

Research Activity Nr.	3
Person in charge	Oxana Karnaukhova, Dmitry Shevchenko (SFedU)
Title	Eastern Direction in the Political and Economic Integration of the EU-EAEU Relations
Description	<p>The European Union faces many crises and security threats. While only a few of them threaten the lives of EU citizens, they are all a source of anxiety and uncertainty about the future. These crises include more obvious economic problems, migration from the Middle East, the rise in the popularity of extreme right-wing parties; and the possible disintegration of the European Union as a result of Brexit. Recently, these concerns have been supplemented by concerns about "movement from the East", i.e. possible security threats from the EEU and the New Silk Road. However, behind these challenges lies the less obvious instability of economic prospects, social welfare and widespread fears that the EU will not be able to meet the challenges of globalization. In other words, the biggest security problem facing Europe is not a physical threat, but a sense of fear and anxiety that permeates the daily lives of Europeans.</p> <p>Since cooperation of the Eastern and Western integration projects seems as unavoidable as challenging, the focus of the research will be on the institutional context of the EU-EEU-BRI relations, especially the legal framework, standards and practices of cooperation. The research project will raise the question of institutional compatibility and comparability of the EU-EEU nexus with the EEU – OBOR practices of cooperation. Also the research attempts to explain the connection between the relatively low risks for EU citizens and the high sense of anxiety and threats that the population of Europe</p>
	experiences. The hypothesis of the project lies in the idea of securitization of the relations between the EU and the EAEU, as well as the EU and the BRI.
Methodology	<p>The analysis includes three phases. The first one states a comparative analysis of legal and institutional restrictions existing in the integration entities. On the next phase a discourse-analysis of different narratives will be implemented. These narratives will be opened up through Eurobarometer reports, Strategies, such as the European Security Strategy, Global Security Strategy, Greater Eurasia 2030 etc. The focus will be on priorities areas, like investment climate, logistics, energy, technical restrictions. Since understanding the risk perception and economic direction of integration goes beyond institutional, legal and policy issues of relationships it will placed in a series of hybrid studies of so-called ontological security (e.g., Mitzen, 2006; Steel, 2008) and securitization, as presented by the Paris School (Balzacq, 2011).</p> <p>Research on the ontological safety, and more specifically on ontological insecurity, provides the necessary response to the dynamics underlying the causes of increased anxiety between the EU, EEU and BRI. The ontological approach to security and securitisation theory provides an opportunity to understand how fears and anxieties at the group, nation-state and supranational association levels have an affective impact that shapes economic development, political movements and debate and the global security arena as a whole.</p>
Impact	<p>Impact on the international scientific community: The research likely to give an insight for explanation of reasons and consequences of the discrepancy in the legal restrictions, institutional policies and mutual skepticism on the economic integration progress.</p> <p>Impact on public-at-large in the region: The results will also be useful in defining and promoting a regional strategy of economic integration and creation of mutual trust. Public will gain validated information about the institutional context of cooperation in the macroregion.</p> <p>Impact on other parts of the project: The results of the study will complement the umbrella project by comparative analysis of formal and informal institutional practices of economic integration of the EU, EEU and BRI. This would be a reference source for teaching specific topics and a mile-stone for further public discussion.</p>
Resulting publications	The results of the project will be published in the volume dedicated to the "Contested Regional Integration Projects: the European Union, Eurasian Union, and beyond" defined as deliverable nr. 4.