphasizing the imperative of implementing effective measures to enhance social policies both at the Union level and within individual member states. A concerted effort is underway to devise a unified strategy geared towards enhancing education and healthcare quality, fortifying social security systems – particularly for the elderly – and bolstering support for families, motherhood, childhood, and social infrastructure investment. Achieving the core objectives of the Eurasian Union, such as fostering sustainable economic growth among member states, elevating living standards, establishing a unified market, and bolstering national economic competitiveness on a global scale, necessitates prioritizing human development within economic policy. Consequently, the EAEU is tasked with crafting its distinctive social model, one that accommodates the economic, social, and demographic peculiarities of member nations, and enables effective responses to the challenges posed by global competition and geopolitical uncertainties. This model aims to optimize the benefits of integration, particularly in critical sectors like healthcare, education, and migration regulation.

3.4. STRENGTHENING LEGAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE EAEU

The study underscores the considerable strides made by the EAEU in fortifying its international legal status. Despite navigating complex geopolitical landscapes, the EEC, in tandem with member states, is effectively advancing stages of regional integration. This progress is evidenced by the harmonization of na-

tional legislations, the accession of new countries to Eurasian integration, and the forging of advantageous trade pacts with numerous strategically aligned partner nations. Such an approach not only fosters economic growth among EAEU members but also enhances the quality of life for their populations.

Within the broader global political and economic context, the EAEU emerges as a competitive and dynamically evolving integration bloc, albeit still in its nascent phase. Its expanding involvement in shaping the global political and economic discourse provides a foundation for engaging with diverse stakeholders in international affairs. Given its relatively brief existence, the EAEU aspires to solidify its standing as a dependable and appealing partner in international collaboration, particularly in attracting and safeguarding investments from member countries. Central to this endeavor is the creation of conducive conditions for advancing the association's interests on the global stage and realizing its integration objectives. An imperative aspect entails fostering a constructive internal political environment within the EAEU, which involves addressing integration-related challenges and devising medium- to long-term developmental strategies of the integration association.

Against the backdrop of global uncertainty, regional and global challenges, shifts in the global geopolitical landscape, intensified competition among integration initiatives, and aspirations to materialize the concept of the Greater Eurasian Partnership, the EAEU's trajectory encounters both external and internal hurdles. Augmenting cooperation in the socio-humanitarian sphere could serve as a linchpin for unlocking new avenues of EAEU development, offering a pathway to partially surmount existing economic obstacles through social cohesion. This encompasses shaping individual, professional, and ideological outlooks across diverse segments of the populace, thereby fostering public sentiment in favor of elevated living standards and effective governance practices. Furthermore, prospects for deep integration within the EAEU extend to the humanitarian domain, which has yet to be fully integrated into the current agenda, thereby heralding fresh prospects for collaboration.

The integration processes among member states of the EAEU are marked by distinct challenges and disparities across various dimensions of bilateral and multilateral relations. However, while these challenges and contradictions present notable hurdles, they are not inherently insurmountable and do not fundamentally jeopardize the overall integration endeavor. With the implementation of appropriate political and economic mechanisms, these obstacles can be effectively addressed. It is imperative to methodically categorize the issues pertaining to political, economic, and institutional realms. Instances of conflicting national interests in specific areas of cooperation, coupled with the absence of a fully transparent integration environment and skepticism among

international partners, alongside divergent levels of economic development among member states, domestic market instability, and inflation, collectively form a complex array of challenges necessitating swift and strategic responses at the integration level. The EAEU harbors the potential for expanding integration interactions both sectorally and geographically. Sectoral expansion entails a comprehensive assessment of domains with significant integration potential and subsequent enhancement of cooperation in these spheres. The establishment of new institutions and the adaptation of existing ones at both national and Eurasian levels emerge as pivotal avenues for deepening economic integration within the Eurasian space.

The process of Eurasian integration has given rise to a distinctive legal framework known as “Union Law” or “Eurasian Law” within the EAEU. This legal system boasts unique attributes, including its evolutionary history, foundational principles, structure of norms and regulations, and innovative practices, such as the direct application of regulatory enactments. Kazakhstan’s legal framework, in alignment with international law, extends to encompass regulations and norms promulgated under EAEU law, further reinforcing the harmonization efforts within the regional integration framework.

In the endeavor to establish a unified legal system within the EAEU, paramount importance should be accorded to Union legislation, which will serve as a cornerstone in enhancing the quality of the legal framework. The policy framework for legal regulation in the EAEU formation should be geared towards instituting common norms and regulations. Particular emphasis should be placed on formulating a methodology for crafting a cohesive body of Union legislation. Rather than enacting standalone laws, our approach entails devising a methodology for constructing a legislative framework incorporating perpetually operative common mechanisms. These mechanisms should not only serve as foundational reference points for all legislation but also ensure coherence at every stage of the legislative lifecycle. Given the EAEU’s nature as an economic union, meticulous attention should be devoted to crafting legislation pertinent to the economy and entrepreneurial endeavors. In this sphere, adherence to a clear and coherent legislative process and systematic actions is imperative. Union legislation should strive to strike the optimal balance between individual interests and the collective welfare of society.

The realization of a unified legal system in the EAEU hinges on concerted efforts by member states to unify and harmonize their respective legal frameworks. Effective methods for aligning legal norms stem from harmonizing the principles of legal regulation among Union member states based on international law. This encompasses delineating stages and modalities for the development of national laws and formulating common legal positions. To fa-

cilitate seamless interstate integration within the EAEU, it is imperative to establish an organizational and legal mechanism for harmonizing the legislation of member states. In the course of legislative activities conducted by EAEU bodies, it will be essential to explore suitable forms and methodologies for harmonizing legal norms.

4. CONCLUSION

The imperative to structure any legal framework into a cohesive order is foundational. In contemporary times, the global landscape witnesses active endeavors to construct regional legal systems, underscoring the imperative to amalgamate the legal norms governing facets of Eurasian integration into a unified framework. This fosters the emergence and evolution of a novel legal discipline - Eurasian law.

Eurasian law is currently undergoing dynamic evolution as a nascent legal domain within national legal systems. Its development is propelled by the deepening integration processes in Eurasia and scholarly discourse encompassing various facets of legal integration in this region. Regional normative acts of organizations of which Kazakhstan is a member are being assimilated into its legislative framework, giving rise to a distinct segment within it comprising both regional and national documents. This marks the inception of a new branch of legislation - Eurasian law. However, it would be erroneous to perceive that the challenges of integration and regionalization alone warrant the creation of a separate legal bloc. The intricacies associated with regional integration may not be fully addressed within the confines of a singular legal branch. Nonetheless, integration processes in the legal domain, both in Eurasia and beyond, necessitate not only a pragmatic, instrumental approach but also a deeper theoretical understanding and comprehension. The advancement of Eurasian law serves to catalyze endeavors aimed at establishing requisite institutional mechanisms, propagating Eurasian values on the international stage, and fortifying the standing of Eurasia in the global community.

The foregoing underscores the pivotal role that the exploration of the theoretical underpinnings of Eurasian law should play in the advancement of national legal scholarship, necessitating thorough and independent analysis. The legal framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), predicated on the principle of member countries delegating their sovereign rights to foster a unified legal domain within the Union, presents a distinctive subject for scholarly inquiry. This is particularly pertinent when examining the EAEU legal system in its evolutionary trajectory and its widening spheres of legal regulation within the ambit of international law. The distinct characteristics and nuances of

the EAEU mandate a comprehensive scholarly inquiry and the formulation of pragmatic recommendations. The exploration of the challenges associated with shaping the EAEU legal system aims to broaden the potential avenues for constructing an optimal integration model aligned with the goals and objectives of Eurasian integration. Identifying the pathways for the establishment of the legal framework and the modalities for implementing the legal policies of the Eurasian Economic Union will delineate clear guidelines for the constructive legal evolution of the integrated society.

The conclusions drawn from our research indicate certain achievements within the EAEU in terms of legal integration, economic cooperation, and international legal status. These findings align with previous studies but also offer new perspectives and updates based on recent developments.

Our research emphasizes the need to establish a unified legal system within the EAEU, highlighting the role of “union law” or “Eurasian law” as a distinct legal foundation. This concurs with previous conclusions, such as those by Karliuk,¹³ who noted that the EAEU’s legal system, while inspired by the EU, lacks the same level of autonomy and effectiveness due to its intergovernmental nature. Our study agrees with the assessment that the EAEU legal system is still evolving and underscores the need for a more cohesive and autonomous legal framework to enhance its efficiency and operational functionality.

Research by Amirbek and colleagues¹⁴ highlights the importance of legal cooperation and harmonization as vital components of regional integration. They point out the challenges of integrating EAEU norms into the national legal systems of member states and emphasize the need for a unified legal approach to strengthen integration. Our findings align with this view, emphasizing the necessity of developing a common EAEU legal system that prioritizes union legislation and harmonizes national laws to create a coherent legal environment.

However, our work uniquely addresses the creation and functioning of “Eurasian law”, a new legal reality that has received little attention in EAEU member states. This legal reality, which has become part of our lives, seems to remain outside the awareness of legislators, scholars, economic actors, and citizens.

¹³ Karliuk, M.: The Eurasian Economic Union: An EU-inspired legal order and its limits, *Review of Central and East European law*, 42(1) 2017, pp. 50-72.

¹⁴ Amirbek, K., Kubeyev, Y., Bozhkarauly, A.: Formation issues and development prospects contractual base of Eurasian Economic Union, *Journal of advanced research in law and economics*, 9(33) 2018, pp. 842-854.

The study by Burlyuk and Axyonova,¹⁵ which compares European and Eurasian integration processes, underscores the need to create effective legal mechanisms to support economic cooperation and integration. Dragneva and Wolczuk¹⁶ emphasize the influence of international law on regional economic integration and the importance of binding legal decisions to facilitate this process. We affirm these findings, suggesting that EAEU bodies be empowered to make decisions directly applicable in member states and create legal mechanisms to ensure compliance and expand cooperation.

Our research definitively highlights recent geopolitical shifts and their impact on EAEU member states, particularly in the context of Russia's growing role in the global economy. On the other hand, there is a negative attitude towards integration with Russia among EAEU countries, especially in the context of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Perceptions of "exploitation by Moscow" and "Soviet oppression" are often entrenched in the collective consciousness of post-Soviet countries, hindering integration efforts. Additionally, the existing weakness of the EAEU is largely due to the elites' inability or unwillingness to explain the benefits of integration to themselves or each other, as well as the slow formation of public support for the integration process.

The problems identified in our study, such as financial constraints, resistance to policy implementation, and the need for a sustainable financial model, reflect similar issues discussed in previous research. For instance, the struggle to balance national sovereignty with supranational integration mechanisms has been a constant theme. Both our study and previous works call for the development of robust political and economic mechanisms to address these challenges, emphasizing the need for systematic and transparent decision-making processes within the EAEU.

The research by Entin and Galushko¹⁷ points out that within the EAEU, human rights and socio-humanitarian integration receive less attention than in the EU. This limitation affects the overall integration process and the ability to address broader social issues. We address this gap by advocating for the inclusion of socio-humanitarian spheres in the EAEU integration agenda. We emphasize the potential of deep integration in these areas to enhance public

¹⁵ Burlyuk, O., Axyonova, V.: Protecting the rule of law in post-Soviet states: the relevance of European and Eurasian integration, In Petrov, R., Van Elsuwege, P. (Eds.) *Post-Soviet institutions and challenges of regional integration: adapting to European and Eurasian integration projects*, Routledge, 2018, pp. 28-47.

¹⁶ Dragneva, R., Wolczuk, K. (Eds.): *Eurasian economic integration: Law, policy and politics*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2013.

¹⁷ Entin, M., Galushko, D.: International human rights protection and regional integration: European and Eurasian integration processes compared, *InterEULawEast: journal for the international and European law, economics and market integrations*, 7(1) 2020, pp. 21-45.

support for high living standards and effective governance methods. Our analysis shows that strengthening cooperation in the socio-humanitarian sphere could mitigate economic difficulties and foster public support for integration. This perspective extends previous research by incorporating the socio-humanitarian dimension into the EAEU's integration strategy, which has not been fully explored before.

Previous studies have identified various challenges in the EAEU integration process, such as conflicts of national interests, differences in levels of economic development, and skepticism from international partners. They recommend systematic approaches to address these issues and promote integration. We acknowledge these problems and propose specific measures to improve the regulatory framework, optimize administrative processes, and encourage stakeholder engagement to ensure a smooth transition and acceptance of integration policies.

Our research confirms and expands upon the findings of previous studies on the EAEU, highlighting the need for a more autonomous and cohesive legal system, deeper economic and socio-humanitarian integration, and effective mechanisms for harmonizing legislation and the regulatory framework.

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