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**DEZINTEGRÁCIA NÁRODNÉHO HOSPODÁRSTVA:  
STAV A ROZVOJ HOSPODÁRSKEJ SPOLUPRÁCE**

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**NATIONAL ECONOMY IN TERMS OF DISINTEGRATION:  
STATE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

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Vzhľadom na vývojové trendy v procesoch dezintegrácie je vhodné identifikovať dôvody a minimalizovať ich negatívne vplyvy. Tento článok úvádza podstatu dezintegračného procesu a porovnávaciu analýzu rôznych typov dezintegrácie. Základné ekonomické ukazovatele procesov dezintegrácie sú znázornené na príklade Ukrajiny, Českej republiky a Slovenska. Hlavným cieľom príspevku je posúdiť dôsledky dezintegrácie na národné hospodárstvo, medzinárodnú spoluprácu a rozvoj podnikania. Použitím metód porovnávania a analýzy boli zohľadnené príčiny a dôsledky vplyvu dezintegračných procesov na rozvoj podnikania. V dôsledku toho sa navrhujú usmernenia pre správanie hospodárskych podnikov v podmienkach dezintegrácie.

**Kľúčové slová:** dezintegrácia, hospodárska spolupráca, hospodársky rozvoj, správanie podnikov

Taking into account the development trends in disintegration processes, it is advisable to identify the reasons and minimize the negative impact. Current paper presents the essence of the disintegration process and the comparative analysis of the disintegration types. The basic economic indicators of disintegration processes are formed on the example of Ukraine, Czech Republic and Slovakia. The main purpose of the paper is to assess the consequences of disintegration for the national economy and international cooperation and business development as well. Using the comparison and observation methods, the causes and effects of the impact of disintegration processes on enterprise development are considered. As a result, the directions for economic enterprises behavior in conditions of disintegration are proposed.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The problems of economic development, as well as the factors that determine it in a changing environment, are complex issues without unique solution. The economic conditions in Ukraine can be characterized as the state of crisis. Under the impact of the crisis, the conditions for the functioning of economic entities have changed that requires immediate decisions. In the conditions of changing legal, financial and economic environment, there is the need to manage the economic development, which allows maximizing the efficiency of economic activities.

The political crisis in Ukraine is accompanied by economic, social, financial, international and other problems. The current crisis is related to drastic changes in the economy. There is a problem of survival of enterprises. The negative tendencies of economic development predominate, namely, combat operations, destruction of infrastructure, violation of logistics, the closure of the Russian market, the decline in production, the drop in people's incomes, the prices upturn, and the fall in GDP etc. Thus, the growth rates of GDP per capita in US dollars are characterized by negative trends in 2014 (-25.2 %), in 2015 (-29.8 %), and a slight increase (+3.3 %) in 2016.

The decline in demand and the shortage of assets has led to the formation of a new development model. As a result of disintegration processes in the economy, there is a decrease in the solvency and liquidity of enterprises, a reduction in the level of financing and lending to enterprises, a decrease in demand for products, an increase in the fiscal burden on enterprises, a reduction in the value of enterprise assets, and a drop in profitability. Disintegration processes affect different aspects of the enterprise. In the spheres of industrial and financial activity, technological policy, supply of the enterprise we can see employees' dismissing, production recession, lack of new technological solutions, untimely and substandard provision of production process with materials and equipment. In the field of marketing policy we can observe that the significant market share has been lost, it is difficult to promote the enterprise's products on the market. In the spheres of management and innovation, personnel reshuffles and the search for new development strategies take place. The general characteristic of the situation at Ukrainian enterprises can be characterized as close to a crisis that requires the operational intervention.

To a greater extent, this situation is connected with the processes of disintegration in the national economy. Nowadays, alongside with integration, disintegration processes develop that is caused by the rules of world development. This disintegration can be local and international. Integrative and disintegrative tendencies are present simultaneously in each integration groups.

The disintegration creates preconditions for the development of integration on new quantitative and qualitative terms. Sometimes there are conditions for full, partial or extended integration. The disintegration causes a weakening of regional economic ties, or increasing role of foreign economic relations, replacing inter-connections within the country.

## **2 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF DISINTEGRATION**

Under the term *economic disintegration* we understand the destruction of the economic structure of the state or region. The economic dictionary emphasizes that disintegration is a process of reduction, and in the future, the cessation of economic interaction, the reduction in the number and intensity of interactions of the system's elements; it is the process of decay, destruction, separation, isolation, etc. It is the result of an internal or external crisis, which is characterized by the decomposition of the integrated formation into its constituent individual elements (system) that aspire at the initial stage to a maximum of isolation and independence (Rajzberg et al. 2007). The Oxford Dictionary of Psychology indicates that „disintegration“ is a loss or a serious breach of coherence in any „system“ (Reber 2003). Fedorenko (1996) proposes the following definition: „disintegration is a resumption of integrity within the national economy with the destruction of permanent inter-ethnic and interstate relations“. The word „disintegration“ is derived from the junction prefix „dis“ meaning the absence of the cancellation, the elimination of something, the opposite direction of the process; and the word „integration“, which, in turn, comes from the latin word „integer“ – „whole“, or english „to integrate“ – to unite (Komlev 2006). Consequently, the disintegration is the disconnection of something, previously linked.

According to K. Deutsch (1968, p. 197), there are at least four reasons that can lead to disintegration: the growth of problems in the economic, military or political spheres; strengthening of political activity; the increase of differentiation in regional, economic, cultural, social, linguistic or ethnic spheres; the crisis state. Ferguson (2003) in order to determine the disintegration emphasized that „most of the countries interested in his yard, battle with internal effects of the economic crisis, and they do not pay attention to the global crisis“. It should be added that disintegration in most cases leads to a weakening of the interrelations and interaction between the constituent parts of a previously holistic system (Gruscinskaia 2010). The main manifestations of disintegration, according to Kafanskij (2012) are the increase in differentiation states; reorientation of regional economy; conflicts of interest; fragmentation of economy.

Libman and Hejfec (2011) proposed four types of disintegration that we present in Table 1.

Table 1: The main types of disintegration

<i>Dominance of disintegration</i>	<i>Speed of disintegration</i>	
	High	Low
On top	Conflict	Stagnant
From below	Shock	Divergent

Source: processed by Libman and Hejfec (2011)

Let's give description of main types of disintegration laid down in Table 1. The disintegration conflict is implemented on the initiative of the political system; the economy is forced to adapt to the disintegration processes. The disintegration contradictions transformed into a chain of conflicts, lead to the elimination of integration structures. The events develop very quickly; the only option is a complete breakdown of relations. In the opinion of Reznikova and Ivachenko (2016) and Yakubovskiy (2012), there are three driving forces of conflict disintegration: conflict of interest in terms of forced integration; the players change benefits under the influence of the integration process, and the manifestation of force majeure factors.

The causes of disintegration are often the force majeure factors. For example, the change of the economic model and political system; the change of political preferences of the authorities; the occurrence of military conflicts; the change of the ethnic composition of the population's territory; the global economic crisis. The common feature of all the described factors can be considered as an unexpected character.

The stagnant disintegration has a long period of fragmentation, a gradual increase in contradictions, and then a complete breakdown, or the preservation of some kind of associations. The process of stagnant disintegration is similar to conflict disintegration; the main difference is that instead of a single flash of conflict, we can observe a long period of disintegration. However, stagnant disintegration has one more peculiarity. This scenario may occur as a result of experimentation of countries with different scenarios of integration and disintegration in the absence of accurate information about the advantages and disadvantages of each. Another factor of stagnating disintegration is the competition of integration projects. In contrast to the conflict disintegration, stagnant disintegration does not necessarily lead to the final breakdown of relations.

During shock disintegration, the economy begins to break up into fragments due to the collapse of the ties between economic entities, and fragmentation occurs quickly (therefore it is called shock). Its causes can be considered as natural disasters or unrest, changes in legislation that prevent from the maintenance of economic relationships, a surge of hyperinflation.

The divergent disintegration of the economy is associated with the slow decay and reorientation of economic interrelations. This disintegration is the result of

destruction, which is carried out by entrepreneurs trying to determine the optimal organization of their economic activity. The peculiarity of divergent disintegration is that it is manageable. The economic policy can mitigate the consequences of disintegration or try to direct the formation process of new economic interrelations.

All the models of disintegration are not found in pure form, but exist in some combinations. The development of disintegration processes can start with one model and continue with another. In addition, there is a certain relationship between different types of disintegration.

The reproduction and consolidation of the uneven economic development of countries and regions within the framework of the integrated space, as a result of the liberalization of the movement of goods, capital and labor, in practice, become the main cause of disintegration processes. The emergence and development of such trends can be provoked by negative consequences in trade, tax, information, currency and other spheres.

The disintegration can be caused by stagnant or cyclical differentiation of levels of socio-economic development, or by the persistent degradation of the national economies. This can be caused by incompatible elements of economic and political factors. The disintegration may be due to inefficiency or insignificant economic effect caused by a low increase in the usefulness of co-produced goods and investments, additional transaction. The reason for disintegration may be the uneven economic development of countries and regions.

### **3 PROCESS OF DISINTEGRATION IN THE ECONOMY OF UKRAINE**

The disintegration has the negative consequences for the global economy due to reduction of trade turnover, uncertainty of legal and customs procedures, reduction of business activity, diversification of trade flows, reorientation to other markets. But it sometimes leads to activation of small and medium businesses. The business opportunities are limited after the disintegration. The growth rate of industrial production is slowing. The uncertainty in the economy and loss of economic confidence determines the difficulties and problems in the investment sector. In economic conditions, investors do not look for profits and prefer to wait with investment to settle problems. The reduction of foreign investment could result in cheapening of the Ukrainian hryvnia. The disintegration impact on the financial system is lower rate. The disintegration has a negative impact on the overall level of employment. Therefore, we can see the economic, investment, financial and social negative trends.

We are going to consider the causes and results of the impact of disintegration processes on enterprise development. We will analyse the disintegration processes on the example of the Ukrainian economy.

Today the Ukrainian economy has come up against the problems of disintegration, as evidenced by the main indicators of economic development as to GDP per capita, volume of production, capital investment, exports and imports, bankruptcy of banks and others. The current situation draws attention to the issues of disintegration, reveals the reasons and also the directions of enterprises development in the conditions of economic disintegration.

The main problems of the Ukrainian economy are the high dependence on the export of raw materials, the inadequate competitiveness of products, the significant decrease in industrial production, the increase in the number of unemployed, the instability in the financial and banks sectors, the disruption of interregional ties, and the imbalance in the economy as a result of the shutdown of some businesses in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions.

The situation in the country has led to the disintegration of some complete technological chains into autonomous elements that gradually cease to function. As a result, production is characterized by low profitability and high risks, the existing cooperation and specialization of production are being destroyed.

Let's consider the dynamics of the basic indicators of development of economy of Ukraine in 2013-2016 (Table 2).

Table 2: Dynamics of development of the Ukrainian economy in 2013-2016

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Year</i>			
	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>
Nominal GDP growth rate (UAH), %	+3,3	+7,7	+26,3	+20,4
Nominal GDP growth rate (USD), %	+4,3	-28,1	-31,3	-
Inflation rate, %	100,5	124,9	143,3	112,4
Dynamics of external debt, %	-5,2	-11,1	-6,0	-4,4
Index of real wages, %	106,8	86,5	90,1	106,5
Unemployment rate, %	7,7	9,7	9,5	9,7
Population, million people	45,9	43,0	42,8	42,7
Export-import coverage ratio	0,9	1,06	1,01	0,93
Industrial production index, %	95,3	89,3	86,6	102,4
FDI inflows to Ukraine, million USD	51705,3	53704	40725,4	36154,5
Return on assets of Ukrainian banks, %	0,12	-4,07	-5,46	-2,48
Return on equity of banks of Ukraine, %	0,81	-30,46	-51,91	-26,56

Source: processed by using the database of economic development in Ukraine

Thus, we can evaluate and analyse the presence of disintegration processes on the basis of the following system of indicators: the level of gross domestic product (GDP), growth (reduction) in export potential, the currency coverage ratio of imports, the index of the physical volume of industrial products, the rate on bank loans, the investment growth in fixed assets, the price level, the arrears of wages, the natural decrease and migration, the share of unemployed and others. Most of the indicators had a negative dynamics in Ukraine in 2014-2016 years. The peak of the negative trend took place in 2015, in 2016 the negative trend continues, but not at this level.

The disintegration of the Ukrainian economy on the one hand is a factor in the disintegration of the enterprise, and on the other hand, the disintegration of enterprises is the reason for the disintegration of the country's economy.

We will consider the analogy on the example of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Before the breakup of Czech Republic and Slovakia, the countries had already begun the process of transition. In the early times following independence, the economic situation was better in Czech Republic. In Slovakia the economic growth was built on the basis of government and household consumption surges. Czechs had on basis of innovation system and structural reforms. The economies of Czech Republic and Slovakia have similarities.

Let's compare some economic development indicators after the disintegration of the Czech Republic and Slovakia in Table 3.

Table 3: Comparative economic indicators of Czech Republic and Slovakia

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>
Real GDP growth	Czech Republic	0,1	2,9	6,2	4,3	-0,7	-0,3	1,4	4,3	3,1	1,6	3,6	4,9
	Slovakia	1,9	6,2	5,8	6,9	4,4	4	-0,2	1,2	3,3	4,5	5,4	5,3
Inflation rate	Czech Republic	20,8	10	9,2	8,8	8,7	10,7	2,2	3,8	4,6	1,9	0,1	2,7
	Slovakia	23,2	13,5	9,9	5,8	6	6,7	10,5	12,2	7,1	3,5	8,4	7,5
Unemployment rate	Czech Republic	4,3	4,3	4	3,9	4,8	6,5	8,8	8,8	8,2	7,3	7,8	8,3
	Slovakia	12,7	14,6	13,7	12,6	11,9	12,7	16,5	18,9	19,5	18,8	17,7	18,4

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Country</i>	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Real GDP growth	Czech Republic	6,4	6,9	5,5	2,7	-4,8	2,3	2,0	-0,8	-0,5	2,7	4,5	2,5
	Slovakia	6,8	8,5	10,8	5,7	-5,5	5,1	2,8	1,5	1,4	2,5	3,6	3,4
Inflation rate	Czech Republic	1,9	2,5	0,3	6,3	1,0	1,5	1,9	3,3	1,4	0,4	0,3	0,6
	Slovakia	2,8	4,3	1,9	4	0,9	0,7	4,1	3,7	1,5	-0,1	-0,3	-0,2
Unemployment rate	Czech Republic	7,9	7,1	5,3	4,4	6,7	7,3	6,7	7,0	7,0	6,1	5,0	4,1
	Slovakia	16,4	13,5	11,2	9,6	12,1	14,5	13,7	14,0	14,2	13,2	11,5	9,9

Source: processed by using the databases of economic development in Czech Republic and Slovakia

Foreign trade is important for development, and foreign investors dominate in manufacturing and financial sectors. But the unemployment rate is lower in Czech Republic and the real GDP growth is lower in Slovakia until 2014, but we can see that nowadays the GDP growth in Slovakia is better than in Czech Republic. The evaluation of the inflation rate in the two countries is similar. The privatization of state assets was carried out, and was used by transnational corporations. The stabilization of the situation at the enterprises was facilitated by the renovation of the infrastructure and restoration and adaptation of the largest enterprises for the release of the newest products, which created the conditions for increasing production and economic activity.

#### **4 ECONOMIC DISINTEGRATION AT THE ENTERPRISE LEVEL**

Very little information has been written about the impacts of economic disintegration at the firm level. The management of enterprise development in the situation of economic disintegration requires timely detection of disintegration processes, possible trends, analysis and evaluation of processes, forecasting the development of the enterprise and minimizing losses.

The consequences of disintegration processes in the economy of Ukrainian enterprises are manifested by a significant decrease in the solvency and liquidity of enterprises, decreasing the level of funding and lending activities of enterprises, decreasing of the demand for products, increasing the fiscal burden on enterprises, reducing the cost of assets of enterprises, and dropping in the level of profitability.

Depending on the level of disintegration, the forward and backward linkages of firms can be expected to be disrupted. To minimize threats, the enterprise needs to identify in a timely manner hopeless activities and gradually reduce the corresponding

sales volumes; to carry out the reorganization of activities - for example, the acquisition of a new business related to the existing, for the transfer of knowledge, experience, production capacities in perspective directions; to increase the balance of the directions of the enterprise through diversification of production, sales system, lending and financial flows of the enterprise.

The problems of the economic behaviour of enterprises, the factors that determine it, the rationality degree of behaviour in a changing market environment are complex issues that do not have an unambiguous solution. Modern economic conditions are characterized by the crisis state of the economy, which affect the activities and behaviour of economic agents. Thus, in a constantly changing legal, financial and economic environment, it becomes necessary to create optimal economic behaviour that maximizes the efficiency of enterprises. There is a problem of survival of enterprises. It is advisable to analyse the behaviour of enterprises in the period of disintegration, to identify the list of measures taken for survival, to assess the development of industries that are most viable in harsh conditions. It is important to study the behaviour of enterprises in such conditions. We will analyse the situation at Ukrainian enterprises, assessing the options for behaviour in dynamics.

Table 4: Trends in the development of business activity and cooperation in Ukraine in 2014-2016

<i>Activities of the company</i>	<i>Negative trends</i>	<i>Positive trends</i>
Coal mining companies	Destruction of enterprises and infrastructure, power outages, stopping of coal mining	-
Metallurgy and coke industry	Destruction of infrastructure, difficulties with providing raw materials, selling, loading capacities	-
Mechanical engineering	Decline in economic activity in the internal market, the reduction of sales in the Russian market	Loading enterprises with military orders, reorientation of enterprises to foreign markets
Chemical industry, incl. pharmaceutical	Disintegration of enterprises, problems with the supply of raw materials	Good play on exchange rate fluctuations, reducing imports of medicines
Agriculture	-	Export of agricultural products and receipt of

		foreign exchange earnings
Food industry	Decrease in purchasing power, reduction of sales in the Russian market	Export of products to the countries of Europe
Consumer goods industry	Decrease in consumer demand, low quality of products, high prices, low technological ability of labour, violation of foreign economic relations	Export of products to the countries of Europe
Trade	Reduction of purchasing power, changes in purchasing preferences from expensive imported goods to cheap domestic essential goods, devaluation of hryvnia, growth of payback period of outlets	-
Construction, real estate market	Reduction in construction activity, reduction in demand and transactions, rising prices	-
Tourism	Reducing the flow of tourists	-
Transport	Reducing the volume of freight and passenger traffic	Development in the water transport
Hotel and restaurant business	Reducing visitors, rising food prices	-

Source: created by author

The business develops optimally if the cost price formed in UAH, and the revenues are in dollars, such as agriculture and food industry, focused on foreign markets. Despite the decline in the purchasing power of the population, a positive trend is in the development of food industry enterprises, except manufacturers, focused on the Russian market such as manufacturers of dairy and confectionery products, as well as alcohol. For the same reason, restrictions on exports to the Russian Federation have worsened the situation of machine-building enterprises. The main factors of disintegration are the direct combat operations, the destruction of infrastructure, the logistics violation, the closure of the Russian market, the sharp decline in production, the decline in GDP, the sharp drop in people's incomes in nominal terms, the rising prices, the drastic reduction in the purchasing power of the population and the real economy, and the further fall in GDP.

The reduction in demand and the lack of liquid assets in the enterprises lead to the choice of several types of economic behaviour. Thus, it is possible to systematize the economic behaviour of business entities of Ukraine based on the following parameters of activity as the size of the enterprise, the export opportunities, the level of competition, the serviced consumers, the enterprise financial stability, the production profile (Table 5).

Table 5: Types of economic behaviour of enterprises in the context of disintegration

<i>Parameters</i>	<i>Types of behaviour</i>		
	<i>Active adaptation or survival</i>	<i>Inertial development or suspension of activities</i>	<i>Expansion or mergers and acquisitions</i>
Size of the enterprise	Small and medium	All	Big companies
Opportunities of international economic cooperation	Significant	Absence	Significant
Level of competition	Average	High	Low
Type of goods	Commodities of daily demand	Durable and special-purpose goods	Various
Financial stability of the enterprise	Average	Low	High
Production profile	Mass	Special	Mass, special, universal

Source: created by author

The directions of behaviour with active adaptation and survival include the orientation and the switching to mass consumer demand, the careful study of future counterparts, the consolidation of financial position, the maintenance of the technical level of production, the preservation of the workforce. Firms may have to find new suppliers for their products. The enterprises may also suffer from the lack of investment.

The inertial behaviour is manifested in the retention of traditional economic ties, the maintaining the old structure of output, the reducing production volumes, the increasing non-payments, the suspending production activities, and the reducing staff. New barriers to trade may cause enterprises to no longer be able to compete in certain markets.

The company's behaviour in the course of expansion, mergers and acquisitions is characterized by the reorientation from CIS markets to foreign markets, the price competition with importing enterprises due to cheaper products, the reaction to the complexity of competitors in the east of Ukraine to drive them out of the domestic and foreign markets.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

The consequences of disintegration processes in the economy of Ukrainian enterprises are manifested by a significant decrease in the solvency and liquidity of enterprises, the level of financing and lending to enterprises is decreasing, there is

a decrease in demand for products, the fiscal burden on enterprises is increasing, the value of enterprise assets is decreasing, and profitability is falling.

The economic cost of disintegration depends upon the level of integration, as well as the policies put in place to mitigate the impact. The level of integration is indicated by the intensity of mutual trade, the diversification of the industrial structure (Chesnut 2001), degree of inter-regional labour mobility, degree of openness of the economy. As enterprises determine the effects on their supply chains, there is a reduction in output. Additionally, inflation causes the cost of capital to skyrocket, impeding business growth. The loss of the markets has drastically reduced demand for goods and services, forcing most firms to reduce large numbers of their employees. These are the results in a decreased standard of living. The decreased standard of living and future uncertainty often lead to population out-migration. Efforts to enter new markets impose large costs in marketing and creating new distribution relationships. But the firms establish relationships with suppliers from other countries. The refocus to more developed markets, which have higher purchasing power, creates additional difficulties for Ukrainian enterprises that are lagging in competitiveness.

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