

the factor of Polish-Ukrainian relations not only at the consumers' level, but also in the business directly associated with health and environment issues.

In 2001 was created a consortium "Tourism potential of Western Ukraine" by Institute of tourism in Warsaw, Kiev University of tourism, economy and law, and the Lviv University. The project is based on polish experience and intended on looking for possible ways of tourism investments. The Poland-America-Ukraine Cooperation Initiative (PAUCI) gives the money for such a research.

As any other aspect of our society, the ecology and personal health need some contribution to it, in case we want to have an advantage from it in the future. Partly, we dispose of these aspects in two possible ways – by means of money, or without it. In the time of economic globalization especially important becomes the economic behavior, that is the first way. The second way means consciousness of each part of society and the correct understanding of things.

## **INFLUENCE OF GLOBALIZATION ON UKRAINIAN SOCIETY**

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Since Ukraine became independent, everything has changed in the country. The reason is one: it became more open to the influences of different countries and cultures. The first place among these trends belongs to the USA.

You may ask why, but the answer is obvious. Nowadays the USA is one of the most developed and powerful countries in the world. So, its foreign influence is very tangible in most countries and Ukraine is not an exception. This influence was reflected on each side of Ukrainian life.

The overloading of various innovations in Ukrainian cultural life leads to humiliations of our traditions and habits, to forgetting them.

We can see the manifestation of Americanization nearly every day and we got used to this. We try to adapt our habits and holidays to theirs (like it happens at our Orthodox Christmas and New Year's Eve), to make them look like each other. We accept some of their holidays (like Halloween, St. Valentine's Day), but forget about some of ours. We try to celebrate our holidays as Americans do; thus, we decorate our apartments and houses as they do. We dress up our children and ourselves (on birthdays, for fancy-dress balls) in their costumes (policeman, cowboy, etc.), but not in our national costumes. But there are many positive sides of globalization. Nowadays Ukraine has diplomatic relations with the USA. Our government has relations in politics, economics, culture, sports, and other sides of life. True friendship is built by the people of our two countries.

Tourism is very popular now. You can see a lot of Ukrainian tourists in the USA and a lot of American tourists visit our country. We also exchange students and

teachers. We have close relations with ethnic Ukrainians who live in the US. In the Soviet times it was forbidden to keep in touch with Ukrainian Diaspora.

Thus, influence of globalization on our society in general is good, but some people are fond of the West too much.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND RISK

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Using major natural resources as an indicator, Ukraine's national economy is characterized by large-scale, unsustainable resource use with serious negative environmental consequences. Ukraine has the highest rate of forest, surface fresh water and land use (for agricultural purposes) in Europe. Unfortunately, since Independence in 1990 resources are being used less efficiently in the economy (i.e., for each unit of GDP more resources are being dedicated). Indeed, one of the paradoxes of Ukraine's transition is that ambient levels of pollution have for the most part not declined despite significant drops in production.

Since Ukraine's independence lawmakers have created a new legislative framework for environmental issues. The Verkhovna Rada adopted the codes on land (1992), forests (1994), water (1995) and mineral resources (1994), laws on the environment (1991), on the nature sanctuary fund (1992), on air quality protection (1992), on animals (1993), examination of ecological experts (1995), on the use of nuclear energy and radiation safety, on handling radioactive waste (1995), on wastes (1998), on plants (1998) and others. Ukraine takes an active part in the world nuclear security system. It has signed and acceded to all the main UN International Agreements on guaranteeing non-proliferation and non-possession of nuclear weapons and has not violated their provisions.

Guaranteeing environmental safety requires a consistent and progressive national policy. For Ukrainian politicians it is important to draw from the varied experiences of such states as Russia, the USA, Germany and France. Our government must protect us from different natural and man-made threats.

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY = PERMISSIBLE RISK + LACK OF DAMAGE;

ENVIRONMENTAL DANGER = INADMISSIBLE RISK + DAMAGE.

Risk is a probability of coming undesirable events and consequences. Carriers of probable danger are different substances of natural and man-made origin, which can cause serious danger for peoples' health and life, and for the environment. International treaties risk becoming ineffective in restraining the proliferation of nuclear arms materials and technology. International organizations and technical expertise must be focused on the fight against 'nuclear terrorism', to which Ukraine may make a significant contribution by assisting international criminal investigations and shutting down transportation routes for illegal shipments. Ukraine