

FROM EUROPEAN INTEGRATION TO EUROPEAN INTEGRITY: CASE OF LATVIA, LITHUANIA, POLAND

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Globalization processes create a number of serious internal and external challenges for academic integrity which should not be solved in the framework of one country. Ensuring the effective operation of such a space is not possible without the integration of all its elements, including scientific ones, into a single system. The scientific integration in the European Union is fueled by the functioning of single scientific space of the European Research Area. Such system has already become an effective mechanism to overcome issues which are relevant to academic integrity. However, the question is how effective this system is for countries that have recently joined the EU. Among such countries, we have chosen Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, since they are all ex-members of the Warsaw Pact, and thus have approximately similar problems in the academic community. The analysis was conducted using the dataset from scientific database Scopus for two periods 1995-2003 and 2004-2017. The findings proved the number of publications in Latvia, Poland, and Slovakia indexed by Scopus were increased after EU integration. Besides, most of the publications analysed the issues which connected with academic integrity in research. At the same time, the citation of the scientists also increased. The findings proved, that the impact from scientific integration into a single European scientific space exists, but its significance is negligible.

Keywords: academic integrity, European Integrity, European research area (ERA), Scopus, Latvia, Poland, Lithuania.

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PROBLEM STATEMENT

The integration of the country's academic community into the scientific environment of the region or the world as a whole is one of the key factors to ensure the competitiveness of their research. First of all, it is caused by information processes caused by globalization, which allow great expanding of the researchers' capabilities. Secondly, such integration enhances the level of academic freedom and integrity in national scientific settings.

For example, most European countries are members of the European Research Area (ERA) [1]. Joining such an alliance makes it possible not only to accelerate the modernization of national research systems but also to optimize the involvement of financial and intellectual resources from transnational cooperation. On the other hand, the integration process leads to the introduction of new approaches to quality control of scientific research, that is, the increase of virtue by reducing the number of borrowings of other people's intellectual property.

So the problem of scientific integration and observance of academic integrity in the educational process and job was investigated by domestic and foreign scientists. Thus, John M. Braxton and Nathaniel J. Bray identified the necessity of integrity codes implementing by all groups of educational process [2].

R. Dean Gerdeman investigated students' academic non-integrity in terms of variables such as non-integrity cases, personal factors, environmental factors [3]. As a result, he allocated the factors which provoke the academic non-integrity as follows: the low grade point average, not the importance of course in terms of professional development in the eyes of students, and where the educator was uninteresting or permissive.

In the paper I. Gogolin analysed the options to update the quality indicators of the scientific publications in the socio-humanitarian field in the context of the program "European Educational Research Quality Indicators (EERQI)" [4]. Hoening B. analysed the impact of integrating national research systems into the European Research Area [5]. The author emphasized the influence of the financing factor of the ERA project on the choice of the research area.

T. Lancaster and F. Calvin investigated the problem of plagiarism in the process of student preparation, including distance learning [6]. The authors underlined that, the increasing popularity of distance learning lead to complicated the students' evaluations by the teachers. So, to combat plagiarism, for example, it was suggested that, when receiving a paper, the teachers should compare the students' writing style and the work which being submitted; or apply the Klose test, which is inherently one of the techniques used in machine testing for plagiarism.

L. Tauginene provided the example of overcoming the problem of academic non-integrity based on the case of Lithuania [7]. Thus, the paper emphasized the importance of updating the legislative framework on scientific activity and appointing an ombudsman for academic integrity, formation. The author noted that the struggle against academic not integrity was more directed at students than at researchers.

For example, among ukrainian scientists, E. Nedogibchenko analyzed the legislative and regulatory framework for countering academic non-integrity and cases of European countries [8]. Maslova N. studied the correlation between academic freedom, academic virtue and academic responsibility [9]. Trotsky analysed the European experience in identifying and counteracting academic non-integrity among higher education applicants [10].

Therefore, three countries were selected to evaluate the effectiveness of such measures - Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and the Scopus scientific and metric basis was used as the basis for statistical information of the study [11].

Thus, studying the effect from the integration of the national scientific institutions of the new Member States of the European Union into a single European Research Area is key to understand their academic suitability.

OBJECTIVE SETTING

The aim of the article is to investigate the integration of national research systems into the European scientific space by the example of Latvia, Poland and Lithuania.

The task of the article is to analyze the publication activity of scientists and major donors of their research in the Scopus scientific-metric base, to identify the impact of integration processes on Latvia, Poland and Lithuania through the lens of scientific research.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

Інтеграція нових країн в Європейський Союз це не тільки формування міцних внутрішніх політичних та економічних, але й сталих соціальних, зв'язків. Гарним прикладом для аналізу останніх виступає вивчення впливу інтеграційних процесів на академічну спільноту.

The integration of new countries into the European Union is not only the formation of strong internal political and economic but also stable social ties. A good example for analyzing the latter is the study of the integration processes impact on the academic community.

In the European Union, one of the levers of such integration is the European Research Area, which is the only open research environment that allows efficient use of the financial and research potential of the Member States and partners [1].

It should be noted that EU integration had positive impact on academic integrity among students. Thus, in Poland in 2009 the single data of master thesis was developed and from 2014 all thesis should be checked by plagiarism. In 2019 Lithuania updated the legislation on higher education and implemented the Ombudsman for Academic Integrity [7]. Thus, the analysis of the publication activity of Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in publications

accounted by the Scopus scientific-metric base, shows its rapid growth since the accession of these countries to the European Union in 2004 (Figure 1), and thus the effectiveness of European Research Area [13-15].

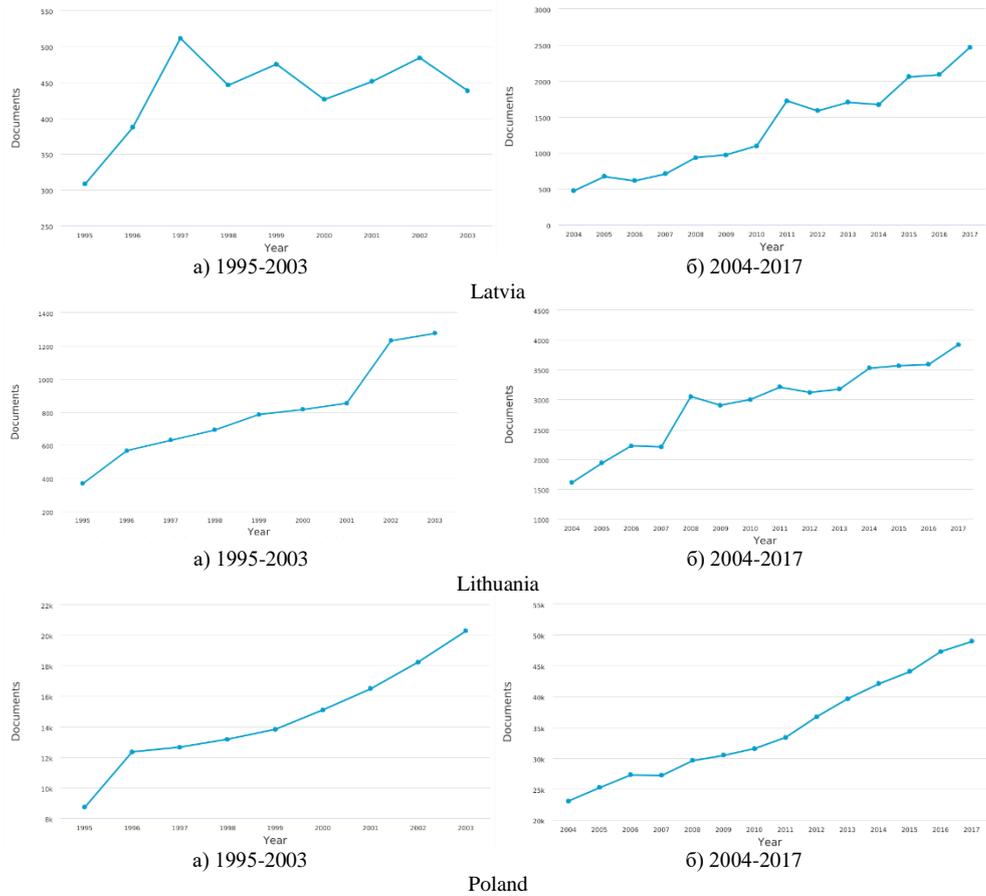
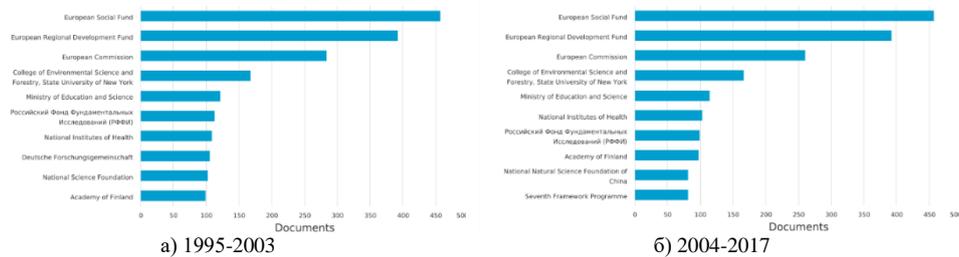


Figure – 1 Documents by 1995-2017 [13-15]

However, no less important factor for conducting the research is the provision of their financial resources.

Since most research requires significant funding, which is difficult to find within the country of the institution origin, most often donors are large international institutions and private foundations. Thus, analyzing the structure of research funding institutions in Latvia, Poland and Lithuania, before (1995-2003) and after (2004-2017) integration with the European Union, a trend towards an increase in publications financed by European donors (Figure 2) [13-15].



Latvia

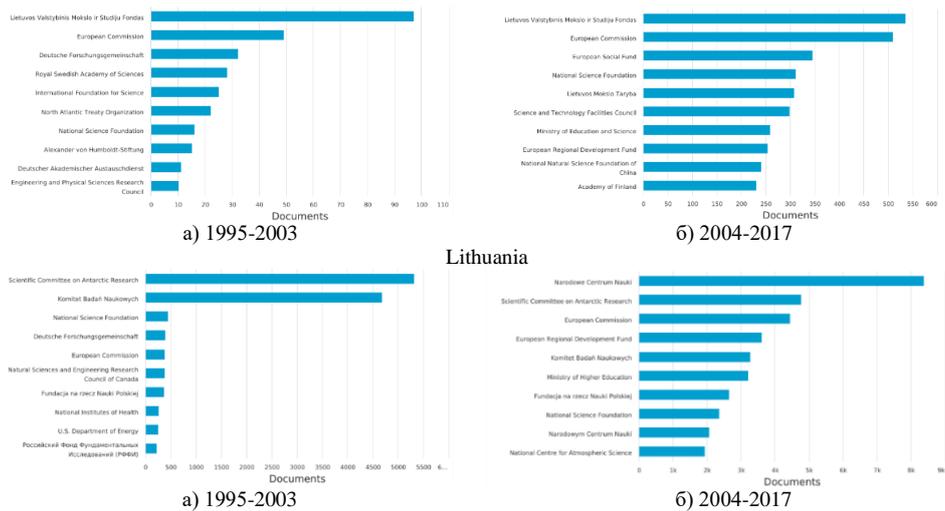


Fig – 2 Documents by funding sponsor [13-15]

Does the increase in transnational cooperation affect the increase in publications in journals indexed by Scopus in the observed countries?

Based on the analysis of top journals by the number of publications in Latvia, Poland, and Lithuania indexed by Scopus, we conclude that the impact from scientific integration into a single European scientific space exists, but its significance is negligible.

Based on the analysis of the high-ranked journals by the number of Scopus-indexed publications in Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, the impact from scientific integration into a single European scientific space exists (Figure 3) [13-15].

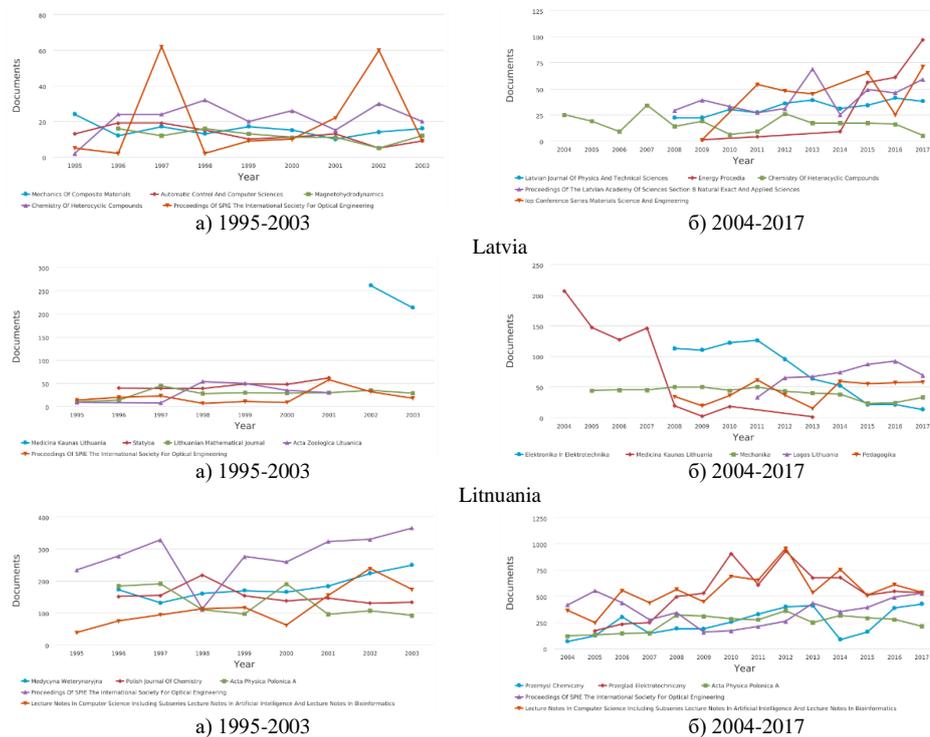


Fig – 3 Documents per year by source, 1995-2017 [13-15]

Thus, academic integration demonstrates its effectiveness to promote and to find funding for research by individual scientists and scientific institutions as a whole but does not give a positive affiliation to the scientific journals of these countries.

CONCLUSIONS

Globalization and informatization form the necessary ground for understanding the importance of integration into regional and global scientific spaces by national research systems.

A good example of this is the European Union, which, with the help of the European Research Area created by it, integrates new members not only at the level of political, economic and scientific relations.

For the ex-countries of Warsaw Pact, membership in the European Research Area gives a serious impetus to the optimization and modernization of research. This is primarily due to the significant expansion of the funding base and the increase in research requirements due to the growing role of academic integrity. Another important factor is the expansion of the database and access to scientific publications.

However, academic integration did not broadly involve publication in journals indexed by Scopus in the studied countries.

Summarizing the results of the analysis, it can be argued that academic integration has a significant positive impact on outdated national research systems, but it can conceal a number of serious threats, the largest one of which may be a brain drain. That is why it will form the basis of our further research.

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