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DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAEU INFORMATION ECONOMY: INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

The EAEU as an organization of regional economic cooperation develops active interaction in the information sphere. The drivers of digitalization of the EAEU should be the so-called breakthrough cross-industry and cross-country projects of digital transformation. Among those, for example, are: the project of "traceability" of the movement of goods; a project to create a Eurasian "digital sandbox" and environment for digital startups; a project to create a trans-Eurasian logistics platform, etc. Innovation and technological integration are essential for the implementation of the digital agenda of the EAEU. In this regard, 12 priority innovative technological platforms have already been launched, a common network of clusters and technology parks is being created, and the Eurasian technology transfer network is being created [1].

The basis for the formation of the institutional environment of the EAEU information economy was made by the decision of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council No. 12 "On the Main Directions for the Implementation of the Digital Agenda of the Eurasian Economic Union until 2025", which determined the specific goals of the formation of the digital space of the Union: digital transformation of economic sectors, markets for goods, services, capital and workforce, informatization of the management of integration processes, development of digital infrastructure and ensuring the security of digital processes. By 2025, it is planned to form the digital market of the EAEU, which will have to be expressed in the reduction of barriers within the digital economy of the EAEU, including in the areas providing digital services, developing the useful data market and developing of the anthropogenic resources. As a regulatory support for digitalization, it is proposed to develop the Digital Code of the EAEU, the Declaration on the Digital Economy of the EAEU, the relevant national doctrines, including the field of digital security [1].

According to experts, the use of Chinese digital platforms can increase the trade turnover between China and Russia by 2024 up to 200 billion US dollars, and the collaboration of the EAEU and China, within the framework of the Digital Silk Road, will contribute to changing the global economic and political opportunities of countries [2]. This becomes especially relevant in 2023, in the context of USA and EU sanctions against Russia and Belarus.

The main institution of the EAEU, ensuring the implementation of the digital agenda for economic development is the Eurasian Economic Commission, which provides conditions for the functioning and development of

the EAEU, develops proposals for further integration in the information environment. It includes the Department of Information Technologies of the EEC, whose main tasks are to regulate the implementation of a coordinated policy in the field of ICT development and the creation of an integrated information system in the EAEU countries [3].

Meanwhile, digital transformation requires the implementation of breakthrough innovative projects related to the development of new market segments in the field of high technologies, and even the formation of new industries. From our position, in addition to the imperfection of the unified legal framework of the EAEU in the field of informatization there is a clear inequality in the level of infrastructural and technological readiness of the member states for integration processes, as well as some disunity in the areas of informatization (table 1) [4], [5].

The complexity of policy in the field of the EAEU information economy is determined by the need to harmonize the laws of the member countries of the association. The problem is also that, the executive powers of *Eurasian Economic Commission* in the sphere of national regulation of the formation of the information economy are quite limited and are not integrated into the legal field of individual EAEU countries.

It should be noted that the main legislative support for the formation and development of the information economy of the EAEU countries includes the development of an information infrastructure, which is provided by the legislative documents of Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. However, in accordance with the experience of similar projects in the PRC "One Belt, One Road" and the EU "World Access" in the EAEU, it is necessary to ensure not only investment in high-tech and intelligent infrastructure for the *development of supply chains, logistics, IT*, but also the formation of *appropriate educational and scientific initiatives*.

Training of personnel for digital transformation has become a common institutional and legal direction for Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, however, in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, the legislation implements its narrower interpretation – the development of competencies and skills for the digital economy. Also, a common institutional and legal aspect that unites all EAEU countries is the *protection of personal data*. The relevant legislation has been updated in recent years in Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, for example the Federal Law of the Russian Federation of July 31, 2020 No. 258-FZ "On experimental legal regimes in the field of digital innovations in the Russian Federation".

Table 1 – The main directions of the formation of the information economy in the EAEU countries

Development direction	Reflection in the legislation of the EAEU countries				
	Russia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Armenia	Kyrgyzstan
State-management based on information technology economics	Development of Digital Public Administration	Improvement of the state information policy	The transition to a proactive state based on the improvement of the e-government system, the development of the sphere of state informational services	Attracting investments in the digital sphere to ensure maximum national economic security	The development of a state based on the data industry, technology and digital infrastructure.
Digital transformation priorities	Comprehensive development of information technologies, perfect-information rational safety	Integration into the global information space, development of the national information industry and R&D	Digital transformation of economic sectors	Implementation of innovation policy to ensure economic growth	Cybersecurity of managing the process of implementing of digital transformation
Development of information infrastructure	Infrastructure development implies digital traceability of the movement of products, goods, services and digital assets in the Eurasian Economic Union; digital commerce of the Union; digital transport corridors; digital industrial cooperation of the members of the Union				
Personnel training	Priority is training for digital transformation			Priority is the development of competencies and skills for the digital economy	
Protection of personal information	Improvement of experimental legal regimes in the field of digital innovation	Protection of personal information			

A common aspect of the development of the information economy for all EAEU members *is the public administration based on information economy technologies*. The differences include approaches to its implementation. Thus, in Russia, the priority is the *development of digital public administration*, in Belarus – *the improvement of state information policy*, in Kazakhstan – *the transition to a proactive state based on the improvement of the system of electronic and mobile governments*, the development of public information

services, Armenia – *attracting investments in the digital sphere* to ensure maximum national economic security, in Kyrgyzstan – *the development of a state based on the data industry, technology and digital infrastructure*.

In this aspect, the development of institutions for the protection of personal data and state regulation of the information economy will *create metasytems for the exchange of information between the state and business, business and business, individuals and the state in order to provide innovative entrepreneurship with more accessible and better data from the public sector*.

References:

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