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## THE CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS OF RESEARCH OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

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**Abstract.** International projects are a modern instrument of international relations. International projects promote global cooperation and the creation of partnerships between countries. They aim to solve global problems such as poverty, climate change, threats to the world, and promote sustainable development. Projects in the field of economics and trade help strengthen economic ties between countries. In international projects, one can observe the connection between the project, the company and the country. An international project may be carried out by several companies and be carried out simultaneously in several countries and in more than one geographical region. Due to globalization and the development of transnational companies, international projects cover many countries based on the principle of mutually beneficial cooperation and risk sharing between participating states. In this regard, the theoretical and practical analysis of international projects for future success and possible risks is being updated. International projects strengthen international ties, support economic and social development, provide a platform for cooperation and strengthen interaction between countries. Along with the positive aspects of state participation in international projects, there are certain risks and challenges. The purpose of this article is to analyze international projects; the objectives of the research are to reveal the essence of an international project, consider the main directions of research in the sphere of international projects, study the impact of risks on the implementation of international projects and their analysis. The authors made an attempt to study international projects in the context of international relations, identify possible tools for determining its future success and the possibility of using these conclusions in the practical implementation of global projects by states.

**Keywords:** global crisis, international project, international cooperation, state, investment, country risk, political risk, economic risk

### Basic provisions

This article discusses the implementation of international projects and considers that international projects play a key role in the modern system of international relations, making an important contribution to various areas of international interaction. Such projects can contribute to improving the world order, strengthening international institutions and the rule of law, as well as compliance with the principles of international law. Projects in the field of culture, art and sports help strengthen socio-cultural interaction between countries, promoting mutual understanding and respect. In today's world of disorder, international projects can

play a role in promoting dialogue and resolving international conflicts, contributing to peace and stability.

### **Introduction**

The global crisis of our time has caused many problems in the system of international relations; close cooperation between world powers has become difficult in the context of a pandemic and post-pandemic. Many states are experiencing shocks associated with the crisis, the consequences of which have greatly affected the global financial, commodity, educational and other markets. In this situation, international projects in the transport and logistics industry, tourism and trade, and the service sector suffered.

Particularly noticeable has become the problem of implementing launched international projects and programs, such as the Chinese “One Belt - One Road” initiative, global investment projects, projects in the Eurasian space, as well as programs in the international educational sphere. For example, some projects within the framework of One belt, One road continue to be implemented, but their pace is significantly slowed down or suspended for a while.

Also in the field of education, there is a curtailment or complete cancellation of academic mobility programs, which was a relevant and effective system for integrating science and education at the international level.

In this regard, it is necessary to analyze the basic concepts, types and forms, as well as the risks of international projects in order to identify trends and problems in the field of international projects, minimize losses and identify risks in modern conditions.

### **Description of materials and methods**

For this study, we preferred a qualitative case study methodology because this method is particularly relevant when investigating a new phenomenon, some aspects of which are not clearly established in the scientific literature. This study is based on a review of theoretical work in the field of international projects and aims to identify elements that are considered important in the eyes of participating States. The method of system analysis made it possible to consider the subject of research as a complex problem located in a single political process, to identify the most general features of the processes being studied, to establish their interdependence and complementarity. Due to the multifactorial and versatility of the object under consideration, the research was carried out on the basis of an integrated approach, including the study of the subject from the point of view of the theory of international relations, geopolitics, history, economics, law and other disciplines. These methods made it possible to bring into the general analysis the results of many branches of science: political science, history, economics and statistics, and international law.

### **Discussion**

Modern international projects affect various areas, including economics, politics, social issues, environment, healthcare and many others. Scientists view international projects in different ways, some scientists give a general description of

international projects, others are interested in the types and forms of international projects, the process of implementing international projects is an object of study for individual researchers.

In general, a project is a set of tasks or activities related to achieving a planned goal, which, as a rule, has a unique and non-repetitive nature [1]. Some international projects include developing a new product or service, building or equipment, designing a new vehicle, purchasing a new or modified data system, organizing a meeting, or implementing a new business process.

For example, international economic projects are aimed at developing the economic sphere of countries, strengthening trade relations, creating joint ventures, etc. The most famous project of the 21st century is the Chinese “One Belt One Road” initiative; over 10 years of implementation, 152 countries and 32 international organizations have collaborated within the framework of the international project.

International social projects covering issues of education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, security and other social aspects are relevant for modern states.

In the context of innovation and digitalization of international relations, participation in international scientific and research projects is a necessity to increase the country's competitiveness at the international level. Such innovative international projects bring together many states to conduct joint research and development in various fields of science and technology.

To solve environmental problems, reduce pollution, and sustainable use of natural resources, countries cooperate within the framework of international environmental projects.

In the modern world, the importance of infrastructure projects is increasing, including the construction and renewal of infrastructure, such as transport routes, energy facilities, communications and others. The implementation of such projects helps solve infrastructure problems and accelerates the themes of industrial and innovative development of countries.

Providing humanitarian assistance in emergency situations, support for refugees and victims of conflicts is one of the important areas of international cooperation. The development and participation in the implementation of international humanitarian projects brings countries closer together and minimizes the potential for conflict in relations between states.

Russian scientists Mazur I.I., Shapiro V.D., Olderogge N.G. indicate that an international project is one of the most complex and costly types of project activities [2]. This type of project, as a rule, has the highest cost. Transformation expert, Austrian professor of international management K. Koster notes that international projects include all projects in which organizations from different countries take part [3]. In addition, these projects are distinguished by their important role in the economy and politics of the countries for which they are being developed [4]. Foreign scientist K. Snow classifies all projects in which organizations from different countries take part as international projects [5]. International projects in the field of international relations are joint initiatives implemented by countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations or other participants in

the international community with the aim of achieving specific goals or solving certain problems.

As scientists S.V. Congden, A.V. Matveev, D.E. Desplass point out, the main differences between an international project and a local one are the presence of various factors that determine the specifics of international project management [6]. International projects often involve multiple countries or international actors pooling their resources and efforts to work together.

According to other scientists, an international project is a type of knowledge, a way of describing, presenting a project and its implementation by project managers in an international environment [7]. Each international project has specific goals, objectives or results that become the basis for joint efforts.

Also of interest is such a definition as “an international project is a division of participating parties according to the principle of “geo-economic-political”, that is, in different or from different countries that have their own national characteristics, willing and able to have their own goal (making a profit, job creation, product creation, assistance, benefit), taking into account horizontal and vertical integration [8]. Projects are usually viewed as mutually beneficial for the parties involved. They may involve sharing resources, knowledge, technology or experience to achieve common goals. In order for a project to be characterized as international, actors belonging to two or more states must be involved in its implementation. For R. Chukhlova, “Its [project activity] direct or indirect result is the establishment of relationships between project participants and representatives of the project target groups (actors)” [9]. Projects are part of international cooperation processes, that is, activities to solve common economic, political and social problems. International projects can combine various aspects such as economics, culture, education, research, etc., to solve complex problems. They can have different durations; short-term and long-term projects are distinguished. International projects can be initiated to solve a specific problem or for long-term cooperation.

Inscribing the role of project activity into the institutionalist approach, we can say that here it is part of the functioning of many modern international organizations. Projects become the tools through which institutions, in the form of international regional forms of cooperation, fulfill their assigned role [10].

An important issue for researchers is the effectiveness of the implementation of international projects. Foreign scientists D. Cleland and R. Gareis [11] as well as N. Muriithi and L. Crawford [12] explain the failure of international projects by the lack of internal capacity and the difficulties of beneficiaries in coordinating the speed of changes caused by projects, the principles of which do not always correspond to culture and standards local traditions. According to A. Ramaprasad and A. Prakash [13], some international projects will fail given the top-down perspective of the sponsor, which often excludes local knowledge for project implementation. They believe it is important to incorporate this local knowledge to be able to engage in what they call Emergent Project Management.

S. Madaul [14] notes in this regard that sponsors often tend to reproduce the external model (“ready-made clothes”) without sufficiently taking into account the diversity of the environment. According to S. Madaula, “developed” countries even

today impose their system of values, put their projects in the short term and try to develop or even impose a model applicable to everyone. Thus, although official development assistance is long-term in nature, some projects demonstrate a short-term perspective with goals that are largely beyond the realistic capabilities of the environment. In our opinion, it is necessary to study in detail the factors of success or failure based on practical experience aimed at implementing projects in countries.

An important element for states participating in an international project is country risk, which affects their investment strategy. The complexity of analyzing this type of risk only increases its need for assessment and emphasizes its inevitability in the long term. Country risk is realized in several ways. At the industrial level, this could be the confiscation of property or assets located abroad, such as the nationalization of the oil industry in the Middle East or Algeria (for example, at the expense of Elf) or the nationalization of the Suez Canal by Nasser in 1956 in Egypt. Financially, a country may face a major crisis (such as Mexico in 1994, Southeast Asia in 1997, or Russia in 1998), leading to default or, less commonly, a unilateral decision to repay its debts. And at the human level, the event may involve armed conflict (civil war or war between several countries) or kidnapping for ransom.

Thus, country risk consists of both an economic and a political aspect associated with decisions and events, internal or external to a given country. These two parameters are often interrelated: an economic crisis can lead to political instability and vice versa. This was the case in Indonesia, with excessive debt and high levels of corruption, which undermined the entire economy and led to political unrest (the fall of Suharto), followed by a collapse of the currency and a cessation of investment from other countries [15].

Financial flows flowing between countries are subject to various types of restrictions, in particular institutional, regulatory, economic or fiscal nature, which persist despite harmonization efforts undertaken in certain geographical regions, such as, for example, the European Union. Features unique to each country then create conditions that influence the acquisition and allocation of resources by economic agents. Thus, country financial risk depends on the country's ability to meet its debt repayment schedule. Organizations and states participating in international projects often use risk management tools, such as insurance, investment diversification, legal agreements, and strict safety and social responsibility standards. Risk management in international projects requires careful analysis and a strategic approach. It is important to develop effective measures to prevent and mitigate risks, as well as create mechanisms to respond to potential problems. Effective risk management helps nations minimize losses, ensure project sustainability, and maintain long-term sustainability in international relations.

## **Results**

An analysis of existing scientific literature has shown the diversity of international projects depending on the goals and objectives of the projects being implemented between countries. Today there is no single approach to defining the concept of an international project.

To summarize, we can conclude that international projects in international relations are an important tool for cooperation and solving global problems and creating a favorable international environment. They help strengthen international ties, support economic and social development, provide a platform for cooperation and strengthen interaction between countries. Along with the positive aspects of state participation in international projects, there are certain risks and challenges in the context of modern realities that require careful study in the theory of international relations.

## Conclusion

The theoretical review of the scientific literature on the study of international projects led to the conclusion that there is a lack of publications and significant scientific works in the context of international relations. To study the essence of international projects, it is necessary to go beyond macroeconomic and financial criteria; institutional analysis and integration of other areas such as international law, international economic relations, management, etc. are required.

In the opinion of the authors, quantitative and qualitative methods, cross-cutting and interdisciplinary analysis of international projects will allow a deeper and broader study of the benefits and risks for states when participating in international projects.

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## ХАЛЫҚАРАЛЫҚ ЖОБАЛАРДЫ ЗЕРТТЕУДІҢ КОНЦЕПТУАЛДЫҚ НЕГІЗДЕРІ

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**Аңдатпа.** Халықаралық жобалар халықаралық қатынастардың заманауи құралы болып табылады. Халықаралық жобалар жаһандық ынтымақтастық пен елдер арасында серіктестік орнатуға ықпал етеді. Олар кедейлік, климаттың өзгеруі, әлемге қауіп-қатер сияқты жаһандық мәселелерді шешуге және тұрақты дамуға жәрдемдесуге бағытталған. Экономика және сауда саласындағы жобалар елдер арасындағы экономикалық байланысты нығайтуға көмектеседі. Халықаралық жобаларда жобаның, компанияның және елдің арасындағы байланысты байқауға болады. Халықаралық жобаны бірнеше компания жүзеге асыра алады және бір уақытта бірнеше елде және бірнеше географиялық аймақтарда жүзеге асырылуы мүмкін. Жаһандану және трансұлттық компаниялардың дамуына байланысты халықаралық жобалар өзара тиімді ынтымақтастық және қатысушы мемлекеттер арасындағы тәуекелді бөлісу принципіне негізделген көптеген елдерді қамтиды. Осыған байланысты халықаралық жобалардың болашақтағы табыстары мен ықтимал тәуекелдері үшін теориялық және практикалық талдаулары жаңартылуда. Халықаралық жобалар халықаралық байланыстарды нығайтады, экономикалық және әлеуметтік дамуды қолдайды, ынтымақтастық алаңын қамтамасыз етеді және елдер арасындағы өзара әрекетті күшейтеді. Мемлекеттің халықаралық жобаларға қатысуының оң аспектілерімен қатар белгілі бір тәуекелдер мен қиындықтар бар. Бұл мақаланың мақсаты – халықаралық жобаларды талдау; зерттеудің міндеттері – халықаралық жобаның мәнін ашу, халықаралық жобалар саласындағы зерттеулердің негізгі бағыттарын қарастыру, халықаралық жобаларды жүзеге асырудағы тәуекелдердің әсерін зерттеу және оларды талдау. Авторлар халықаралық жобаларды халықаралық қатынастар контекстінде зерттеуге, оның болашақ табыстарын анықтаудың ықтимал құралдарын анықтауға және осы тұжырымдарды мемлекеттердің жаһандық жобаларды іс жүзінде жүзеге асыруында пайдалану мүмкіндіктерін анықтауға тырысты.

**Тірек сөздер:** жаһандық дағдарыс, халықаралық жоба, халықаралық ынтымақтастық, мемлекет, инвестиция, елдік тәуекел, саяси тәуекел, экономикалық тәуекел

## КОНЦЕПТУАЛЬНЫЕ ОСНОВЫ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ПРОЕКТОВ

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**Аннотация.** Международные проекты выступают современным инструментом международных отношений. Международные проекты способствуют глобальному сотрудничеству и созданию партнерств между странами. Они направлены на решение глобальных проблем, таких как бедность, изменение климата, угрозы мира, и способствуют устойчивому развитию. Проекты в области экономики и торговли способствуют укреплению экономических связей между странами. В международных проектах можно



наблюдать связь между проектом, компанией и страной. Международный проект может осуществляться несколькими компаниями и осуществляться одновременно в нескольких странах и в более чем одном географическом регионе. В силу глобализации и развития транснациональных компаний международные проекты охватывают многих стран на основе принципа взаимовыгодного сотрудничества, разделения рисков между государствами-участниками. В связи с этим актуализируется теоретический и практический анализ международных проектов на предмет будущего успеха и возможных рисков. Международные проекты способствуют укреплению международных связей, поддерживают экономическое и социальное развитие, обеспечивают платформу для сотрудничества и укрепляют взаимодействие между странами. Наряду с положительными сторонами участия государств в международных проектах, имеются определенные риски и вызовы. Цель настоящей статьи заключается в анализе международных проектов, задачами исследования являются раскрытие сущности международного проекта, рассмотрение основных направлений исследования сферы международных проектов, изучение влияния рисков на реализацию международных проектов и их анализ. Авторами сделана попытка изучения международных проектов в контексте международных отношений, определения возможных инструментов определения его будущего успеха и возможность использования этих выводов в практической реализации государствами глобальных проектов.

**Ключевые слова:** мировой кризис, международный проект, международное сотрудничество, государство, инвестиции, страновой риск, политический риск, экономический риск

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