

## **METHOD OF ASSESSMENT OF THE DEGREE OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION BETWEEN UKRAINE AND THE EU: REGIONAL COMPARISON LEVEL**

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The need for the independent assessment between Ukraine and the EU effectuates the development of methodical tools that allow for a comparative assessment of progress in the convergence of trade and economic systems between Ukrainian regions and the EU's economy. The economic goal of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union in the regional dimension is the promotion of modernization of Ukrainian regions' economy through the increasing of trade volume with the European Union, enhancing of the regions' attractiveness for foreign and domestic investment for further production for the export to the EU and other markets of the world, as well as reforming the economic regulation at the regional level in accordance with the best European practice. The article substantiates the method suited for conducting the assessment and inter-regional comparison of the depth of trade and economic integration of the regions of Ukraine and the European Union on the

basis of a set of indicators reflecting various aspects of the state and dynamics of their trade and financial-investment ties. The Index of the Degree of Trade and Economic Integration between Ukraine and the EU is expected to be accessible, comprehensive, practical tool that allows identifying the real situation in the field of trade and economic integration of the regions with the European Union and will reflect the ranking of regions according to selected indicators of the depth of trade and economic relations with the European Union. The practical significance of the Index is the formation of an analytical product for local and central authorities, representatives of the academic community, international institutions, business environment, non-governmental sector, and other stakeholders. The Index will also serve as an incentive and a guide for constructive changes by identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the regional economies in the process of European integration and capabilities for its management.