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THE ROLE OF SMART-EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN SMART SPECIALISATION PROGRAM

Modern changes in the theoretical foundations and practical implementation of economic growth policy are closely related to the processes of digitalization, the development of intellectual potential, and the emergence of the latest information and communication technologies. Today, international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, national governments, and multinational companies are increasingly using the opportunities of digital transformation to create innovative digital platforms and applications that serve as catalysts for economic development.

European institutions and research centers play a key role in shaping the digital society. Their ability to generate new ideas, combine existing knowledge and form new technological directions, as well as to implement the smart specialization approach as a tool for industrial and innovative development of regions, contributes to an effective response to the challenges of an unstable global environment. [1].

The Smart Specialization Platform (<https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>) is one of the advanced tools of digital transformation that promotes the implementation of smart specialization, research, innovation, and regional competitiveness. The rational use of this platform in the formation of national and regional strategies and policies opens up opportunities for activating key components of digital transformation in the long term.

The study of smart specialization as a key component of digital transformation is based on the latest concepts of global development, including the ideas of sustainable development, smartization, environmental transition, and digitalization.

Smart specialization is an industrial and innovative structure for the regional economy, which aims to stimulate public policies and, especially, R&D and investment in innovation to form a modern economic, scientific and technical specialization of the region, its productivity, competitiveness and economic growth [2].

Theoretical and practical studies of smart specialization and applied aspects and capabilities of the smart platform are devoted to the scientific works of such scientists

as: Gianelle, C., Guzzo, F., & Marinelli, E. [3], Gianelle, C., Kyriakou, D. Cohen C., & Przeor M. [4], etc.

In the new programming period 2021-2027, increased attention is paid to governance issues, and the new thematic condition “Good governance of the national or regional smart specialization strategy” consists of seven binding criteria:

- (1) up-to-date analysis of the challenges for innovation and digitalization;
- (2) existence of a competent regional or national institution or body responsible for managing the smart specialization strategy;
- (3) monitoring and evaluation tools
- (4) the functioning of cooperation between stakeholders (“entrepreneurial discovery process”);
- (5) measures to improve the national or regional research and innovation system;
- (6) measures to support industrial transformation;
- (7) measures to strengthen cooperation with partners outside the EU Member State in priority areas supported by the smart specialization strategy [5].

Since 2015, the EU initiative to promote the concept of smart specialization has created 37 partnerships, bringing together 208 regions, 19 EU member states and 7 non-EU countries.

The smart specialization platform includes the following components that unite regional ecosystems: 1) industrial modernization; 2) agri-food platform; 3) energy; 4) sustainable blue economy (starting in 2022).

Starting from 2023, the management system of a national or regional smart specialization strategy includes:

three S3 working groups working on the criteria for an enabling environment, creating conditions for the spread of innovation, industrial transition and interregional cooperation;

S3 expert group consisting of leading experts and scholars on S3 and innovation policy, as well as discussing and promoting the S3 concept;

website of the S3 community of practice - a universal digital portal for the exchange of knowledge

The European Union's smart specialization strategy envisages the involvement of

neighboring countries, including Ukraine, in its implementation based on the provisions of the Association Agreement with the EU, the neighborhood policy, and in the context of Ukraine's participation in the European Green Deal.

Implementation of the smart specialization strategy in Ukraine involves active participation in European initiatives and consolidation of efforts by financial and non-financial companies, research organizations, higher and vocational education institutions, and public structures. All of them should contribute to the modernization and formation of a new innovative and industrial infrastructure based on digital transformations.

The purpose of smart education, as one of the main components of the smart economy, is to combine the educational process with modern information and communication technologies, which will ensure constant access to knowledge and continuity of the educational process. The main features of such an educational approach are: seamlessness, continuity, mobility of enrollment, autonomy of the teacher and the student, flexibility of the learning process, effectiveness of the learning process, and self-education.

Its components include: Self-education, motivation, adaptability, increased resources, and embedded technology.

The main vectors for the development of smart specialization are its adaptation to the unique needs of the regions, stimulating the spread of innovation, implementing a monitoring and evaluation system based on key performance indicators, expanding international cooperation, integrating with other EU programs and priorities, ensuring good governance, and promoting inclusive economic growth.

The active involvement of Ukrainian business, scientific institutions and the public sector in the implementation of the smart specialization concept within the framework of cooperation with the European Union will help strengthen the country's research base, digitalize civil society and the corporate environment, and increase the competitiveness of the national economy in the context of digital transformation.

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