

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS

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WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM 2026

The global economic system is undergoing structural and institutional transformations driven by technological advances, the intensification of sustainable development challenges, and increasing energy and geopolitical instability. In this context, research into the mechanisms of influence of supranational platforms on the formation of states' macroeconomic policies becomes especially relevant, particularly the role of the World Economic Forum as a catalyst for structural reforms. The study is based on the hypothesis that the World Economic Forum functions as an institution of global macroeconomic transformation, whose influence varies depending on the direction of transformation and

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ВСЕСВІТНІЙ ЕКОНОМІЧНИЙ ФОРУМ 2026

Глобальна економічна система переживає структурно-інституційні трансформації, зумовлені технологічними зрушеннями, загостренням викликів сталого розвитку, посиленням енергетичної та геополітичної нестабільності. У цих умовах набуває актуальності дослідження механізмів впливу наднаціональних платформ на формування макроекономічної політики держав, зокрема ролі Всесвітнього економічного форуму як каталізатора структурних реформ. Дослідження ґрунтується на гіпотезі про те, що Всесвітній економічний форум функціонує як інститут глобальної макроекономічної трансформації, вплив якого є диференційованим залежно від вектора трансформації й інституційного статусу країни в



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a country's institutional status within the system of supranational associations. The methodological basis of the study comprises the concepts of institutional isomorphism, diffusion policies, and varieties of capitalism. To achieve the objective, systemic, institutional, and index methods were applied, as well as content analysis of World Economic Forum reports. Based on the study's findings, theoretical approaches to analysing the normative influence of the World Economic Forum, which is realized through the formation of epistemic communities, the ranking of national economies, and soft power mechanisms have been systematized. Three key vectors of macroeconomic transformation have been identified: competitiveness, digitalization, and the energy transition, and their systemic interrelationship has been characterized. Using the example of the countries of the Lublin Triangle, it has been established that the trajectories of the Energy Transition Index for Poland and Lithuania are predominantly upward, while Ukraine demonstrates volatile dynamics due to the destruction of its energy infrastructure amid the war. The proposed hypothesis has been confirmed: Ukraine's acquisition of candidate status for European Union membership creates synergy between the World Economic Forum's normative benchmarks and the requirements of European integration, reinforcing transformational impulses. A scientific novelty is the author's Macroeconomic Policy Coherence Index, which enables a quantitative assessment of the alignment of national economic policy with the recommendations of the World Economic Forum. The practical value of the results lies in their applicability by government authorities for monitoring and justifying the strategic reform priorities. Prospects for further research are associated with the empirical testing of the proposed index and an in-depth analysis of the energy transition in the context of Ukraine's post-war recovery.

Keywords: transformation, competitiveness, economic policy, energy transition, digitalization.

JEL Classification: F02, F15, O43, P52, E61.

Introduction

The global economic system at the current stage of social development is characterized by structural and institutional transformations caused by technological shifts, the aggravation of sustainable development challenges, and increased energy and geopolitical instability. The described processes necessitate a scientific rethinking of conceptual approaches to assessing macroeconomic policy. In this context, the analysis of the mechanisms

системі наднаціональних об'єднань. Методологічну основу дослідження становлять концепції інституційного ізоморфізму, політики поширення та різновидів капіталізму. Для досягнення мети застосовано системний, інституційний та індексний методи, а також контент-аналіз доповідей Всесвітнього економічного форуму. За результатами дослідження систематизовано теоретичні підходи до аналізу нормативного впливу Всесвітнього економічного форуму, який реалізується через формування епістемічних спільнот, рейтингування національних економік та механізми м'якої сили. Ідентифіковано три ключові вектори макроекономічної трансформації: конкурентоспроможність, цифровізацію й енергетичний перехід, охарактеризовано їхній системний взаємозв'язок. На прикладі країн Люблінського трикутника встановлено, що траєкторії Індексу енергетичного переходу Польщі та Литви є переважно висхідними, тоді як Україна демонструє волатильну динаміку внаслідок руйнування енергетичної інфраструктури в умовах війни. Висунута гіпотеза підтвердилася: набуття Україною статусу кандидата на членство в Європейському Союзі створює синергію між нормативними орієнтирами Всесвітнього економічного форуму та вимогами євроінтеграційної зумовленості, підсилюючи трансформаційні імпульси. Науковою новизною є авторський Індекс узгодженості макроекономічної політики, що уможливорює кількісне оцінювання відповідності національної економічної політики рекомендаціям Всесвітнього економічного форуму. Практична цінність результатів полягає у можливості їх застосування органами державного управління для моніторингу та обґрунтування стратегічних пріоритетів реформ. Перспективи подальших досліджень пов'язані з емпіричною апробацією запропонованого індексу та поглибленим аналізом енергетичного переходу в контексті повоєнного відновлення України.

Ключові слова: трансформація, конкурентоспроможність, економічна політика, енергетичний перехід, цифровізація.

through which supranational institutions, in particular the WEF, influence macroeconomic transformations becomes especially important.

Simmons et al. (2008) argue that macroeconomic transformations are determined not only by the decisions of national governmental institutions but also by the deliberate influence of international organizations, transnational networks of experts, and the mechanism of reform diffusion. The mentioned approach forms the conceptual basis for analysing the impact of the WEF on the transformation of socio-economic systems.

Beckert (2010), rethinking the concept of institutional isomorphism, argues that the mechanisms of institutional homogenization can equally produce both convergence and divergence depending on the configuration of the economic environment, which explains different trajectories of macroeconomic transformations as reactions to WEF recommendations in different countries. This allows interpreting the influence of the WEF not as uniform, but as a contextually conditioned process.

Susskind and Vines (2024) argue that the modern system of international economic coordination is experiencing a structural crisis due to the rise of economic nationalism and the devaluation of liberal internationalism, which significantly reduces the effectiveness of the normative influence of international platforms. In view of these challenges, the effectiveness of the WEF's normative influence should be considered in the broader context of the transformation of the global economic order.

Hurrell (2024) emphasizes that geopolitical fragmentation significantly complicates the normative influence of non-state institutions on the economic policy of states, although it does not eliminate it.

Ikenberry (2024) focuses on a process-oriented approach to the transformation of the liberal international order, strengthening the role of alternative mechanisms of global governance in conditions of geopolitical instability. In these conditions, the importance of flexible and informal coordination mechanisms, including the WEF, increases.

Rodrik and Walt (2024) justify the concept of a "meta-regime" as an alternative architecture of global cooperation that ensures the coordination of states' economic policies without unifying their national interests and value orientations. Conceptually, this brings the WEF closer to coordination formats that do not imply rigid institutional unification.

Draghi's report on the future of European competitiveness notes the insufficient level of EU macroeconomic transformations in the areas of digitalization, energy transition, and human development, and substantiates the need for structural reforms (Draghi, 2024).

The purpose of the article is to develop theoretical provisions and practical recommendations aimed at improving the informational and methodological support for the analysis of vectors of macroeconomic transformation in the context of WEF recommendations. Achieving the stated goal involves solving specific tasks:

- systematize conceptual approaches to analysing the impact of the WEF on macroeconomic policy;

- identify and characterize the key vectors of macroeconomic transformation that correlate with the WEF's recommendations;
- justify conceptual approaches to assessing the compliance of changes in macroeconomic policy with the WEF's recommendations;

The study is based on the hypothesis that the WEF functions as an institution of global macroeconomic transformation, whose influence on the economic policy of states is differentiated depending on the vector of transformation and the institutional status of a country within the system of supranational associations.

The methodological basis of the study consists of the works of leading scholars in the field of macroeconomic policy. The reliability of the scientific results is ensured by the application of general scientific and special methods of cognition: systemic (for revealing the mechanisms of the influence of WEF on the macroeconomic policy of states); institutional (for assessing the interaction between the processes of European integration and WEF guidelines); index (for constructing an integral indicator of the consistency of macroeconomic policy); content analysis (for typifying WEF guidelines according to the key vectors of macroeconomic transformations).

The limitations of the study are due to the specificity of methodological approaches used by different institutions, the frequency of updates, and the degree of data aggregation for conducting a comparative analysis of macroeconomic transformations.

The prospects of further scientific developments are related to the study of the energy transition as a factor of macroeconomic transformation.

The main part of the article consists of three sections: institutional foundations of macroeconomic transformation; key vectors of macroeconomic transformation; conceptual approaches to the analysis of macroeconomic policy consistency.

1. Institutional foundations of macroeconomic transformation

The WEF was founded in 1971 as a non-profit foundation with a defined vision of rethinking the role of business in the development of society. Subsequently, the WEF underwent an institutional transformation from a regional discussion platform to a global platform for multilateral interaction, consolidating representatives of business, governments, international organizations, civil society, and the academic community. (WEF, n. d. a).

The theoretical foundation of the analysis of macroeconomic transformations is built at the intersection of a triad of scientific concepts:

I. The concept of "*institutional isomorphism*" explains the logic by which international organizations develop mechanisms of institutional practices of macroeconomic regulation through coercive, mimetic, and normative pressure (DiMaggio & Powell, 1983). According to the outlined

approach, the WEF positions itself as a developer of "best practice" standards in the field of macroeconomic policy.

II. The concept of "*policy diffusion*" (Shipan & Volden, 2023) identifies key mechanisms of reform dissemination such as coercion, competition, learning, and emulation, which allows for the identification of the implementation of the WEF's recommended toolkit along the relevant vectors of macroeconomic transformation (Simmons et al., 2008).

III. The concept of "*Varieties of Capitalism*" explains the structural differences in the responsiveness of different types of market economies to external imperative signals, which is critically important for the comparative analysis of the directions of economic macroeconomic policy (Hall & Soskice, 2001).

In connection with the growing critical assessments of the effectiveness of the functioning of traditional interstate institutions for coordinating economic development, in particular the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Group of Twenty (G20) (Susskind & Vines, 2024), the need to form a new global order based on "meta-regimes" of communication and interaction is becoming increasingly important (Rodrik & Walt, 2024).

Under such conditions, the analysis of the functioning of the WEF as an institutional platform, which determines the key directions of macroeconomic transformation, becomes particularly significant. In conditions of macroeconomic instability, it is precisely the WEF that establishes itself as an influential institution, whose guidelines shape the priorities of macroeconomic policy of states. The mission of the WEF is defined as "Improve the state of the world through public-private cooperation" and is realized through the consolidation of interaction in the areas of economic growth, resilience, and innovation, as well as the coordination of actions regarding key global challenges of macroeconomic instability. (WEF, n. d. b).

The strategizing of WEF activities was largely based on the concept of stakeholder capitalism by Schwab (Schwab & Vanham, 2021), according to which the responsibility of corporations goes beyond the interests of shareholders and extends to society. This concept positions the WEF as an actor in global macroeconomic policy (WEF, 2023, September 6). At the same time, its institutional status remains a subject of scientific debate: researchers note an ambivalence between the significant influence of the WEF, which is implemented through the consolidation of the ideas of interested parties, analytical activities, and public-private interaction mechanisms, and the lack of formal accountability mechanisms (McNeill, 2023).

The WEF 2026 in Davos witnessed the expansion of institutional functions beyond the analytical-recommendatory mandate: within the framework of the 56th annual meeting, for the first time during the period of Russia's full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine, negotiations took place between the presidents of Ukraine and the USA regarding the initiation of peace consultations (WEF, 2026, January 29).

At the same time, the institutional potential of the WEF in the context of Ukraine's post-war recovery remains structurally limited by its normative, rather than coercive, nature of influence. The WEF can strengthen reformist impulses through rating mechanisms and network cooperation, but it cannot replace European integration as the primary determinant of macroeconomic transformation. A conceptual analysis of the WEF's role in transforming state strategies involves studying a multi-level system of instruments.

Unlike the IMF or the World Bank, the WEF does not apply conditional mechanisms for compliance with recommendations, as it does not provide funding and does not impose mandatory requirements. The influence of the WEF is primarily normative in nature and is implemented through key vectors of macroeconomic transformations that correspond to the typology of isomorphic pressure (DiMaggio & Powell, 1983).

The regulatory toolkit of macroeconomic transformations lies in the formation of epistemic communities (Haas, 1992). In the context of our study, this means that systematic business meetings in Davos contribute to the development of shared norms, values, and standards of behaviour, the consolidation of the interests of political, business, and academic elites, as well as the development of global networks for the dissemination of WEF economic ideas.

The toolkit for emulating best practices in competitiveness management is implemented through the ranking of national economies using appropriate indicators, in particular the Global Competitiveness Index, published by the WEF from 1979 to 2019–2020, (WEF, 2019; WEF, 2020) and the Future of Growth Index, published since 2024 (WEF, 2024, January), which encourage national governments to analyse, adopt, and adapt the economic policy tools of leading countries in order to improve their own positions in global rankings.

The toolkit of soft power has an indirect character and is implemented through institutional interaction between WEF recommendations and the requirements of European integration policy. The implementation of relevant reforms is driven not by direct pressure from the WEF, but by the alignment of its normative guidelines with the formalized requirements of integration processes, creating a mutually reinforcing effect and increasing the likelihood of their incorporation into national policies. Such a mechanism aligns with Nye's approach (2004), which defines "soft power" as the ability to achieve desired outcomes through attraction and shaping preferences, rather than through coercion.

Schimmelfennig (2005), studying the European integration processes in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, proves that a high and credible prospect of EU membership, combined with low adaptation costs, is a sufficient condition for fulfilling external regulatory requirements.

Global Cooperation Barometer, prepared jointly by the WEF and McKinsey & Company, records an increase in the fragmentation of global

cooperation, while the WEF mechanism becomes more complicated in the context of geopolitical turbulence, which increases the normative value of the WEF as a coordination platform amid the devaluation of traditional mechanisms of international interaction (WEF, 2025, January).

The implementation of WEF recommendations into the national economic system corresponds to the mechanisms of state policy diffusion (Simmons et al., 2008). In particular, the coercion mechanism is minimal and indirect, while the determining role is played by competition (for investments and positions in international rankings), learning (through the exchange of best practices) and emulation (imitating successful development models).

The conceptual scheme of the institutional foundations of macroeconomic transformation under the influence of the WEF is summarized in *Figure 1*.

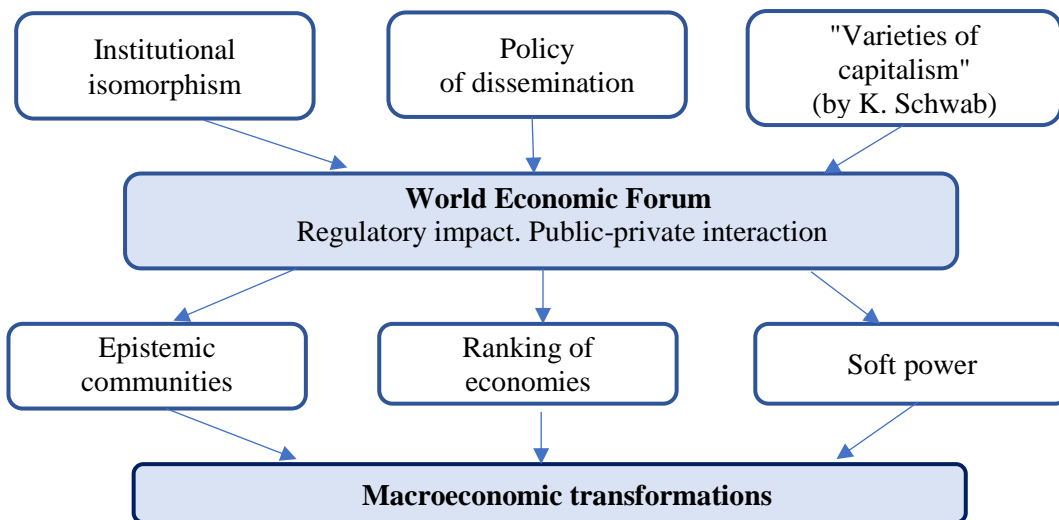


Figure 1. WEF as institutional platform for macroeconomic transformations

Source: developed by authors.

Therefore, the WEF functions as a supranational institutional platform that exerts regulatory influence on the macroeconomic policy of countries through rating mechanisms, the formation of epistemic communities, and soft power.

2. Key vectors of macroeconomic transformation

The content analysis of reports and analytical briefs from the WEF (WEF, 2019; WEF, 2023, January; WEF, 2023, June; WEF, 2024, January; WEF, 2025, June; WEF, 2025, January) allows for the identification of key vectors of macroeconomic transformation that shape the current agenda of global economic development. The structuring of these vectors reflects a shift in emphasis from traditional factors of economic growth to complex development models of intricate socio-economic systems.

The founder of the WEF, Schwab (2016), considers the Fourth industrial revolution as a fusion of technologies of physical, digital, and biological worlds, which transforms not only production processes but also the fundamental principles of the functioning of the economy and the state.

The annual WEF reports Global Competitiveness Report during 1979–2019 formed the factual basis for analysing the competitiveness of national economies. The final 2019 edition presented the economic situation of 141 countries, and the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) provided the informational foundation for comparative analysis of countries based on the system of structural-institutional determinants of their economic development (WEF, 2019). The evolution of the WEF's conceptual approaches to assessing macroeconomic transformations along the competitiveness vector was reflected in the publications Future of Growth Report 2024 (WEF, 2024, January) and Global economic futures: Competitiveness in 2030 (WEF, 2025, June).

The competitiveness vector is transversal: it encompasses recommendations on deregulation, anti-corruption reforms, the development of human capital, and innovative ecosystems. It is competitiveness, in the extended interpretation of the WEF, that is the integral indicator of macroeconomic transformation (WEF, 2024, January; WEF, 2025, June).

An analysis of the vectors of macroeconomic transformation indicates a change in approaches to assessing national competitiveness, in particular, it refers to the country's ability to "maintain stable positions in certain segments of the global market due to significant economic potential, stable GDP growth on an innovative basis, a developed system of market institutions, possession of intellectual capital and investment resources, a flexible system for responding to changes in the world market situation, and diversification of the national economy" (Umantsiv & Zolina, 2022).

The regional vector of macroeconomic transformation involves the decomposition of the global WEF benchmarks to the level of territorial systems. In this regard, the spatial disparities in the development of the Lublin Triangle countries through the stimulation of regional competitiveness are highlighted in the work "Stimulation of Regional Competitiveness" (Humeniuk & Betlej, 2025). The mentioned approach allows for identifying the specifics of transformational processes taking into account the potential of cross-border cooperation between Ukraine, Poland, and Lithuania.

The institutional basis of the vector of digitalization of national economies is formed by the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which functions as a global platform for technological governance of the WEF (WEF, 2017), the analytical reflection of which is the Digital Transition Framework – a framework document that determines the strategic priorities of digital transformation for governments and businesses in the context of macroeconomic dynamics (WEF, 2023, January).

In this context, one of the basic vectors of macroeconomic transformation is digitalization, which encompasses recommendations for the development of digital infrastructure, the implementation of artificial intelligence in public administration, the formation of digital skills of the workforce, and the regulation of digital markets.

Justifying the strategic significance of the outlined processes, Herasymenko (2025) notes that it is precisely digitalization that is the key trend of changes in contemporary history: "Increasing data accessibility, the growth of information circulation speed, the spread of digital goods – all these changes have had a fundamental impact on the development of society, creating new markets and changing the competitive landscape in existing ones by altering typical business models."

Accordingly, the Digital Transition Framework systematizes key recommendations for the digitalization of socio-economic systems as a comprehensive framework strategy for governments and businesses, aimed at achieving digital transition goals under conditions of macroeconomic instability through mechanisms of public-private cooperation (WEF, 2023, January).

The level of digital transformation in EU countries and Ukraine is assessed using various institutional and methodological approaches. In particular, the EU digital transformation framework applies an integrated indicator, the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI), which aggregates indicators of digital infrastructure, human capital, internet usage, the integration of digital technologies in business, and the development of digital public services (European Commission, n. d.).

Ukraine applies adapted tools for assessing the digital development of the national economy, in particular the Regional Digital Transformation Index, which is based on the assessment of institutional capacity, digitization of public services, and the development of digital infrastructure (Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, 2026, April 6). Thus, the specifics of indicative systems reflect the differentiation of institutional integration into the EU digital space and the different architecture of measuring digital transformation.

The energy transition vector is presented in the annual WEF report "Fostering Effective Energy Transition" and the corresponding index Energy Transition Index (ETI). This toolkit allows for the evaluation of national economies according to the system of indicators of the efficiency of energy systems and their readiness to transition to renewable sources (WEF, 2021).

The factual basis for assessing energy systems is formed by the report "Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2025" (WEF, 2025). The use of the interactive tool Country Dashboard (WEF, 2025, June 18), makes it possible to verify the static index values and the intensity of their dynamics using the example of the countries of the Lublin Triangle (*Table 1*).

Table 1

Energy transition index of the Lublin triangle countries in dynamics for 2020–2024

Country	Values of ETI (0–100) for the respective years and its chain growth / decrease rates, %								
	2020 ETI	2021		2022		2023		2024	
		ETI	%	ETI	%	ETI	%	ETI	%
Poland	55.0	57.6	4.73	59.4	+3.13	59.3	-0.17	61.3	+3.37
Lithuania	59.5	60.8	2.18	62.3	+2.47	61.4	-1.44	65.7	+7.00
Ukraine	56.7	56.7	0.00	58.8	+3.70	55.3	-5.95	56.2	+1.63

Source: systematized and calculated by the authors based on WEF data.

Taking into account the WEF methodology, the dynamics of the ETI reflects the degree of coherence of key components such as Energy Security, Environmental Sustainability and Energy Equity. Poland and Lithuania generally show an upward trajectory of the ETI, indicating a gradual strengthening of the institutional capacity to ensure the balanced development of energy systems, although this dynamic is uneven; in particular, the decline of the ETI in 2023 reflects the impact of exogenous shocks. According to *Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2024*, the increase in energy security risks has led to the prioritization of energy supply stability, which in some cases was achieved by reducing indicators of environmental sustainability and economic energy affordability, as well as intensifying the use of fossil resources (WEF, 2024, June).

Ukraine is characterized by a more volatile ETI trajectory, where the 5.95% decline in 2023 reflects a critical weakening of the Energy Security component in the context of the war with Russia, particularly due to the destruction of energy infrastructure, which has shifted priorities from long-term energy transition to ensuring the basic resilience of the energy system's functioning.

The institutional foundation for implementing the trajectory of post-war recovery and modernization of Ukraine's energy sector is the "Strategic Orientations of the Ukraine Investment Framework", which determines the priorities of investment support aimed at revitalizing the infrastructure damaged by Russia and strengthening the resilience of our country's energy system. (European Commission, 2025).

The identified features of the energy transition indicate that its implementation depends on the ability of national economies to maintain a balance between the key components of the ETI under external shocks.

The implementation of the energy transition vector is associated with new challenges in the Middle East amid geopolitical turbulence in 2026. An armed conflict between the USA, Israel, and Iran, and the subsequent blockade of the Strait of Hormuz as a transit corridor through which 25% of the world's seaborne oil trade and about 20% of liquefied natural gas trade pass, have caused a threat to global energy security. WEF analysts noted a

systemic paradox: despite increasing geopolitical fragmentation, the global energy system remains deeply integrated, resulting in disruptions in one region resonating instantly in global markets, while transit routes turn into instruments of geopolitical pressure. (WEF, 2026, April).

The events around the Strait of Hormuz in 2026 caused a chain institutional reaction, representing the depth of contradictions between the national interests of countries and the goals of global macroeconomic coordination of the world order. In order to stabilize the global oil market, the Trump administration temporarily eased sanctions on Russian oil. The positive financial effect of this decision in favour of Russia, which "does not contribute to peace," was estimated at 10 billion USD. (PBS News, 2026, March 13).

On April 28, 2026, the UAE announced its exit from OPEC and OPEC+ (Bloomberg, 2026). This precedent indicates the growing role of flexible platforms, in particular the WEF, in the context of the devaluation of the influence of traditional institutions of collective energy market regulation.

The processes observed in the Middle East are empirical evidence that, in conditions of geopolitical shocks, short-term national imperatives of energy security systematically prevail over long-term goals of the energy transition and mechanisms of global coordination.

Based on a comparative analysis of Central and Eastern European countries, László (2025) proves that the trajectories of macroeconomic convergence of post-socialist economies are significantly determined by their institutional status in relation to the EU, since full membership generates qualitatively different transformational impulses compared to the status of a candidate or associated partner.

Ukraine's acquisition of candidate status for EU membership (European Council, 2022) and the introduction of the Ukraine Facility 2024–2027 (European Commission, 2025) created a unique macroeconomic conjuncture, in which the vector of European integration-oriented determination (ISPI, 2024) in such important areas as digitalization, the energy transition, and institutional reforms is conceptually aligned with the regulatory agenda of the WEF.

Thus, the institutional status of countries in the European integration system determines the differentiation of macroeconomic convergence trajectories. For Ukraine, the synergy of key vectors of macroeconomic transformation will have a significant strategic importance in the context of post-war recovery; it also ensures the coherence of WEF regulatory benchmarks with the requirements of the European integration process and creates opportunities to improve the effectiveness of macroeconomic policy.

3. Conceptual approaches to the analysis of the consistency of macroeconomic policy

3.1. Institutional constraints on the influence of the WEF

The limits of the regulatory influence of the WEF are determined by its structural inability to replace formalized mechanisms of international economic coordination, which are based on intergovernmental agreements

and institutionally established decision-making procedures. Under such conditions, the strengthening of the fragmentation of the global economic order and the devaluation of the principles of liberal internationalism systematically reduce the effectiveness of the normative influence of non-state communication platforms, limiting their ability to form universal benchmarks for economic policy (Susskind & Vines, 2024). At the same time, the need for alternative models of global cooperation is actualized, which ensures the coordination of states' economic policies without their unification and the levelling of national institutional and strategic interests, which emphasizes the growing role of differentiated models of international interaction (Rodrik & Walt, 2024).

An additional institutional constraint is the problem of the democratic legitimacy of the multi-stakeholder WEF model, which involves engaging representatives of business, governments, the academic environment, and public organizations in global economic dialogue processes outside of formalized intergovernmental decision-making mechanisms. Such a governance configuration causes scientific debates regarding the degree of its institutional accountability and representativeness. In particular, the Transnational Institute critically assesses this model as an attempt to partially replace the intergovernmental decision-making process with a system of self-selected global elites operating outside traditional mechanisms of democratic control and accountability (Transnational Institute, 2016). This creates an additional level of conceptual tension around the role of the WEF in global economic governance, intensifying the debate over the normative status of its recommendations within the framework of contemporary macroeconomic policy.

At the same time, countries with a transformational economy form a specific institutional environment in which processes of structural economic restructuring, institutional modernization, and European integration adaptation are combined. Within this space, Central and Eastern European countries occupy a special place, as they are characterized by an increased level of security risks due to Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine. Under such circumstances, a specific institutional environment is formed, in which macroeconomic and structural transformations occur under the influence of external shocks and heightened dependence on international coordination mechanisms. This determines the differentiated nature of the response of these countries to the impulses of international institutions, especially in the areas of economic policy reform, energy security, and institutional adaptation (Humeniuk, 2025).

The need to take into account increased security risks reinforces the role of external integration mechanisms in determining national development priorities. In the context of the dominance of the European integration vector for Ukraine, the prioritization of reforms is primarily determined by EU requirements. Accordingly, WEF recommendations regarding digitalization (Digital Transition Framework) are implemented by central executive

authorities to the extent that they align with the objectives of forming a Single EU Digital Market. The implementation of relevant transformational measures is carried out within the framework of the *Ukraine Facility* software toolkit, which provides proper financial support for digital reforms (Economic Support Program, n. d.).

In this context, the WEF functions not only as a system of external determinants of macroeconomic transformation, but also as an institutional catalyst for reforms, capable of enhancing and modifying the intensity of transformational impulses depending on the configuration of the national institutional environment and its level of receptiveness to global regulatory guidelines. Such influence is predominantly indirect and is realized through the formation of interpretative and analytical frameworks within which economic and political actors make sense of global challenges. The WEF contributes to the construction of so-called "cognitive frames" ("Cognitive frames"), specific mental structures that determine the ways of perceiving and interpreting economic reality (North, 2012).

The institutional influence of the WEF on the macroeconomic policy of states is limited by the lack of formal regulatory powers and the dominance of national security and European integration priorities. The WEF does not exert a direct regulatory influence on macroeconomic policy; however, it shapes a system of analytical guidelines that indirectly determine the directions of economic decision-making at the national level.

3.2. Assessment of macroeconomic policy consistency

Assessing the consistency of macroeconomic policy with the recommendations of international institutions is an element of the analysis of structural transformations of economies during periods of institutional changes. In this context, the degree of correspondence between the strategic guidelines of economic policy and the dynamics of key macroeconomic parameters is examined.

The concept of cohesion policy is applied in the context of European integration to assess the degree of approximation of national policies in the process of institutional adaptation and implementation of reforms (Radaelli, 2003).

The OECD institutional approach to ensuring policy coherence in the interest of sustainable development defines it as the integration of policies and the minimization of conflicts between sectoral development goals (OECD, 2005).

The methodological basis of the quantitative analysis of the institutional quality of state economic regulation is formed by the Worldwide Governance Indicators, which is based on a composite approach to assessing the effectiveness of public governance and administration (Kaufmann & Kraay, 2024). Taken together, these tools create a methodological foundation for analysing the coherence of macroeconomic policy as a multidimensional process. Measuring the degree of correspondence between WEF

recommendations and changes in macroeconomic policy is an important methodological task, which necessitates the development of conceptual and methodological approaches for analysing the coherence of economic policy, which will reflect the dynamic connection between WEF normative guidelines and the corresponding macroeconomic transformations.

The conceptual basis of macroeconomic policy alignment (Macroeconomic Policy Alignment, MPA) is based on the methodology of constructing composite indices, which is carried out according to a specific algorithm (Figure 2).

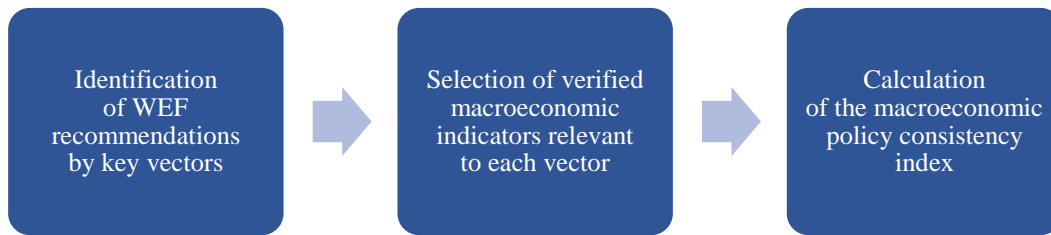


Figure 2. Algorithm of the methodology for calculating composite indices to determine the consistency of macroeconomic policy

Source: developed by the authors.

The selection of macroeconomic dynamics indicators is governed by basic criteria such as conceptual compliance with WEF recommendations according to the relevant vector; availability of data for forming the factual basis of analysis; consistency of methodological approaches to calculation for the group of countries under study.

The Macroeconomic Policy Alignment Index (*MPAI*) is based on comparing the dynamics of selected indicators of a country's economic policy with the dynamics of the WEF's strategic recommendations, which will be determined as a weighted sum of normalized coefficients of compliance of macroeconomic dynamics along key vectors of transformation:

$$MPAI_{it} = \sum_{j=1}^n w_j \cdot A(i, j, t) \quad , \quad (1)$$

where: *MPAI_{it}* – consistency index of the macroeconomic policy of country *i* in period *t*;

n – number of transformation vectors;

j – transformation vector;

w_j – the weight of the vector, which is determined based on the content analysis of the WEF recommendations;

A(i, j, t) – the coefficient of consistency of the macroeconomic policy of country *i* along vector *j* in year *t*.

Accordingly, the consistency coefficient *A_{i,j,t}* for each macroeconomic transformation vector is calculated as:

$$A_{i,j,t} = \frac{\Delta P_{i,j,t} / \sigma_j}{\Delta R_{j,t} / \sigma_{Rj}}, \quad (2)$$

where: $\Delta P_{i,j,t}$ – change of the economic policy indicator of country i in vector j between periods $t-1$ and t ; indicators are selected and, if necessary, inverted in such a way that their increase corresponds to a strengthening of consistency with WEF guidelines along vector j .

$\Delta R_{j,t}$ – change in the intensity of WEF benchmarks in vector j over the corresponding period (year), which is calculated through frequency content analysis of WEF key recommendations;

σ_j and σ_{Rj} – the standard deviation of $\Delta P(i,j,t)$ across the entire studied set of countries for the entire analysed period; σ_{Rj} – the standard deviation of $\Delta R(j,t)$ for the analysed time series, which ensures the comparability of the scales of changes between different vectors.

When $MPA_{it} > 1$ a leading correspondence is recorded; $MPA_{it} = 1$ – synchronous correspondence; $MPA_{it} < 1$ – partial correspondence: the country is developing in the outlined direction, but with less intensity; $A(i,j,t) \leq 0$ – discrepancy: the dynamics of the country's indicator is opposite or neutral regarding the WEF benchmarks.

In cases where $\Delta R(j,t) = 0$ (the intensity of WEF reference points along vector j has not changed in year t), the coefficient $A(i,j,t)$ is excluded from the calculation with the corresponding weight adjustment.

Thus, the $MPAI$ will reflect the extent to which economic policy changes are aligned with the respective vectors of transformation, recording their synchronicity, leading, lagging, or inconsistency.

The proposed methodological approach to assessing the consistency of macroeconomic policy allows linking WEF recommendations with the actual dynamics of indicators, providing comparison between countries and identifying the features of adaptation trajectories.

Conclusions

The systematization of conceptual approaches to the analysis of the WEF's influence on macroeconomic policy has proved that the theoretical foundation of the study is built at the intersection of the concepts of institutional isomorphism, spread policy, and varieties of capitalism. Unlike the IMF or the World Bank, the WEF primarily exerts normative, rather than coercive, influence through the formation of epistemic communities, the ranking of national economies, and soft power mechanisms.

Based on the results of the content analysis of WEF reports and analytical reports, a triad of key vectors of macroeconomic transformation has been identified: competitiveness, digitalization, and the energy transition. Their systemic interconnection has been established: digitalization increases productivity and competitiveness; the energy transition creates new competitive advantages and simultaneously requires institutional capacity to

manage the transformation. A comparative analysis of the energy transition vector using the example of the Lublin Triangle countries revealed that Poland and Lithuania generally demonstrate an upward trajectory in ETI, while Ukraine shows a more volatile one, with a significant decline in 2023 caused by the destruction of energy infrastructure due to Russia's armed aggression.

The scientific hypothesis underlying the study – that the WEF functions as an institution of global macroeconomic transformation, whose impact is differentiated depending on the vector of transformation and the institutional status of a country within the system of supranational associations – has been confirmed. In particular, it has been established that for candidate countries for EU membership, including Ukraine, the WEF recommendations acquire an enhanced transformational effect due to their conceptual alignment with the requirements of European integration in the areas of digitalization, energy transition, and institutional reforms. At the same time, the regulatory influence of the WEF remains secondary to euro-integration obligations and is implemented to the extent that it aligns with the formalized requirements of the EU.

The scientific novelty of the study lies in substantiating a conceptual approach to the quantitative assessment of the conformity of macroeconomic policy with WEF recommendations based on the author's Macroeconomic Policy Alignment Index (MPAI). The proposed index is defined as the weighted sum of normalized conformity coefficients for key transformation vectors and provides the possibility for comparative analysis of countries, as well as the identification of synchronicity, leading, or lagging of macroeconomic transformations relative to WEF regulatory guidelines.

As an unplanned additional result of the study, it was revealed that the WEF 2026 forum in Davos went beyond the traditional analytical-recommendatory mandate, becoming a platform for direct negotiations between the presidents of Ukraine and the United States, which attests to the transformation of the WEF's institutional functions under conditions of geopolitical instability. The results of blocking the Strait of Hormuz confirmed the fact of a systemic interdependence between geopolitical fragmentation and global energy integration. The UAE's exit from OPEC and OPEC+ is additional empirical evidence of the progressive institutional devaluation of traditional international mechanisms for coordinating energy markets.

The practical value of the obtained results lies in the possibility of their application by government authorities for monitoring the compliance of national macroeconomic policy with international standards; for substantiating the strategic priorities of reforms in the context of Ukraine's European integration course; and for increasing the efficiency of using WEF analytical tools in the process of developing and implementing post-war recovery programs.

The prospects for further scientific research are associated with the empirical testing of the proposed MPAI on a representative sample of countries, as well as with an in-depth study of the energy transition as an independent and priority vector of macroeconomic transformation in the context of Ukraine's post-war recovery and European integration.

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