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**Regional Alliance - Lublin Triangle: geopolitical priorities
and dynamics of foreign policy transformation
in the context of security challenges and threats**

**Sojusz Regionalny - Trójkąt Lubelski: priorytety
geopolityczne i dynamika transformacji polityki
zagranicznej w kontekście wyzwań i zagrożeń
bezpieczeństwa**

Abstract

The article is devoted to the current problem of the effectiveness of the Lublin Triangle Alliance as a multilateral security cooperative format between Poland, Ukraine and Lithuania in the military-political, economic, cultural and social spheres. The strategies and directions of activity of the Lublin triangle are analyzed in the context of modern geopolitical and security challenges, including Russian expansion and aggression. The decisive role of the Alliance in the development of the European security system, the provision of military-technical, financial-economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine during the full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war is substantiated. The role of the Lublin triangle in maintaining the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Ukrainian state has been studied; the de-occupation of the territories

captured by Russia, as well as the realization of Ukraine's European and Euro-Atlantic integration aspirations, including membership in the EU and NATO.

The article analyzes the dynamics of transformations of partnership strategies and interactions of Poland-Lithuania-Ukraine in the context of security threats from Russia during the full-scale war. The priority areas of cooperation for 2022-2024 have been outlined and characterized. The effectiveness of cooperation between the states of the Lublin Triangle in the field of security and defense is substantiated; cybersecurity; energy security; strategic communications, comma and countering hybrid threats. It was emphasized that in the conditions of modern geopolitical challenges and threats, security strategies in the activity and foreign policy of the «Lublin Triangle» are a priority.

Key words: *Alliance Lublin Triangle, security challenges and threats, European security system; Russian-Ukrainian full-scale war, military-technical cooperation, financial-economic cooperation, social-humanitarian cooperation, Poland-Lithuania-Ukraine partnership.*

Abstrakt

Artykuł poświęcony jest aktualnemu problemowi efektywności Sojuszu Trójkąta Lubelskiego jako wielostronnego formatu bezpieczeństwa współpracy Polski, Ukrainy i Litwy w sferze wojskowo-politycznej, gospodarczej, kulturalnej i społecznej. Analizowane są wektory i kierunki działania Trójkąta Lubelskiego w kontekście współczesnych wyzwań geopolitycznych i bezpieczeństwa, rosyjskiej ekspansji i agresji. Udowodniono decydującą rolę Sojuszu w kształtowaniu europejskiego systemu bezpieczeństwa, zapewnianiu Ukrainie pomocy wojskowo-technicznej, finansowo-ekonomicznej i humanitarnej w warunkach wojny rosyjsko-ukraińskiej na pełną skalę. Zbadano rolę Trójkąta Lubelskiego w zachowaniu integralności terytorialnej i suwerenności państwa ukraińskiego; okupacja terytoriów zajętych przez Rosję, a także realizacja europejskich i euroatlantyckich aspiracji integracyjnych Ukrainy, w tym przystąpienia do UE i NATO.

W artykule przeanalizowano dynamikę przemian partnerskich strategii i interakcji Polska-Litwa-Ukraina w kontekście zagrożeń bezpieczeństwa ze strony Rosji w warunkach wojny na pełną skalę. Nakreślono i scharakteryzowano priorytetowe obszary współpracy na lata 2022-2024. Udowodniono skuteczność współpracy państw Trójkąta Lubelskiego w dziedzinie bezpieczeństwa i obronności; bezpieczeństwo cybernetyczne; bezpieczeństwo energetyczne; komunikacja strategiczna i przeciwdziałanie zagrożeniom hybrydowym. Podkreślono, że w warunkach współczesnych wyzwań i zagrożeń

geopolitycznych strategię bezpieczeństwa w działalności i polityce zagranicznej „Trójkąta Lubelskiego” stanowią priorytet.

Słowa kluczowe: *Sojusz regionalny Trójkąt Lubelski, wyzwania i zagrożenia dla bezpieczeństwa, europejski system bezpieczeństwa, wojna rosyjsko-ukraińska, współpraca wojskowo-techniczna, współpraca finansowo-gospodarcza, współpraca społeczno-humanitarna, współpraca polsko-litewsko-ukraińska.*

Introduction

Common security challenges, geopolitical interests, the desire to ensure European and international security in the conditions of a full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war have led to the integration of Poland, Ukraine and Lithuania into the regional alliance known as the "Lublin Triangle", which since 2020 has functioned in a tripartite format of intergovernmental cooperation and within the framework of governmental and non-governmental international organizations. The joint foreign policy strategies of Poland, Ukraine, and Lithuania are being implemented through the Lublin Triangle – a sub-regional union of three states – focused on forming a security system in Central-Eastern Europe, countering Russian expansionism, de-escalating the war, and restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

In the face of geopolitical challenges and the evolving architecture of European and global security, the establishment of the Lublin Triangle initiated a new format in the European integration processes of the 21st century, where subregional and regional interstate associations and alliances, based on deep historical relations between the participating states, are the most effective forms of partnership and cooperation.

The relevance of regional and subregional alliances and associations (in particular, the "Lublin Triangle") as effective forms of cooperation in the face of security challenges has generated the scientific interest and attention of researchers to the topic. The importance of studying the Lublin triangle has been heightened in the context of Russian aggression, the full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war (2014-2024), and security threats of a global and regional scale. Notable works include those by O. A. Blyzniak, who examines the "Lublin Triangle" as a multifaceted format of cooperation in regional integration processes (Blyzniak, 2023), and the scientific publications of Gerasimchuk S. and Drapak M. (Герасимчук, Драпак, 2023), Kovbatiuk H. (Ковбатюк, 2022), and Studinsky V. (Студінський, 2022). Among the sources that analyze the characteristics and prospects of the Lublin Triangle as a regional security

cooperation format, it is worth mentioning the scientific studies of Pavlenko T. (Павленко, 2023), Rotar N. (Ротар, 2021), and Chebotaryova E.V. and Chebotaryova V.A. (Чеботарьов, Є.В., Чеботарьов, В.А., 2020). The prospects of Polish-Lithuanian-Ukrainian security cooperation within the Lublin Triangle have been explored by scholars such as Drabchuk M. and Kuczyńska-Zonik O. (Drabczuk, Kuczyńska-Zonik, 2020), Lewkowicz Ł., Wojda M., Wojtaszewska A. (Wojda, Wojtaszewska, 2021), Glinkowska-Krauze B. (Glinkowska-Krauze, 2022), and Wojtaszak A. (Wojtaszak, 2022), as well as Polish historian Adamski Ł.

Scientific publications demonstrate the growing interest of scientists in the "Lublin Triangle" Alliance and its role in the formation of the European security system. However, the problem of the effectiveness of the functioning of the Lublin triangle, as a secure format of regional cooperation, is relatively new and requires further clarification and analysis. The question of the role of the "Lublin Triangle" in countering Russia's armed aggression and preserving Ukraine's sovereignty requires a comprehensive study.

Considering the above, the purpose of the article is to analyze the vectors of activity and the dynamics of foreign policy transformations and security strategies of the Lublin Triangle in the context of modern challenges and threats amid a full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war.

The article uses general scientific, logical and empirical research methods. In particular, the use of systemic, structural-functional, institutional, historical, comparative methods, the method of analysis of regulatory and legal documents has contributed to achieving the goal and completing the tasks of this scientific article.

Presentation of the basic information and research results

Strategic partnership, consolidation and cooperation of Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine have centuries-old historical roots based on common national, cultural, spiritual and religious traditions. The prerequisites for the integration, coordination, and consolidation of Ukraine, Poland, and Lithuania are their long-standing strong good-neighborly relations. The signing of the Union of Lublin (1569) provided a solid basis for the consolidation of the three states, their acceptance of European values, comma and the promotion of economic and institutional development. In the 21st century, in the context of security challenges and threats, and the full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war, the integration and cooperation of Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine have been actualized in the dimensions and coordinates of the "Lublin triangle" – a tripartite alliance, a sub-regional union of three states, the format of which ensures the effectiveness of the European security systems. Common security values and interests have

unified the foreign policy strategies of the states participating in the Lublin Triangle.

The Lublin Triangle, as an intergovernmental regional initiative, was launched on July 28, 2020 with the aim of strengthening political dialogue, trust and strategic partnership between Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine in the field of security and defense, supporting the development of economic cooperation and cultural exchange. On July 28, 2020, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba, Poland, Jacek Czaputowych, and Lithuania, Linas Linkewicz, signed a joint declaration on the creation of the "Lublin Triangle". (*Wspólna Deklaracja Ministrów Spraw Zagranicznych...*, 2020) The ministers confirmed their support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine; supported its European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations, implementation of political and economic reforms.

Since its inception, the Lublin Triangle has functioned as a tripartite regional alliance for security, political, military-political, economic, cultural and social cooperation between Poland, Ukraine and Lithuania. In the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the goals and strategies of the Lublin Triangle have been primarily focused on the security sphere: building the European security system, countering Russian aggression, addressing hybrid threats, combating Russian propaganda and disinformation, increasing defense spending, preserving the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Ukrainian state, and de-occupying territories captured by Russia, including the complete de-occupation of Crimea. The alliance has also emphasized active cooperation within the framework of the Crimean Platform, aiming at the return of Ukrainian territories to the borders of 1991, the provision of weapons and military equipment to Ukraine, the enlargement of the EU and NATO, and lobbying for the implementation of Ukraine's European and Euro-Atlantic integration aspirations, including its membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Alliance.

The regulatory and legal basis for the functioning of the Lublin Triangle as a regional alliance for the integration and consolidation of three states (Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine) include: The Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Lithuania and Ukraine on the Creation of the Lublin Triangle, Lublin, July 28, 2020 (*Wspólna Deklaracja Ministrów Spraw Zagranicznych...*); The Declaration on Common European Heritage and Common Values (Vilnius, July 7, 2021) (*Deklaracja o wspólnym europejskim dziedzictwie i wspólnych wartościach...*); The Cooperation Plan between the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Lithuania and Ukraine within the framework of the Lublin Triangle (Vilnius, July 7, 2021) (*Plan współpracy pomiędzy Rzeczypospolitą Polską, Republiką Litewską i Ukrainą ...*); and The Joint declaration of the President of the Republic of Lithuania, the President of the Republic of Poland and the President of Ukraine (December 2, 2021)

(Wspólna Deklaracja Prezydenta Republiki Litewskiej, Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej i Prezydenta Ukrainy...).

Since the foundation of the Lublin Triangle, the activities of the member states of the Alliance have focused on security problems, challenges and threats in various fields: defense, energy, economic, information, in the field of strategic communications and countering cyber threats. On July 7, 2021, the "Road Map of Cooperation between Ukraine, the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland within the framework of the Lublin Triangle" was signed in Vilnius. In accordance with this document, nine priority areas of cooperation were identified: development of dialogue within the framework of international organizations and with partners; cooperation in the field of security and defense; cooperation on energy security issues; cooperation in the field of cyber security; cooperation on countering the COVID-19 pandemic; cultural and humanitarian cooperation; cooperation in the field of economy and infrastructure; cooperation in the field of strategic communication and countering hybrid threats. (*"Дорожня карта співробітництва..."*)

Since 2022, the Lublin triangle has symbolized multidimensional, multifaceted cooperation between Poland, Ukraine and Lithuania in various fields. The main areas of cooperation of the participating states are defined in the normative and legal documents of the Alliance. The spheres of cooperation, interstate integration and consolidation of Poland, Lithuania, and Ukraine within the Lublin triangle are as follows:

1. Diplomatic and political cooperation: Within the framework of political and diplomatic cooperation, meetings of heads of state and governments of the Lublin Triangle countries are scheduled; meetings of foreign ministers in various formats; exchange of political and diplomatic experience; cooperation within the UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, and other international organizations; joint political statements and declarations by the heads of state and foreign ministers of the Lublin Triangle countries on current security issues; promotion of Ukraine's cooperation with the EU and NATO; promotion of joint initiatives of the Lublin Triangle within the framework of the "Eastern Partnership"; and cooperation within the "Crimean Platform."
2. Security, military-political, and cross-border cooperation: This involves strengthening cooperation in defense, internal security, and cross-border cooperation; supporting defense reform and the supply of military equipment and weapons to Ukraine; developing Ukraine's defense capabilities with the help of NATO and EU programs and tools; conducting joint military exercises; participation in events led by the UN, the EU, and NATO; supporting initiatives aimed at improving security in the Baltic and

Black Sea regions; and conducting regular consultations on security and defense issues. (Glinkowska-Krauze, Chebotarov, 2022, pp. 145–157)

3. Energy sector and cooperation in energy security: This includes the synchronization of the Lithuanian and Ukrainian energy systems with the European continental grid and obtaining mutual benefits from the operation of the European gas transport infrastructure; and raising awareness of nuclear safety issues. (Glinkowska-Krauze, Chebotarov, 2022, pp. 145–157)
4. Cybersecurity cooperation: This integrates the states of the Lublin Triangle in the field of information technologies, involving the exchange of experience between countries regarding the improvement of digitalization in the political and foreign policy spheres; the exchange of best practices in combating cyber threats; and the formation of an effective cybersecurity system.
5. Cooperation in economic development and infrastructure: This involves activating investments, increasing and liberalizing trade between the EU and the countries of the Lublin Triangle within the framework of free trade zones; and facilitating the approximation of Ukraine to the legislation of the European Union.
6. Strategic communication and cooperation in countering hybrid threats, disinformation, and Russian propaganda: This aims to intensify cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Lublin Triangle countries in countering disinformation, distortion of facts, propaganda, and other hybrid threats.
7. Cooperation in the cultural and educational spheres: This involves active consolidation and cooperation in the fields of art, culture, book publishing, education, tourism, and more.

The Lublin Triangle Regional Alliance has a fundamental institutional base. The institutional mechanism of the Lublin Triangle is based on regular meetings of foreign ministers and heads of state of the three countries, as well as various working groups that focus on specific areas of cooperation: security and defense, military-political sphere, energy, transport and infrastructure, as well as culture, education, and tourism.

The joint military unit LitPolUkrBrig, which was formed from military personnel of the three states in 2014, functions within the institutional base of the Lublin triangle. The unit is based in Lublin, its purpose is to ensure regional security by conducting joint military exercises and operations. (Fryc, 2020, pp. 5–11) The brigade provides security on the eastern border of the European Union.

The Lublin Youth Triangle is a component of the institutional system of cooperation between Poland, Lithuania, and Ukraine. On October 27, 2021,

at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, representatives of the national youth councils of Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania and the Ukrainian Platform of Public Diplomacy signed a Memorandum of Cooperation and institutionally launched the Youth Lublin Triangle – a union of a new generation of Ukrainians, Poles and Lithuanians who strive to live together in a single European security space. (Герасимчук, Драпак, 2023)

Therefore, the institutional mechanism of the Lublin Triangle is aimed at strengthening cooperation and integration between the three countries in various fields, with the goal of promoting security, stability, and countering Russian aggression in the European region.

With the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Russia into Ukraine, security strategies within the Lublin triangle became a priority. The strategic partnership of the participating states is based on countering the aggressive policy of the Russian Federation, military and defense cooperation leveraging the potential of NATO and the EU, cyber security and the fight against disinformation, the fight against illegal financial flows and economic crimes, the cooperation of the three states in the field of energy, economic, and migration security.

Since February 24, 2022, the activities of the Lublin Triangle and the formats of its meetings have become primarily focused on the security sphere, in the military-technical and defense sectors. The states of the Lublin Triangle condemned Russia's military invasion of Ukraine, the use of Russian military force against the civilian population, and called for the cessation of all hostilities and the liberation of Ukrainian territories. The priority goals of cooperation between Poland, Lithuania, and Ukraine within the Lublin Triangle include countering the Russian Federation's expansionism in Ukraine, de-occupying territories captured by Russia, providing weapons and military equipment to Ukraine, increasing defense spending, implementing social and humanitarian assistance programs, and lobbying for Ukraine's entry into EU and NATO structures. Poland and Lithuania urged the European Union leadership to grant Ukraine EU candidate status.

The states of the Lublin Triangle also condemned Belarus's pro-Russian foreign policy, its support of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and called on Minsk to comply with its international obligations. The heads of government of the Lublin Triangle countries urged international organizations, including the IAEA, the UN, NATO, and the EU, to ensure the safety of nuclear facilities in Ukraine and to protect humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of civilians. Poland and Lithuania actively support Ukraine by providing military equipment and humanitarian aid.

The meeting at the level of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Poland, and Lithuania, dedicated to the second anniversary of the establishment of the Lublin Triangle, took place on July 28, 2022. As a result, a Joint Statement

was adopted. The important role of the Lublin Triangle as a regional format for interaction in Central Europe was emphasized, and the intention to expand cooperation in security, defense, energy, military-technical assistance, education, science, culture, and youth cooperation was outlined.

The statement confirmed the intention to continue implementing sanctions and restrictive measures against Russia until Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity are fully restored.

New paragraph: The ministers emphasized their unanimous position on the need to hold Russia accountable for war crimes, crimes of aggression, genocide, and crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine. The parties expressed their commitment to continue constructive cooperation within the framework of the Lublin Triangle to counter disinformation and prevent the influence of Russian propaganda. The ministers welcomed the European Council's decision, on June 23, 2022, to grant Ukraine candidate status in the EU and agreed to coordinate efforts to ensure Ukraine's full EU membership. *(Спільна заява міністрів закордонних справ...)*

In the context of the escalating Russian-Ukrainian war, the activities of the Lublin Triangle became increasingly active. On November 26, 2022, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Denys Shmyhal, the Prime Minister of Poland, Mateusz Morawiecki, and the Prime Minister of Lithuania, Ingrida Šimonytė, met in the format of the regional alliance. The leaders signed the Joint Declaration of the Lublin Triangle on further cooperation in the areas of security, defense, and energy. They discussed ways to intensify efforts to counter Russian aggression and decided to increase military, military-technical, financial, economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The discussions also addressed Europe's energy and economic security and the need to accelerate negotiations regarding Ukraine's accession to the EU and NATO.

On December 6, 2022, in Brussels, during the EU-Ukraine Forum on countering disinformation, three non-governmental organizations of Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine (Citizen Resilience Initiative, Kosciuszko Institute and Detektor Media) presented a Joint Report. This report highlighted the threats posed by Russian disinformation and propaganda and provided several recommendations on how to counter Russia's information warfare. *(Громадські організації Люблінського трикутника представили в Брюсселі спільний звіт про російську дезінформацію та пропаганду...)*

On January 11, 2023, the second Summit of the Lublin Triangle was held in Lviv, involving the Presidents of Ukraine, Poland, and Lithuania.

A significant part of the discussion centered on Ukraine's integration into the European Union and NATO. The summit also addressed the potential creation of an International Tribunal to investigate Russia's war crimes and hold those responsible accountable. The presidents expressed support for the Global

Peace Formula Summit, which was proposed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyi to rally international backing for his Peace Plan.

The Lublin Triangle leaders also discussed strategies for expanding the Black Sea Grain Initiative and the continuation of the "Grain from Ukraine" program, aimed at ensuring food security in light of the conflict. Following the summit, the Joint Declaration of the Presidents of the Lublin Triangle was signed. In a significant move, Polish President Andrzej Duda announced the delivery of German-made Leopard-2 tanks to Ukraine, while Lithuania pledged to supply Ukraine with L70 anti-aircraft systems and corresponding ammunition. (Пе́рун, 2023)

The Lublin Triangle demonstrated clear positions and specific actions of Poland and Lithuania regarding the provision of military-technical, armed, social-humanitarian, financial-economic support to Ukraine in countering Russian aggression. Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Republic of Poland has been the largest supplier of military aid. Within the scope of assistance are hundreds of tanks, a large quantity of ammunition, and fighter planes. Poland also acted as a key transit point for weapons that are regularly supplied to Ukraine. Furthermore, the Republic of Poland plans joint production of ammunition with Ukrainian partners. (Śliwa Zd., 2022) During 2022-2023 The Republic of Poland provided assistance to Ukraine in the amount of 10 billion zlotys, which is equal to 2.1 billion euros; the cost of weapons transferred free of charge was about 7 billion zlotys. (*У Польщі озвучили обсяг допомоги Україні...*) In 2023, comma Poland announced a new aid package to Ukraine, which included S-60 anti-aircraft guns and 70,000 rounds of ammunition for them. In addition, the country transferred more than 50 infantry fighting vehicles. 155-mm Krab howitzers and various types of ammunition are regularly delivered to Ukraine. Moreover, Poland is ready to hand over a company of Leopard 2 tanks with 1,000 units of ammunition. Poland conducts medical and engineering training of personnel to counter Russian aggression. (*Польща анонсувала новий пакет допомоги Україні...*)

Lithuania also provides significant military-technical and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. In particular, in 2022 Lithuania provided military aid to Ukraine valued at 283 million euros, and in 2023 aid was increased by 40 million. The aid includes air defense systems, infantry weapons, anti-tank weapons, mortars, machine guns, ammunition, as well as armored vehicles and howitzers, M-113 armored personnel carriers. Lithuania organizes large-scale training of Ukrainian servicemen. About 500 Ukrainian military specialists were trained in the country's training centers. (*Литва збільшить військову допомогу Україні в 2023 році...*) According to the statement of the Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania, the state supplies Ukraine with short-range L70 anti-aircraft guns and ammunition for them. (Stănică, 2023, p.120) The Ministry of National Defense of Lithuania also transferred more than 40 million euros from its budget to finance the purchase of weapons and training of Ukrainian

soldiers. The State Council of Defense of Lithuania stated that the country will continue to provide Ukraine with military aid packages for the Armed Forces and will ensure the repair of military equipment.

In addition to the supply of weapons and military equipment, the Republic of Poland and Lithuania strengthen the security and preservation of the sovereignty of Ukraine by providing humanitarian and medical aid, education and training of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, strengthening border control, combating cross-border crime, and taking measures to combat Russian disinformation and propaganda. As part of humanitarian assistance, the countries of the Lublin Triangle provide food, medicine, medical supplies, as well as fuel and heating materials for the residents of the regions affected by the hostilities. In particular, during the first year of the full-scale war in Ukraine, Poland provided humanitarian aid in the amount of \$0.17 billion and Lithuania \$0.06 billion (Walsh, 2023). The countries of the Lublin Triangle also support various projects: construction and restoration of Ukraine's infrastructure; creation of shelters for homeless and internally displaced persons. As part of humanitarian assistance to refugees, Poland accepted about 2.5 million refugees from Ukraine, Lithuania - about 50 thousand people. The countries also organize camps for children from occupied territories and conflict zones. (Protsiuk, 2021, pp. 73–82)

Polish non-governmental organizations, such as Caritas-Poland and the Polish Red Cross, take an active part in providing humanitarian aid to Ukrainians. Since the beginning of the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation, the countries of the Lublin Triangle, together with other countries of the European Union and the USA, have introduced and support sanctions and restrictions against the Russian Federation. The indomitable spirit of the Ukrainian people, along with the tirelessness and perseverance of the President of Ukraine V. Zelenskyi in the fight against Russian aggression for independence, freedom, peace, security and democracy were recognized by the Parliament of Lithuania. On January 13, 2023, at a meeting of the Seimas of Lithuania, the Head of the Ukrainian State V. Zelenskyi was awarded the Freedom Prize.

In January 2024 the renewed format of Ukrainian-Lithuanian cooperation within the Lublin triangle was launched. On January 10, 2024, the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived on an official visit to Lithuania. A meeting with the President of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda took place in Vilnius. V. Zelenskyy also met with the head of the Government and Parliament of Lithuania. During the Vilnius meeting on January 10, 2024, the Presidents of Ukraine and Lithuania signed a Joint Statement. The document provides support for the implementation of joint projects in the field of defense technologies. The Joint Statement states that V. Zelenskyy and G. Nausėda agreed to continue work on providing timely, predictable and long-term military and financial support to Ukraine, in particular through the Ukraine Facility instrument from the EU, the European Peace Fund and the European Union

Military Assistance Mission. (*Спільна заява Президента України Володимира Зеленського і Президента Литовської Республіки Гітанаса Науседи...*)

During the meeting, it was stated that since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine, the total support for the Ukrainian state from Lithuania exceeds 1 billion euros, which is 1.45 percent of the country's GDP. (*Президент В Зеленський під час візиту до Вільнюса ...*) During a joint press conference with Volodymyr Zelenskyi, Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda announced a package of long-term aid to Ukraine in the amount of 200 million euros. (*Візит Зеленського до країн Балтії...*) The President of Lithuania noted that Lithuania will continue to provide military support to Ukraine. Military and humanitarian support to Ukraine will be provided through the supply of military equipment, weapons, military equipment, assistance in demining, through training and cooperation of defense industries, the location of military production in Ukraine and the exchange of data on defense research. Lithuania will provide Ukraine with modern air defense systems; unmanned aerial vehicles; means of electronic warfare; long-range artillery; ammunition; will provide support for the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine and Ukrainian infrastructure. (*Президент В. Зеленський під час візиту до Вільнюса...*) Lithuania confirmed its support for the Ukrainian Peace Formula, holding the Global Peace Summit and intensifying cooperation in close coordination with international partners.

The Tripartite Interstate Alliance "Lublin Triangle" is defined as one of the effective formats of cooperation, security cooperation, consolidation and assistance to Ukraine during the full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war.

Conclusions and prospects for further research

"Lublin triangle" started a new trend in the integration processes of the 21st century in conditions of security challenges and threats. Tripartite Alliance The Lublin Triangle symbolizes multidimensional cooperation between Poland, Ukraine, and Lithuania and is an effective format for cooperation within the regional structures of Central and Eastern Europe and the NATO security architecture. The countries of the Lublin Triangle demonstrate a high level of consolidation of strategic partnership, the effectiveness of tripartite military, defense and security interactions. The functioning of the Alliance as a regional security format of cooperation, a mechanism for countering Russian aggression, demonstrates its influence and effectiveness. During the three years of its existence, many effective meetings were held at the level of presidents, heads of government, heads of foreign affairs and national coordinators within the framework of the tripartite format, and a number of important documents of various levels were developed. In the conditions of Russian aggression, Poland and Lithuania have become countries that actively condemn Russia's aggressive

policy towards Ukraine, declare support for Ukrainian state sovereignty and territorial integrity, effectively help Ukraine in the fight against the aggressor from the first days of the war, and call on other countries to consolidate in opposing Russian expansionism. Poland, Lithuania, and Ukraine, as states of the tripartite regional alliance, are united in their negative assessment and condemnation of the war crimes of the Russian Federation, initiate their investigation, demand the creation of an International Tribunal and bring the guilty to justice. The political potential of the Lublin Triangle, as a tripartite format of cooperation, is realized in Lithuania and Poland's support for Ukraine's aspirations to join the European Union and NATO. Strategic security initiatives of the Lublin triangle, political solidarity and consolidation of efforts of the three member states of the Alliance, initiation of international support programs for Ukraine in countering Russian expansionism and de-escalation of the war are important priorities in the formation of European and global security systems that are strengthening the identity of Central and Eastern Europe.

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