

SECURITY COOPERATION IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION: TODAY AND FUTURE IN THE WORLD CONTEXT

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Abstract. The paper analyzes the global economic factors of security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region that have an effect on the present and future development of national markets in separate states of this region within the development of the common market of the European Union (EU). It is noted that the EU principal market factors of today: the free movement of people, goods and capital destabilizes the development of a separate state market in the Baltic Sea region, and the tasks of a national state in the future will become still more complicated. The work provides the research results of the factors of a specific geopolitical environment in the Baltic Sea region; the ways and methods are foreseen for solving the future political, economic and social problems in this region under the conditions of globalization.

Keywords: national, security, state, cooperation, region, market, society, goods, capital, people, subject, West–East, result, positive, negative, factors, political, economic, social, strategic survey, environment.

1. Introduction

The Baltic Sea region has been and will be of special importance owing to its unique geopolitical environment, since the following states: Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia (*Kaliningrad region – the subject of the Russian Federation*), Poland, and Germany (*10 national countries*) are situated within this space and they are linked together geographically by the Baltic Sea, historical past, the reality of today and future forecasts of the complex development of national countries. The Baltic Sea region has the population of about 153 million people (*together with 1 million of people inhabiting the Kaliningrad region*). Since the population of the EU constitutes about 460 million people, and the Baltic Sea region has the population of 153 million, thus share of this region in the EU accounts for 33.3 %, therefore the Baltic Sea region is of special importance for West–East and East–West political, economic and social relations in the world [7, 11, 14, 16, 17].

Historical past is noted for incessant global, continental, regional and national conflicts, the results of which are the present.

Present-day reality is distinguished by different political, economic and social orientation of the states and societies: West–East (*an eternal dilemma of search for conflicts*), the European Union (*EU – the Constitution and the constantly perfected system*), the Commonwealth of Independent States (*CIS – without the specific character and without the future of real prospects*), neutrality (*Norway with its economic development*), and NATO (*the guarantee of global, continental, regional and national security cooperation*) [19, 23, 26].

Ensuring of the future complex unity of political, economic, and social environmental factors of national states and societies in the West–East and in the world under the conditions of global economy, which accelerate the accumulation of big capital and development at an intercontinental level or the monopolistic activities of the big corporations of the world on the markets of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and America. The result of those activities is positive and negative [27, 29, 30, 31].

Positive result is defined by the development of progress, which is insignificantly affected by the borders of separate states and political decisions adopted, as well as by the creation of a new product

and the transfer of new jobs into Asia, the lack of jobs existing in Europe and by the rapid migration of people from Asia into Europe (*especially to the Scandinavian countries*), who agree to work for the significantly lower wages (*even the minimum wages, established in separate states*). This is useful for the development of business cooperation, since in the interim result it is possible to reduce the cost price of a new product and to increase business competitiveness at the level of global economy on the world market [1, 2, 4, 6, 10].

Negative result is characterized by the instability of social environment in separate Western (*EU*) and Eastern (*CIS*) states, since political and economic environmental factors have a negative impact on social environmental factors in all the states without exception (*EU: Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and other countries: Norway, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine*). The EU and World Bank experts acknowledge unanimously that separate states are not capable of solving complicated negative problems of social environment, and these problems reduce regional security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region, Europe, Asia and the world. Today and in the future, people cannot feel secure in any state, since the privacy of man and family, which is the basis of global, continental, regional and national security, is infringed [3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 21, 32].

Theoretical and practical problem of the work is characterized by the fact that a separate state alone is not capable of resolving of the main tasks of national security in the state and society development, since due to the impact of global economy, internal threats to the national state increase faster than external threats, and this tendency is spreading in the world because of a rapid decrease in natural resources and an increase of human resources.

Research objective is to analyze security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region.

Research tasks are to study internal and external environmental factors of the Republic of Lithuania, to determine tendencies in the development of political, economic and social environment, and to forecast the place of the Republic of Lithuania in the Baltic Sea region between West and East.

Research objects are political, economic and social environmental factors of regional security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region.

Research methods cover analytical, statistical, data collection and processing, analysis and synthesis,

expert, comparative, and other integral methods.

Research results are forecasts of the development of regional security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region.

Data sources are newest works of foreign and Lithuanian authors, proceedings of international scientific conferences, data of research performed in the years 2000–2005, as well as statistical and other official sources of the World Bank, EU, CIS, and individual states.

The selected topic also predetermined the structure of this work, which is constituted of three principal levels of security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region under analysis, namely:

- Strategic survey of political environment.
- Strategic survey of economic environment.
- Strategic survey of social environment.

At the end of the work the generalization of research results, conclusions and recommendations for strengthening of security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region are provided.

2. Strategic survey of political environment for security cooperation

People and private security form the basis of security cooperation in the state for the changes in the political environment, in the Baltic Sea region for the political environment in Europe for all the states in this region, between West–East and East–West [16].

In December 1999, in Sweden, the Estonian politicians advanced the idea of the Yule-land (*Christmas countries*) territory, encompassing the Scandinavian countries, Great Britain, and Estonia. In 2001, in Estonia, a discussion took place whether it was worth to change the name “Estonia” in the English language into “Estland” to sound it more attractively and to replace the striped flag by a cross to look it better. On the one hand, these are geopolitical tendencies in foreign policy for solving international problems in Estonia; on the other hand, this is a real thinking of people regarding the solution of national problems inside the country under conditions of global policy. Thus Estonia attempts to withdraw from the map of the three (*Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia*) Baltic States [34].

The politicians drew a map of the three states of the Baltic region in Potsdam in 1945 [16].

In Lithuania, analogous processes occur. Politicians of Lithuania moved the vector of the development of the state and society not to the north but to the southeast.

For more than ten years already we are not just the country at the Baltic Sea, but also the state in Central Europe. Historians of Lithuania also discussed scientifically. In 2002, we made attempts to prove that Lithuania belonged to the different geopolitical region than Latvia and Estonia. In the geopolitical environment Lithuanian politicians would like to approach the Ukraine and substantiates this by the historical past [34, 38].

If these geopolitical tendencies go on developing, Latvia in the Baltic Sea region will remain the one whose politicians face a dilemma where to move to and this dilemma in Latvia is being accelerated by the “problem of Russian speaking population”.

It is probably therefore that the former ambassador of Latvia to the USA O. Kalnins when asked how to identify Latvia answered that in historical and national terms Latvia seemed to him similar to Ireland [34].

The policy of development of Poland and its vectors remain not specified geopolitically [14, 16]:

- West and East?
- East and West?
- West–East and East–West?

Currently, the Estonian representatives proposed for the Baltic Assembly to get united with the Nordic Council. This idea complies with the initiative of a Northern Dimension of the EU, advanced by Finnish politicians, that should encourage political, economic and social security cooperation of the Baltic Sea region states [34].

It is possible to state that the process of disappearance of the three existing Baltic states (*geopolitical formation – Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia*) has already started, since otherwise it would be difficult to explain all political debates [14, 15, 16, 40].

It is hardly worthwhile for politicians to fear as regards the allying or separation of separate states, since the processes of globalization may both unite the states and separate them equally. In the geopolitical environment an eternal problem persists, it being the state neutrality and national security, therefore in a policy of the development of states an important role belongs to military cooperation and military security, and in other spheres it is security cooperation differences rather than advantages that are increasing [4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 22, 24, 25].

It is to be noted that not only a policy of the EU enlargement to the East but also a policy of the integration of Russia (*the past, present and future policy of which is based on a model “divide and rule”*) into the West played an important role in the

disintegration process of the Baltic Sea region states. Russia today formulated a new vector: a status of a “foreign territory” to the Kaliningrad region, this being stated on February 11, 2005 by I. Klebanov, the Russian presidential envoy to the Northwest federal district. At a meeting on the issues of the development of the Kaliningrad region, all the participants formulated a conclusion that a status of a “foreign territory” assigned to this region of Russia would stimulate investment processes from the West to the East. The Kaliningrad region is a specific region of Russia, which requires non-standard political solutions for regulation of political, economic and social problems that came forth due to the EU enlargement into the West when Kaliningrad became an “isle” of Russia in the common EU and NATO space, as a result of which “national interests” of Russia and its foreign policy in the West strengthened (*this was stressed on September 13, 2004 at a joint symposium of NATO and Russia in Moscow by all representatives of the Russian side, they also spoke of “national interests” of Russia in the East or the South: Georgia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and even in the states of the world, situated further away from the borders of Russia*) [1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12, 17, 18, 23, 24, 35, 37].

Russia also perceives its direct “national interests” in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland. Russian politicians base these interests on the common space of Russia with NATO (*geopolitical environment both in the Baltic Sea region and other regions of the world*) [3, 12, 13, 20, 22, 25, 35, 42].

Currently, one can notice new problems being formed between Moscow–Berlin, Berlin–Paris, Paris–Moscow, also between Finland–Russia and Poland–Germany. These are results of globalization processes, and new political initiatives and political normative acts adopted due to their solution have an impact on security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region, as a result of the political factors of which changes increase internal political, economic and social threats in separate states of this region: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and others [8, 9, 17, 18, 19, 26, 28, 31, 32, 35, 37, 42, 43]. We may present as a result the political events in Lithuania in the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 that were broadly commented in the information sources of the world, whereas the real consequences remained [7, 14, 16, 38, 40, 42, 43].

On the other hand, the political factors in Europe and the Baltic Sea region form the political environment, the absolute result of which is the system of normative acts, constituted of five main trends [7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, 37, 39, 41]:

- International normative acts of the world community.
- Normative acts of international organizations.
- EU normative acts.
- NATO normative acts.
- Normative acts of a national state (*both Western and Eastern*).

No ideal systems exist in theory and practice. All systems are vulnerable externally and internally by applying the system of normative acts of political environment [17, 27].

A good example here could be the Kaliningrad (*Königsberg*) land on the Baltic Sea coast, which in the 2nd century belonged to Prussians, and in the period of the 5th-9th centuries Prussians were called the Balts, in the 8th-12th centuries – Prussia, from the 13th to 16th centuries these lands were under the rule of the Crusaders, in 1701 the Kingdom of Prussia (*European state*) was formed, and from 1871 it became a constituent state of Germany.

World War II changed in the essence the borders of the European states and the adopted political decisions brought the real result today – the Kaliningrad region with the state borders in the common EU and NATO territory, which belongs to the Russian Federation [35].

This situation is very unfavourable to the Kaliningrad region population (*with over 1 million inhabitants*): for free movement of people, goods and services, and capital, and these factors cause real external political, economic and social threats. These threats have an effect on the economic development and due to them the investment environment in Lithuania is unfavourable to foreign investors, freight flows through the Klaipėda seaport (*in the Baltic Sea region*) became reduced, etc. [7, 14, 21, 26, 33, 36, 39].

Russia has geopolitical interests in the Baltic Sea region, and afterwards this region becomes a space of interests of global economy, where in the 21st century vectors of political decisions of the West and the East (*the world*) are changing [1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15]. These vectors are difficult to be controlled by the small states in the Baltic Sea region (*Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia*), having the population of 7.4 million people (*in Lithuania – 3.6 million, Latvia – 2.4 million, Estonia – 1.4 million*), this accounting only for 4.8 % of the total number of the population in this region (*or 1.6 % in the EU*), and national security tasks are hard to be solved by using the system of normative acts of a separate state, which is intended for strengthening the private security of the individual and family [7, 11, 14, 17, 33, 38, 39, 40, 42].

Private security is the basis of national security, which must ensure the positive economic environment inside and outside the state.

3. Strategic survey of economic environment for security cooperation

The economic environment factors form the economic environment: the economy of a separate state and national market. When exploring the economic factors, it is necessary to evaluate them by macroeconomic and microeconomic indicators in such a manner as it is accepted in the international organizations of the world, the EU, NATO and institutions of separate states [18, 31, 32, 33].

Macroeconomic and microeconomic indicators may be detailed and it may be agreed as regards the key indicators with the help of which under the conditions of global economy it would be possible to evaluate the economic factors and economic environment in separate states, the Baltic Sea region, the EU, as well as between West and East, that we could forecast positive and negative factors [33].

These forecasts are necessary for management of the economic development of separate states and changes on the national markets by using the system of normative acts, which should ensure democratic processes and progress development [4, 5, 14, 17, 18, 21, 27].

The system of macroeconomic indicators is comprised of the five main groups of factors [14, 16, 17]:

- Gross Domestic Product.
- Export volumes.
- Import volumes.
- Inflation.
- State debt (*obligations*).

The system of microeconomic indicators is constituted of the five main groups of factors [14, 16, 17]:

- Average net income per capita in the country.
- Average real consumption normative per capita in the country.
- Cost price of product and its analogues (*goods or services*).
- Profit of product and its analogues (*goods or services*).
- Price of product and its analogues (*goods or services*).

Application of the system of macroeconomic and microeconomic indicators ensures an optimum analysis of the factors of economic environment (*of economic and national market, as well as of a separate organization*) of the country. Other economic criteria used are interim, not basic ones, that are

necessary for optimization of the activity of man, family, organization, and society, for reaching an optimum (*not maximum*) result and then a risk of activity will be minimum (*it will be also optimum*) in the fixed time and space [26].

These economic problems are important for all states of the world, organizations and people, and in the 21st century the tasks of this economic problems will become still more complicated, since they are affected and will be under the effect of the rapid development of progress and the key factors of the global economy of the world [19, 20, 23, 28, 29, 30, 36, 41].

The system of progress consists of the five key groups of factors [14, 16, 17]:

- New product (*satisfaction of consumers and their new needs on the world market*).
- New materials (*created or discovered by man, for the creation and realization of a new product on the world market*).
- New technologies (*for increase of competitiveness of an organization on the world market*).
- New operating means (*for increase of competitiveness of an organization on the world market*).
- New labour efficiency (*establishment of new jobs, modernization of the existing ones, and training of people for increase of competitiveness of an organization on the world market*).

The system of global economy is comprised of the three key groups of factors of a free market [14, 17]:

- Free movement of people (*on the world market*).
- Free movement of capital (*on the world market*).
- Free movement of product (*goods or services on the world market*).

It is possible to notice that the borders of a separate state (*for example, Lithuania, Latvia or Estonia*) in the 21st century cannot ensure any more security cooperation of the people, and the necessary condition for a national state is to constantly improve the system of normative acts, which would balance the development of the state and society under the conditions of globalization, would ensure democracy and progress development in the Baltic Sea region, the EU, and the world [7, 14, 36, 38, 39, 40].

On the other hand, the economic environment rallies people for common activities where the individual has the opportunity to sell his physical and intellectual work (*as a good*), which has its own real value on the

national, regional, the EU and world market, and the purpose of a modern state is to permanently improve the political, economic and social environment where the individual lives so that the value of his work on the national market would constantly increase. Today, the existing living environment of the individual and his family in separate states of the Baltic Sea region (*Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Germany, Finland, etc.*) cause real anxiety, since political, economic and social factors are unfavourable for the development of the working activities of the individual and for guarantee of the private security of family [33].

In 2004, export in Lithuania constituted USD 9,643 billion, and import USD 12,780 billion. Export-import balance of the then development of the state and society in 2004 was negative and made USD 3,137 billion, or 24.55% from import volumes and 32.53% from export volumes [36].

These macroeconomic indicators engender complicated tasks for business organizations and public institutions, since it is necessary to permanently increase the export volumes of the national product and to reduce import from other states and thus to create favourable conditions for the development of the working activities of the Lithuanian people in the national economy, to increase the labour value of the people on the national market [14].

In economic terms, the economic environment is to be created where the individual would sell his work and would receive the permanently increasing income on the national market. Thus the volumes of the Gross Domestic Product would be increased, export-import balance would be improved, and the purchasing power of the Lithuanian people would be increased on the national, EU and world market [14].

For a business organization to solve successfully these tasks, one condition is necessary: to reduce the product cost price, to increase wages of people, to improve the ratio of supply and demand on the national market so that the national market in the Baltic Sea region, EU and the world would be competitive [14].

For solution of these problems it is necessary to improve the investment environment in Lithuania and the Baltic Sea region, which is under the negative impact of integral political, economic and social factors of the development of global economy, the EU, and national states (*West and East*). Due to these factors, separate business organizations are non-competitive, since modernization processes are slow, progress is not applied, and therefore the national product is non-competitive on the national, EU and world market [14].

For example, a political decision adopted by the EU to shut down the powerful nuclear power plant in Lithuania increases at a rapid pace the prices for all energy resources (*e.g., the current oil product prices in Lithuania exceed twice those existing in the USA*), thus making a negative direct impact on the cost price of the national product (*cost price goes up and therefore the real wages of people in business organizations get reduced: two evils of the national economy put together*), due to which the national product actually cannot compete with the imported product analogues from Asia (*this is a specific region of Asia with the Asian global economy, into which the business organizations of the EU great states transferred jobs*) [7, 14, 17].

The cost price of a product is an indicator of microeconomics, which is the main factor of competitiveness in the fixed time and fixed market segment [14, 17].

Under conditions of global economy, only two main trends exist for reducing of the product cost price [16]:

- Increase in labour efficiency with the application of progress.
- Reduction of the constituent part of wages in the cost price.

Management of microeconomic factors in a business organization depends on the strategy of the organization on the market and in separate market segments, where it is necessary to constantly increase the sales volumes of a product and to master new markets and their segments [14, 17].

These tasks may be actually solved only by modern business organizations (*since a law in economy exists: “that labour efficiency in a modern business organization has to go on increasing faster than an increase in wages”*), which constantly use progress [14, 17].

Unfortunately, this requires large amounts of financial investment for modernization of the activities of a business organization and extensive annual action programmes for the development of activities. Due to these factors, private capital gets united and organizations develop their activities according to new conditions being formed under global economy in the 21st century (*business – without state borders*) [1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 31, 32].

These tasks are hardly implementable in the small states of the Baltic Sea region (*Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia*), therefore it is not real to anticipate the rapid development of economy in Lithuania on the common EU and world market [7, 14, 17, 26, 36, 38, 40, 43].

Data of the Eurobarometer survey conducted by the European Commission show the approach of people to the current political, economic and social environment in the EU and individual states. During the survey it was established that the average of the EU population satisfied with their life accounted for 81%, whereas in [40]:

- Estonia – 70%;
- Latvia – 55%;
- Lithuania – 54% (*the Lithuanian population is most dissatisfied with the life in the EU*).

Most satisfied with the life is the population of the Scandinavian countries: in Finland – 94%, Sweden – 96%, and Denmark – 97% (*most satisfied is the population of Denmark in the EU*) [40].

However, the population of the small states in the Baltic Sea region sees the future more optimistically than in other EU states. Positive changes in life are anticipated, on the average, by 35% of the Europeans, whereas [40] in:

- Estonia – 42%;
- Lithuania – 40%;
- Latvia – about 33% (*less than the average of the Europeans only in Latvia – 35 %*).

The data provided are subjective, but these documents reflect the tendencies of separate states of the Baltic Sea region and of the development of societies, which make an effect on the economic and national security of regional cooperation [26].

National security is the basis of regional security cooperation, which must ensure the positive social environment inside and outside the state.

4. Strategic survey of social environment for security cooperation

Under the conditions of globalization, political and economic factors make a decisive impact on social factors, which form the social environment of the life of people in a separate state in time and place [17].

During survey, conducted in 2000–2005, in the Baltic Sea region states (*in Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Latvia, and Estonia*) and the countries of the East block (*in Belarus and Russia*) in all the mentioned states under the conditions of globalization five tendencies, analogous for the 21st century, are established that [26]:

- Political factors have a direct impact on economic factors.
- Economic factors affect directly political factors.

- Social factors are remote from political factors and have an insignificant influence on social factors.
- Economic factors exert a negative effect on social factors.
- Social factors are remote from economic factors and have an insignificant influence on economic factors.

Research methods are based on the real results of the development of political, economic and social factors [17]:

- Political environment was evaluated according to the conformity of normative acts to the development of progress and democracy in time and space (*Strategic survey of the political environment of security cooperation*).
- Economic environment was evaluated according to macroeconomic, microeconomic indicators in time and space (*Strategic survey of the economic environment of security cooperation*).
- Social environment was evaluated according to the criteria of social factors, normatives, results in time and space.

Criterion is a unit of measurement (*existing in kind, money and mixed*).

Normative is the measurable size of the optimum activity result in the fixed time and place, which can be really achieved, but no opportunities exist for exceeding it (*according to the activity optimization methodology, methods and the 21st century management methods in an organization*).

Result is the work performed per time unit.

During research it was established that in all the states the real calculation of normatives of human activity does not ensure methodics and methods for optimization of the activities in separate organizations, and evaluation of real results is approximate and thus their comparison between the states, in the Baltic Sea region, the EU, and in the world does not comply with the reality of the social environment of the life of people in the fixed time and space [17].

It would be necessary to agree that the system of evaluation of the social environment of the life of people would be comprised of the five key indicators [17]:

- Standard-of-living index.
- Unemployment rate.
- Poverty level rate.
- Rate of satisfaction in life (*political, economic, and social environment*) of people.

- Human life universal quality rate.

Other indicators of the social environment of society and the state remain for calculation of the key indicators, then we could compare more precisely the vectors of changes in the human life private security in the social environment in the 21st century in the fixed time and fixed place. Such calculation results, probably, would form the information data bank for forecast of the vectors of political and economic changes in a separate state, the Baltic Sea region, the EU, between West–East and East–West in the world community [26].

We shall characterize the methods for calculation of the key indicators for evaluation of the social environmental factors [17].

Standard-of-living index is a measurable value when the average net income per capita in the country is divided by the average real consumption normative per capita in the country in the fixed time.

Unemployment rate is a measurable value when a real number of the unemployed is divided by the real (*entitled to work*) normative of human resources in the fixed time.

Poverty level rate is a measurable value when the number of the population of the country living below poverty level is divided by the real number of the population of the country in the fixed time.

In the world, however, no uniform agreement exists what poverty level is and how its indicator (*value*) is measured, and therefore it is necessary to acknowledge that poverty level in a separate state is the real index of life level of people equaling the unit in the fixed time (*then the capital accumulation function in the life of man is equal to zero*) [17].

Rate of satisfaction in life of people is a measurable value when the real number of people in the country dissatisfied with life is divided by the real number of the population of the country in the fixed time.

Human life universal quality rate is a measurable value when the real indicator (*indicators*) of life quality of people is divided by its normative (*their normatives*) in the fixed time. Human life universal quality indicator is an integral indicator which is constituted of the sequence of indicators for evaluation of political, economic and social environmental factors of the state, subdivided into two main groups [17]:

- ✓ According to the environment of man.
- ✓ According to the environment of society.

According to the environment of man, five key groups of indicators are distinguished [26]:

- Labour values (*criteria of satisfaction with work*).
- Family values (*criteria of satisfaction with life*).
- Life infrastructure values (*communications, roads, transport, landscape, servicing, education, culture, cooperation, informativeness, other criteria*).
- Moral values (*feeling of happiness, behaviour, belief, other criteria*).
- Heritage and accumulation values (*transfer of family heritage, capital accumulation and development: increase of reduction criteria*).

According to the environment of society, three key groups of indicators are distinguished:

- Political values (*Strategic review of the political environment of security cooperation*).
- Economic values (*Strategic review of the economic environment of security cooperation*).
- Social values (*Strategic review of the social environment of security cooperation*).

Key indicators for evaluation of social environmental factors cover changes in the development of political, economic and social environment in time and space. These indicators are common in forecasting of the vectors of development of global economy of the world, macro- and microsystems (*where man works and lives*), namely: to establish internal and external threats to security cooperation of a separate state in time and space (*the Baltic Sea region, the EU, and the world*) [26].

It may be stressed that external threats to global economy, security cooperation of West–East and East–West, the EU and Baltic Sea region in Lithuania permanently increase internal threats to national security (*the population of Lithuania numbers 3.6 million or 2.35% in the Baltic Sea region and 0.78% in the EU*). The EU territory, however, in the East borders Russia (*population amounting to 143.8 million*) and Belarus (*population of 10.3 million*), therefore social factors are formed in the sphere cooperation, which the EU in the Baltic Sea region constitutes 152.10 million people (*excluding the Kaliningrad region, a constituent part of the Russian Federation*), and in the East 153.9 million of people with political, economic and social interests [26].

Research data show in the Baltic Sea region the geopolitical interests of security cooperation in the world, as well as the importance of Lithuanian national security in the Baltic Sea region for strengthening of security cooperation in the direction of West–East and

East–West. National security, however, should ensure the positive development of the factors of social environment in the life of people, and therefore it is necessary to balance the factors of political and economic environment, which would make a positive impact on social factors in Lithuania and the Baltic Sea region [26].

The United Nations experts forecast that in 2050 Lithuania will have the population of 2.5 million, Latvia – 1.6 million, Estonia – 0.75 million (*in total: 4.85 million., it will reduce by 34.5 %*). These forecasts may become proved, since about 0.4 million young people emigrated from Lithuania in 1992–2004, and in 2005 this emigration goes on increasing [33].

Statistical data confirm that in separate states political-economic factors are constantly moving away from social factors, as a result of which in the world in the 21st century security cooperation of people will be very vulnerable and special attention should be devoted to the strengthening of national, regional, continental and global security.

5. Conclusions

Research factors of regional security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region under conditions of Lithuania's integration into the EU and NATO revealed wide opportunities for comprehensive analysis of external and internal threats to national security as well as for evaluation of the impact of the changes of political, economic and social factors on the geopolitical environment of Lithuania in time and space. Conclusions are based on the methodological principles in investigating external and internal threats to regional security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region, methodics and methods of their implementation.

1. **Political factors** affect directly economic factors, on the developmental processes of which the weakening of external and internal threats to national security is dependent.
2. **Economic factors** are remote from developmental tendencies of social factors, due to which external and internal threats to national security are strengthening.
3. **Social factors** have an insignificant influence on developmental processes of political factors, due to which a considerable gap exists from developmental tendencies of economic factors.
4. **It is the harmonization** of the development of political, economic and social factors that will assure the balanced development of the state and society under conditions of Lithuania's

integration into the EU and NATO.

5. **Integration** into the EU and NATO creates positive conditions for strengthening regional cooperation security in time and space (*in Lithuania, the Baltic Sea region, the EU, between the East–West and the West–East, in the world*).

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