INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE CIS, THE EAEU, AND THE EU

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Abstract: The article draws attention to the institutional aspects of regional scientific and technical cooperation in the CIS, the EAEU, and the EU. The authors noted that the CIS pays close attention to the scientific and technical cooperation of the states of this union, which corresponds to the common goals and objectives of the Commonwealth established by the CIS Charter. Interaction within the CIS is carried out through its respective statutory and special bodies, and special bodies operate in order to coordinate scientific and technical cooperation: the Interstate Council for Cooperation in Scientific, Technical and Innovative Spheres and the Interstate Coordinating Council for Scientific and Technical Information. It is worth noting that the system of institutes of scientific and technical cooperation in the CIS is constantly evolving. Eurasian scientific and technological integration is being implemented slowly and fragmentarily.

Keywords: institutional aspects, EAEU, EU, Council for Scientific and Technical Information

1 Introduction

The interaction of states in the field of science and joint research is a new area of international cooperation, which occurs most intensively at the regional level. In this regard, the experience of organizations of the European and Asian regions with Russian participation seems to be useful. Scientific and technical cooperation in the modern world is becoming an integral part of interstate relations. In this regard, the legal and political lexicon acquires a new concept - scientific diplomacy. The essence of this concept is revealed in the activities of international institutions, which are most characteristic of relations at the regional level (Ćujić, 2019: UmawateeBungarooRamdoo, 2019).

2 Methods

As a result of the analytical study of the institutional form in the field of regional scientific cooperation using the formal legal and comparative method, conclusions were drawn regarding gaps that need to be filled in for further development and improvement of regional scientific cooperation.

3 Results And Discussion

Based on the selected criterion for the selection of regional associations, the proposed article will consider scientific cooperation in the CIS, the EAEU, and the EU.

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was established on December 8, 1991. The CIS pays close attention to the scientific and technical cooperation of the states of this union. This corresponds to the common goals and objectives of the Commonwealth established by the CIS Charter, among which are the comprehensive and balanced economic and social development of member states within the common economic space, interstate cooperation and integration (Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent, 1993).

Cooperation within the Commonwealth of Independent States is executed through its Charter Bodies. The Council of Heads of State (CHS) as the supreme body of the Commonwealth discusses and resolves any fundamental issues of the Commonwealth related to the common interests of the participating states in accordance with the Agreement on the Creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States of December 8, 1991, the Charter of the Commonwealth of January 22, 1993, and other documents adopted in their development. Decisions of the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government are made with the general agreement - by consensus. Any state can declare its disinterest in a particular issue, which should not be considered as an obstacle to a decision. The protocol of the Council of CIS Heads of State dated June 21, 2000 established the CIS Executive Committee.

The above-mentioned bodies, within the framework of their general competence, provide scientific and technical cooperation within the CIS in various fields, therefore they can be attributed to the institutes of regional scientific and technical cooperation of the first level.

The development of institutes of scientific and technical regional cooperation was influenced by the adoption of a number of program documents that laid the foundation for the formation of institutes of scientific and technical cooperation within the CIS.

These concern chiefly the following: Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation within the framework of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States of 03.13.1992 (expired on 13.03.1997); the Concept of creating a common scientific and technological space of the CIS of September 22, 1995; the Concept of the formation of the information space of the Commonwealth of Independent States in 1996; Agreement on free access and the procedure for the exchange of open scientific and technical information of the States Parties in 1998; Convention on the Creation and Status of International Research Centers and Scientific Organizations of November 25, 1998; Agreement on cooperation in the field of interstate exchange of scientific and technical information of May 30, 2014, etc.

These documents emphasized that the governments of the participating countries, taking into account the presence of highly integrated elements of scientific and technical potential, established scientific and technical ties, recognize the advisability of interstate cooperation in the scientific and technical sphere in order to preserve and further develop the scientific and technical potential of each of the Parties.

The so-called scientific and technical facilities were identified, which include the scientific and technical organization, research and experimental training grounds, information resources and networks, libraries, etc.), the results of which are used by several states in compliance with Art. 8, the conditions of scientific and technical cooperation were determined (Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation within the framework of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent, 1992).

Article 1 of the Agreement defines the concept of a common scientific and technological space, which is an environment characterized by the pursuit of an agreed policy by these states in priority areas of mutual interest in the development of science and technology, harmonization of the content of its individual components and relevant national regulatory frameworks.

To coordinate scientific and technical cooperation in accordance with the Decision of the Council of Heads of Government of the CIS of November 20, 2009, a special body was created: *the Interstate Council for Cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation (ICCSTI).* ICCSTI became the assignee of the Interstate Committee for Scientific and Technological Development (ICSTD) and the Interstate Scientific and Technical Council, which serves as the executive body of ICSTD. The functions of the ICCSTI are the development of issues of the formation of interstate scientific, technical and innovative space, the identification of priority areas and forms of cooperation in the scientific, technical, and innovative fields, etc (A decision of the Council of Heads of Government, 2009).

Another special institute of regional scientific and technical cooperation in the CIS is the *Interstate Coordinating Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICCSTI).* It was established by the Decision of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the CIS states of November 13, 1992.

The main objective of ICCSTI is to improve the information infrastructure of the innovation activities of the CIS member states, the formation of shared information resources, the provision of information, analytical, consulting, and organizational support for international cooperation in the scientific, technical and innovative fields (Hassan et al., 2019).

The system of institutes of scientific and technical cooperation in the CIS is constantly evolving. On the basis of the Agreement of May 19, 2011, the *Council for Cooperation in Basic Science* was created. The main goal of the Council is to create favorable conditions for cooperation in the field of basic science (Official website of the Interstate Coordinating Council for Scientific and Technical Information, 2019).

In order to fulfill the tasks in the field of scientific and technical cooperation, these sectoral councils closely cooperate with other interstate and intergovernmental bodies of the CIS: Interstate Fund for Humanitarian Cooperation of the CIS Member States; International Center for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI), etc. Although these entities are not directly included in the system of institutes of regional scientific and technical cooperation in the CIS, they also contribute to the formation of a single scientific and technical space of the CIS.

The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) was established in 2014 on the basis of the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union. As indicated in the program documents, this union is created with the aim of comprehensive modernization, cooperation, increase of the competitiveness of national economies and creation of conditions for stable development in the interests of improving the living standards of the population of the Member States (Agreement on the Eurasian Economic Union, 2014: Abdullin & Galiakberov, 2014).

The EAEU development priorities until 2025 include: - ensuring maximum efficiency of the EAEU single market and the implementation of its opportunities for business and consumers; - the formation of the "territory of innovation" and the stimulation of scientific and technological breakthroughs; - unlocking the integration potential for people, improving their well-being and quality of life; - the formation of the EAEU as one of the most significant centers for the development of the modern world, open for mutually beneficial and equal cooperation with external partners and building new formats of interaction (Declaration on the further development of integration processes within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, 2018).

In 2018, the Russian Federation, as chairman of the EAEU, identified a number of priority initiatives within the framework of Eurasian integration. Eurasian scientific and technological integration is being implemented slowly and fragmentarily. One of the important results achieved in 2018 is the inclusion of such areas as the formation of the “territory of innovation” and the stimulation of scientific and technological breakthroughs in the Eurasian space among the priorities of the Union’s development.

The Fund for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation is only planned to be created, although it was included in the list of supranational structures (necessary for the development of the EAEU), which was formed in 2014 at a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council (Silva et al., 2016).

The European Union (EU) is one of the most successfully functioning and dynamically developing international regional organizations, possessing significant specifics of both an institutional and a political and legal nature (Towards a European Research Area, 2000).

The modern structure of the European Union is formed in accordance with the 2007 Lisbon Treaty. The legal framework of the EU is the provisions of two international treaties: the Treaty on the European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (more detailed and extended) - previously called the 1957 Treaty on the European Community (Nechaeva, 2017).

The EU structure is no longer divided into the so-called “supports". At present, the European Union includes 7 institutions with authority and implementing the competence of the European Union: the European Parliament, the Council of the EU, the European Commission, the Court of Justice, the Court of Audit, the European Council - the highest political coordination body, the European Central Bank (Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, 2012).

New EU senior officials have appeared: High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; President of the European Council - elected from among the first persons of the Member States for 2.5 years.

It should be noted that the formation and implementation of scientific and technical policy in the EU are carried out through the entire institutional mechanism, which includes all the above institutions, bodies, and officials.

Speaking about the EU competence in order to support and develop scientific research, it should be noted that it is provided under Section XIX of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU “Scientific Research, Technological Development, and Space” (Articles 179-190) (The Seventh Framework Program of the European Union for Research, 2007).

The following goals of the EU’s activities in this area can be distinguished: strengthening its scientific and technological foundations by forming a European space of scientific research with the free movement of researchers, scientific knowledge, creating favorable conditions for the development of its competitiveness, as well as promoting research activities that are deemed necessary according to other provisions of the articles of incorporation.

The main institutional mechanism for ensuring scientific and technical cooperation in the EU has become *the Framework for Research, Technological Development, and Demonstration Activities*, the first of which began to operate in 1984.

Framework programs in the EU are special funding programs created by the EU to support and encourage research in the so-called *European research area.* Specific goals and actions in programs vary in different periods.

In order to implement the framework program, the EU defines the rules for the participation of enterprises, research centers, and universities and establishes the rules to be applied to the dissemination of research results.

It should be noted that the Framework programs follow one after another. For example, in 2007, the *Seventh EU Framework Program for Research, Technological Development, and Demonstration Activities* began with a total budget of more than 50 billion euros. This program combines all EU initiatives related to science and research. The European Commission, which develops and implements the Framework Programs, performs the main coordinating function, coordinating the positions of other European institutions, EU member states and representatives of the scientific community and industry, i.e. ultimately, the positions of all parties somehow involved in the European research process.

The Eighth Framework Program for the Development of Research and Technology and the European Union (Horizon 2020) is the EU’s seven-year funding program to support and promote research in the European Research Area from 2014 to 2020. It is the largest framework program in EU history, whose budget is 80 billion euros. It should be noted that compared with the Seventh Framework Program, the emphasis is on risk research and innovation, which are designed to lead to business breakthroughs in the European economy.

4 Summary

Thus, the entire system of institutes of the regional scientific and technical space of the CIS is actively functioning, as evidenced by

constantly published reports and, importantly, being improved and developed. A draft Regulation on the Head Contact Center under the Operator of the Interstate Program for Innovative Cooperation of the CIS Member States has been prepared, which would complement the system of institutes for scientific and technical cooperation in the CIS.

Eurasian scientific and technological integration is developing slowly and fragmentarily. Scientific and technical cooperation as a separate task of the EAEU is not indicated in the documents, no special agreement has been signed. Scientific and technical cooperation is carried out as part of the statutory tasks of integrating the economies of the participating countries, however, special bodies responsible for scientific and technical cooperation, unlike the CIS, have not been created in the EAEU.

As for the EU, in the field of scientific and technical cooperation, the EU is endowed primarily with supporting and coordinating competence, i.e. it has practically no power authority. However, the EU has a significant impact on the development of this sphere through its measures through the use of financial, economic and other stimulating instruments.

5 Conclusions

As we can see, individual regional integration associations are at different stages of the formation of the research space and are characterized by different approaches and tools used for its formation and effective functioning. Therefore, the study of regional models and best practices of international legal regulation of the formation and functioning of the research space is of great interest to new young regional associations. The experience of the CIS, and also the EU, which has been actively forming the European Research Area since 2000, considering it as one of the strategic priorities for turning the EU into one of the “most competitive and dynamic knowledge economies in the world”, is especially successful.

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