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OAJI (USA) = 0.350

SOI: [1.1/TAS](#) DOI: [10.15863/TAS](#)

### International Scientific Journal Theoretical & Applied Science

p-ISSN: 2308-4944 (print) e-ISSN: 2409-0085 (online)

Year: 2021 Issue: 04 Volume: 96

Published: 31.03.2021 <http://T-Science.org>

QR – Issue



QR – Article



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## SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN SOCIETY

**Abstract:** *The social sphere is most sensitive to all changes taking place in modern society. The current stage in the development of European society is full of difficult moments associated with the need to overcome the consequences of systemic financial and economic crises, social instability and interstate contradictions. The peculiarity of the modern period is that accents of the driving forces of global processes and European integration as an integral part of them are shifting into side of the social dimension.*

**Key words:** *European Union, societies, social reform, economic reform, civil society, migration.*

**Language:** *English*

**Citation:** *Xashimova, G. X. (2021). Socio-economic trends in the development of European society. ISJ Theoretical & Applied Science, 04 (96), 8-11.*

**Soi:** <http://s-o-i.org/1.1/TAS-04-96-2> **Doi:**  <https://dx.doi.org/10.15863/TAS.2021.04.96.2>

**Scopus ASCC:** *3300.*

### Introduction

Any civilization exists due to the combination of two processes: statics and dynamics. European civilization is not an exception. On the one hand, it is the preservation of traditions, characteristic features that have developed over the centuries, and on the other, the ability to absorb the innovations introduced by time and respond to its challenges. In the context of globalization, there is a rapid change in socio-economic conditions, against the background of which society is trying to design the most comfortable and materially secure life. Crisis shocks make their own adjustments to these processes and disrupt the progressive development to which any civilized state strives. The current stage is full of difficult moments associated with the need to overcome systemic financial and economic crises, social instability and interstate contradictions. For many centuries, the states of Western Europe have played a key role in world politics, economy, science and culture. It was in Western Europe that the socio-economic structure emerged and gained strength, at the basis of which the concept of entrepreneurial initiative was laid and scientifically substantiated in conditions of free interaction of market factors.[1]

Progressive development requires, first of all, social stability, the establishment of a balance of forces and interests of individual social groups and professional categories, the achievement of compromises and the joining of efforts of actors. The peculiarity of the modern period is that the accent of the activity of the driving forces of global processes and European integration as their constituent part is shifting towards the social dimension. [2]

Political, economic and social development today are so interconnected that they cannot be considered in isolation from each other, and human capital acts as the main productive force of national wealth. The goal of socio-economic development is the formation of a socially stable society that guarantees a decent level and quality of life for the population, as well as the creation of an economy based on the latest achievements science and technology and able to provide itself with a qualified workforce engaged in motivated work. [3] Achieving such a goal requires more than just exerting strength. of the whole society, but also careful coordination of the efforts of its constituent forces, the search for new approaches and ways of solving emerging problems and overcoming difficulties, improving social and

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industrial relations and the social architecture of Europe.

The goal of socio-economic development today is the formation of a socially stable society that guarantees a decent level and quality of life for the population, as well as the creation of an economy based on the latest achievements of science and technology and capable of providing itself with a qualified workforce engaged in motivated work.[4]

States, like supranational associations such as of the European Union, to achieve this goal are developing development scheme or model in accordance with their needs and capabilities, traditions and norms. The study of such a model, critical analysis and assessment of potential, undoubtedly, are of significant scientific interest and contribute to the development of modern social theory. Today, one cannot but take into account the development trends and features of global processes by which the modern world is objectively forced to live. Any country follows the objective laws of historical development and cannot go beyond them, no matter what changes and innovations take place in the economy and politics. The main thing that should not be forgotten is the consequences of these processes for society and the individual, which is inextricably linked with the social dimension. The current stage is full of difficult moments associated with the need to get out of systemic financial and economic crises, to overcome social instability and interstate disagreements, aggravated by political contradictions. Political, economic and social development today is so interconnected and interdependent that they cannot be viewed in isolation from each other. Each stage of development opens up new opportunities and prospects. At the same time, new problems, difficulties and risks appear. The peculiarity of the modern period is that the accents and direction of the driving forces of globalization (and European integration as its component) are shifting towards the social dimension. This is one of the signs of the new. It is no coincidence that you need. Not only scientists meet in speeches, but also politicians and representatives of civil society, claiming that it is the 21st century. will pass under the sign of a social problem. However, the very concept of "social" today carries a new, broader content. It should not be forgotten that the term "social" also means "public". This goes beyond social protection and social security. On the agenda is the improvement of the social structure of society, the relationship of its various groups and strata, the problem of social partnership and the quality of life.[5]

Social development is the development of society, attempts to solve emerging problems, mobilizing all its components strength. The activities of the welfare state (and practically all European states position themselves as such) is aimed not only at helping vulnerable, offended, disadvantaged groups

of the population. The main task of the social state is to provide every member of society, every citizen with the opportunity to actively realize themselves in activities that will be aimed at the prosperity of the country and the state. The disadvantaged, political elites, business, etc. fall into the sphere of the welfare state. Unsurprisingly, the social dimension has become a subject of universal interest. Compare election programs political parties. Their social part is practically ideal for the right, left, center, which is understandable: after all, social problems affect, to one degree or another, all social groups and strata of society. Another thing is that they have different attitudes towards social policy, set different goals and have different capabilities to achieve them. The state in its actions relies on the legislative base, the existing structures of executive institutions and has significant competencies in this regard. The business community has solid financial and material resources at its disposal. Meanwhile, the third sector - civil society - is still not sufficiently organized and is, as it were, on the sidelines of economic integration, the support of any political and social transformations.

Any transformations are implemented through politics, the political will of the leaders. It is on them that fruitful management, coordination of actions, and the relationship of all actors in socio-economic development depend.[6]

The state as a governing body of society should provide for investment in human capital. After all, it is 2/3 of the social wealth. It is logical that the modern state needs to become a "state of social investment" (as E. Giddens insisted on) and help the social quality of life to turn from a burdensome factor of development into a productive factor. Socially responsible business provides an economic base and contributes to the formation of new social relations based on social partnership.

The inclusion of civil society in all the most important processes of our time as a full-fledged partner helps to form a social base. This is the same social contract that I talked about even L. Erhard, which allows you to create the so-called social balance, in which you can reach a compromise. Therefore, the socio-political and socio-psychological aspects of integration are important, relations based on trust, solidarity, social justice. Social capital, like financial capital, can and should expand. It is directly related to the presence of trust in society. Today the EU is faced with a whole host of new threats. Their reasons are different, but they all have to do with relationships between different groups in the community. I will name just a few of them:

- 1) multilevel Europe or otherwise - Europe of different speeds;
- 2) the collapse of multiculturalism;
- 3) unresolved migration problem;
- 4) the activity of nationalism and the revitalization of right-wing parties. The lack of voters'

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trust in governing institutions can significantly complicate the progressive social development and explains the emergence of many difficulties and problems. One of the ways to overcome them can be a real combination of civil dialogue with social and political dialogue, which, in turn, is unthinkable without changing the mentality of civil society as a whole. We have to admit that social integration lags far behind the integration of economic and financial. The goal of the EU - building a "Europe of citizens" and a common social space, remains at the level of slogans.[7]

The future and effectiveness of social inclusion within the framework.

The EU is linked to the European Social Model (ESM) and in depend a lot on her ability to justify transformations both structural and meaningful in accordance with the challenges of the time. It can be stated that the ESM is really not something frozen and has been in the process of improvement and reform for more than a decade. A special international expert group on the ESM has been established. The EU's slogan "Unity in Diversity" is reflected in the existence of national versions of this model, which take into account the national characteristics and specificity of a particular country. At the same time, the basic principles on which the ESM is based (social solidarity, support for a competitive economy, the ability to live in an environmentally friendly climate, respect for human rights and democratic freedoms) remain generally recognized and, perhaps, hardly anyone in the European Union can put questioned them.

Social policy is an integral part of any state economical policy. Each state implements it depending on the level of socio-economic development and position in the international arena. The adoption of a social strategy and, of course, its implementation is a higher stage in the development of society, an indicator of its capabilities and influence. Moreover, we are not talking about skillful maneuvering of states in settling acute social problems generated by difficulties in economic and political life, in the name of preserving social stability.[8]

On the agenda is the need to create a long-term strategy for the development of society, which would be able not only to solve emerging problems, but also to foresee and prevent their occurrence. The European Union is far away has gone ahead in the field of social protection of the population, has its own "Social core" that allows you to overcome many difficulties. The European Social Model Serves Others countries and regions as a model and source of useful experience.

Our reasoning about the new directions of European social policy is in many respects consonant with the ideas set out in the relevant sections of the Lisbon Treaty.(the new constitutional treaty of the EU) First, if we generalize them, the main thing is that the social market economy in Europe is designed to

create conditions for sustainable development, implying a balance between the economic, social and environmental spheres of society.

Secondly, we note the growing importance of social dialogue, in which trade unions and non-governmental organizations are involved. Social dialogue is becoming a constitutional element of the European Union, and social tripartite summits are mandatory.

Third, the Charter of Fundamental Human Rights is included in the text

Agreement as an integral part of it. Thus, European law takes precedence over national law. In practical life, when resolving social conflicts, contradictions, we must now proceed from the primacy of European law.

Fourthly, in my opinion, the Lisbon Treaty crossed the boundaries of the so-called "open method of coordination" in social policy, which exhausted itself long ago and discovered her new horizons. I mean the need to develop new social indicators, a kind of target indicators that determine the prospects for the development of our society. The Lisbon Treaty gives us clear signals that a new approach to measuring social progress is needed.[9]

When we talk about trilateral summits, social dialogue, indicators, this means that the policy goes to foreground. After all, the decision to introduce new indicators is always preceded by a political agreement. For example, the introduction of such a universal indicator as the gross product (GDP) was based on the corresponding ideas and agreements that emerged after the end of the Second World War. Currently, we need to switch to new development scenarios that will help find a way out of the current difficulties based not so much on quantitative indicators of well-being, as on its qualitative parameters.

If we are talking about a socially oriented market economy, it is necessary today to focus our efforts on promoting the ideas of the quality of development, in which the state and the public sector of the economy will find a new balance with the private sector. The main point, in my opinion, is to shift the emphasis from private consumption to public consumption with the help of an updated taxation system.

Speaking about modern social policy, of course, it is impossible not to mention one more important factor - globalization. It is still not completely clear: is globalization order or chaos? If we believe that order, then it presupposes the existence of rules and actors. Perhaps globalization is chaos and lack of order, a kind of collision of interests of real players?

In parallel with EU activities aimed at promoting social inclusion and achieving the EU average European social model, another important process influencing the social sphere. It is aimed at increasing social and environmental responsibility in business and introducing it into corporate governance practice.[9]

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In the current situation, some circumstances are reinforce the relevance of this approach to the strategic planning of the activities of large corporations. First, the last financial and economic crisis is not over yet, as its root causes have not been eliminated, which forces companies to revise and reassess development strategies and models. Secondly, there is a growing recognition of the urgency of the environmental problem, which is of a global nature, which far from all corporations take into account in their activities. Thirdly, the world economy, most of whose product is concentrated in industrialized countries, is in the stage of transition from the 5th to the 6th technical and economic structure. Technological shifts are always accompanied by major changes in the sectoral

structure of production and the social composition of society, changes in institutions, models and development strategies. The final contours of the new model have not yet been determined, but it is already clear that it should be distinguished by a greater degree of social and environmental responsibility. It is characteristic that a new concept has appeared - "capitalism based on public trust".[10]

Unlike technical and economic innovations that take place in a decentralized and autonomous manner, social innovations must be organized, because they are the result of political processes and the result of public discussions. Speculative capitalism as an idea and practice is rejected not only by the public, but also by the welfare state, but the practical mechanisms of its limitation have not yet been developed.

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