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System of economic security and levels of its formation

Abstract. In order to develop a methodology for assessing the system of economic security of entities in conditions of economic and political instability, there is a necessary and urgent task to determine the nature, characteristics, relationship between its levels, factors influencing their formation. The purpose of the study is to generalize scientific approaches and clarify the essence, features and relationship between the levels of formation of the economic security system. The generalization of the existing approaches to the formation of the economic security system was carried out using a monographic method. The essence of the levels of the economic system is determined by methods of analysis and synthesis. The research analysed existing approaches to determining the hierarchy of the economic security system and presented a scheme for the formation of levels of economic security, consisting of a mega-level (global and international economic security), a macro-level (national), a meso-level (regional and sectoral economic security), a micro-level (economic security of entrepreneurship, enterprise, individual) and the relationship between them. The category "economic security of the industry" was defined as a set of conditions that ensure economic development, competitiveness and protection of its economic interests. It was established that the economic security of the industry depends on its specifics, functions, objects, subjects, specific risks and threats. The role of the economic security of the industry and the economic security of the individual in the system of the hierarchy of levels of economic security was substantiated. The obtained results are the basis for the development of a methodology for assessing the system of economic security of various entities, which can be used by their management in order to identify threats in a timely manner and quickly implement measures to eliminate them

Keywords: threats, risks, industry, hierarchy, interrelation of types

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INTRODUCTION

In modern conditions, which are characterized by both economic and political instability of the economy, the study of the problems of ensuring economic security, in particular, the definition of its essence, levels of hierarchy and the interrelation between them, which will allow the development of a methodology for the qualitative assessment of the economic security system as a whole, is gaining special relevance and will contribute to increasing the level of its protection against external and internal threats.

Scientists I. Balanyuk and M. Maksymyuk [1], defining the essence, characteristic features and levels of economic security, characterized it as a reaction to external threats of globalization. At the same time, the interpretation of economic security of each level should take into ac-

count the peculiarities of the activity of economic objects on this level. Researcher I. Baron [2], highlighting the key features of the ecosystem, taking into account the dynamic nature of the socio-political context of the conditional hierarchy of key characteristics, proposed to define it as the ability to neutralize the negative impact of various threats. O. Kudrina and O. Datsenko [3], in the study of the role of socio-economic security in ensuring the competitiveness of regions, paid attention to its connection with national security. The researchers claimed that the competitiveness of the region depends on the competitiveness of economic sectors and formation of an environment, which determines the conditions, nature and interaction between economic entities in the region. Ya. Samusevych, A. Vysochyna,

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T. Vasylieva, S. Lyeonov, S. Pokhylko [4] using the method of multifactorial analysis according to the data from 6 Eastern European countries based on 9 indicators of ecological, energy and economic security, identified their main components and found out that the highest level of interaction exists between energy and ecological security, and the lowest one – between energy and economic security. Considering economic security as a component of national economic security, S. Bugaytsov [5] determined its interrelation with the level of stability in the state. This makes it possible to diagnose the state of national economic security and guide the development of the state using an effective model of public administration. In his opinion, economic security ensures effective functioning of the state, rational use of its resources and sustainable growth in the future.

Yu. Krakos and O. Kalinina [6] believed that the concept of economic security is interconnected with investment attractiveness and competitiveness, since it represents protection from dangers and allows more efficient use of resources, which contributes to increasing investment attractiveness and competitiveness. According to N. Bondarchuk [7], economic security is closely related to investment security, since the ability to prevent possible threats, avoid risks and achieve set goals in competitive conditions depends on the effective organization of investment activities. I. Petrova, V. Syrota [8], revealing the essence of economic security of the enterprise and its characteristics, justified the existence of interrelation between corporate social responsibility and the level of economic security of the enterprise. They defined corporate social responsibility as one of the factors of ensuring the economic security of the enterprise in the conditions of modern economic environment, which exerts a complex influence on it in terms of several components. In their opinion, the interrelation between corporate social responsibility and the level of economic security of the enterprise is based on the personnel of the enterprise, owners, buyers, suppliers, representatives of the state and local authorities, public organizations, society. Proposing a multidimensional approach to the hierarchy of the economic security system, Ye. Mishchuk [9] claimed that it best reflects its theoretical essence, takes into account its binary nature and can be used to calculate the general level of economic security and its individual components, which allows choosing effective measures to increase their level.

Currently, there are many definitions of the economic security system, which differ from each other. Such terminological uncertainty indicates the interest and high search activity of scientists in this field. However, for the development of the theory of economic security as a science, a clear designation of the basic definitions and a common vision of the object of research by representatives of various scientific schools are necessary. The generalization of existing approaches to the formation of the economic security system on the basis of thematic scientific research of 2010-2020, carried out by the monographic method, shows that the subject of numerous research by scientists is the category of “economic security” itself and individual levels of its formation. The analysis of scientific publications on the determination of the essence of the levels of the economic security system and the synthesis of the results presented in them shows the existence of different

views on their formation and confirms the relevance of the research, which aims to generalize scientific approaches to the construction of the hierarchy of the economic security system, determine the essence of its levels, interconnection between them and clarify the place of the economic security of the industry in this system.

HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE AND INTERCONNECTION OF THE LEVELS OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Economic security is formed at different levels. As evidenced by the analysis of scientific literature, most scientists single out the following among them: global economic security, national or economic security of the state, regional economic security, economic security of the enterprise; economic security of the individual. According to Ya. Zhalilo [10] there are three main levels of economic security: of the individual, of the economic entity and of the state, which are indivisible. T. Gladchenko [11] adds the economic security of the region to the specified levels. T. Vasylytsiv [12] singles out the following levels: of the economic security of the state, of the regions, in the industrial and sectoral aspect, at the micro-level of the management hierarchy, of the society (group), of the individual. The hierarchy proposed by G. Ivashchenko [13] includes: global economic security; international economic security; economic security of the state (macro-level); economic security of the region (meso-level); economic security of the enterprise (micro-level). V. Kovalenko, O. Levchuk [14] propose to single out similar levels, but supplement the name of global economic security with the “mega-level”, and call the state economic security as the national economic security. O. Ruda and L. Malyuta [15] add economic and property security of enterprises to global, international, national economic security and economic security of the region. The same opinion is held by Z. Yakubovych [16]. Scientists do not distinguish the level of individual economic security, which, in the opinion of the author of the study, is a disadvantage of this hierarchy, since the individual is the main element of the enterprise, industry, region, state and the world. The system of economic security, proposed by Yu. Tymchyshyn [17], is devoid of this drawback, which includes five levels (global, national, regional, business and personal security). O. Khimich [18] also distinguishes five levels (global, national, regional, enterprise and individual security).

A. Shtangret, O. Petrashova [19], in addition to global, international, regional and local security, distinguish national security, the components of which are the economic security of the state, industry, enterprise and individual. At the same time, they note that distinguishing the industry level is extremely important for the rational management of economic security. O. Ilyenko [20] believes that the category of “economic security” covers all spheres and levels of human activity, and distinguishes four levels of economic security: mega-level (economic security of the society and world economy), macro-level (economic security of the country (state), national economy, groups of countries (states)), meso-level (economic security of regions, industry), micro-level (economic security of the enterprise, individual, group of individuals, family) depending on the objects of attention (world economy, society in general, state, region, industry, individual, his/

her family, etc.). Scientists O. Lyashenko, B. Pleskach, V. Bantush [21] propose a hierarchy of the economic security system, which includes the following levels: global security (mega-level), international security, which is a component of global security, national security (macro-level), regional (meso-level), individual, local (micro-level). O. Chubukova, T. Voronkova [22] and O. Hrybinenko [23] have a similar view on the hierarchy of levels of economic security. However, at the micro-level, they distinguish the economic security of the enterprise, organization, institution and add a basic level – the economic security of the individual. V. Tretyak and T. Gordienko [24] claim that the micro-level consists of: the economic security of the enterprise and the economic security of the entrepreneur (individual). O. Oliinychuk [25] considers it logical that the economic security system of the state is formed by economic entities of regions and industries and includes

the micro-level represented by the economic security of an individual economic entity; sectoral meso-level – the economic security of a set of single industry economic entities; regional meso-level, i.e. the economic security of a certain region where economic entities operate.

In most of the scientific approaches presented, there is no industrial level of economic security. However, in the author’s opinion, this category occupies a prominent place in the system of economic security, because in the conditions of economic integration and globalization, the emergence of certain problems in a particular industry affects the economic security of enterprises, that belong to this industry, the regions where they are located, the state as a whole. Taking into account this and the existing scientific approaches to determining the hierarchy of the economic security system, it is appropriate to distinguish its following levels (Fig. 1).

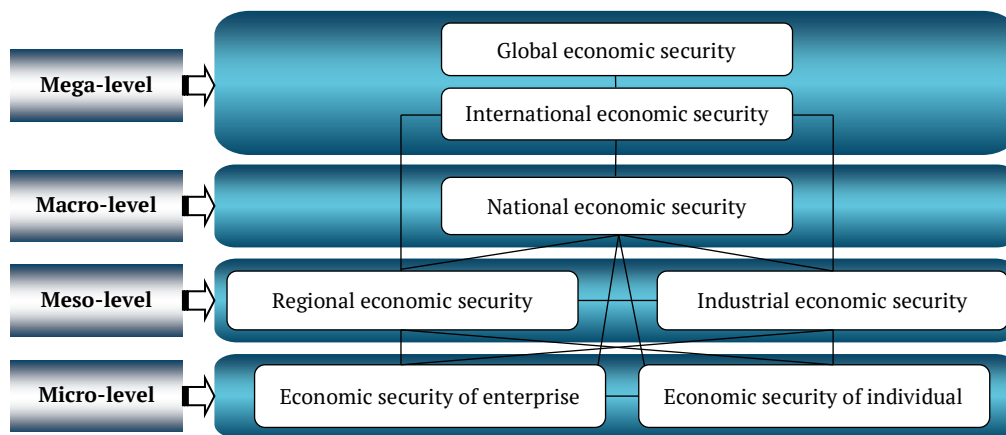


Figure 1. Levels of economic security and their interrelation

Source: developed by the author

Mega-level: global economic security represents the security of human development, the mechanism for solving its global problems and the globalization of the economy of various countries of the world. It includes international economic security (studies the factors and components of competitiveness at the macro-level). Macro-level: state-wide or national – economic security of the state, which also includes sub-sectors. They include financial, technological, social, budgetary and environmental sectors. Meso-level: regional economic security (projects state economic security to the regional level) and sectoral economic security (includes regulatory, financial, ecological, informational and other components). Micro-level: constitute the economic security of entrepreneurship, which combines informational, intellectual, financial, technical and technological, social, ecological components; economic security of the enterprise, which allows preventing threats and ensuring the economic efficiency of the enterprise; the economic security of the individual is determined by the ratio of the level of income, expenses and savings of the individual. As noted by T. Vasylytsiv [12], in the system of the hierarchy of economic security, each higher level must create prerequisites to ensure the protection and comfortable functioning of the components of the lower levels. In turn, according to O. Oliinychuk [25],

the lower levels of economic security should be the basis for strengthening the higher levels. Yu. Tymchyshyn [17], supporting the position of the relationality of security at various hierarchical levels of management, notes that “its local (regional), state (national) and global (macroeconomic) levels are interconnected institutionally, spatially, structurally and informationally”.

The author of the study believes that there is a close interrelation between all levels of economic security (Fig. 1), because they are elements of a single system, and therefore changes that occur with one element affect others. For example, social protests, political conflicts, strikes negatively affect the financial stability of the state (macro-level). In turn, due to the unstable economic situation in the country, the efficiency and profitability of economic sectors, regions, business entities and individuals (meso- and macro-level) are decreasing. At the same time, damages and losses suffered by economic entities, economic sectors, regions (micro- and meso-level) due to the political crisis affect the condition of economic security of the state (macro-level). On the other hand, progressive political decisions, stimulating tax policy of the state contribute to the development and improvement of the efficiency of industries, regions, individual business entities, and, accordingly, strengthen the economic security of

the state. The uneven development of a particular region leads to a low standard of living of its population, creates tension in society, which threatens the territorial integrity of the country and its economic security. The introduction of industry regulations, the provisions of which meet the modern requirements of the international community (as is currently happening in the construction industry of Ukraine), expands the opportunities for cooperation with foreign partners of the enterprises that are part of it. Large-scale emergency situations (floods, droughts, earthquakes, etc.) in the region of a certain country lead not only to the deterioration of the economic security of economic entities in this area, but also cause losses to their partners due to the disruption of relations, affect the financial stability of the state as a whole and sometimes affect international security. The economic security of the enterprise is the basis of national security, because the production of material goods determines the vital activity of society. There is a close relationship between the latter and national security. It depends on the quality of the legal system created by the state [26]. The decision of a business entity to improve the state of the environment contributes to strengthening the ecological safety of a particular region and improves the image of this entity among the population of adjacent territories, representatives of local authorities, which causes an increase in interest in the products manufactured by it,

and, accordingly, contributes to increasing the volumes of sales of these products; increasing the scope of activity.

DETERMINATION OF THE ESSENCE OF HIERARCHICAL LEVELS OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

All levels of economic security are characterized by one goal, a similar methodology of formation, a mechanism for ensuring it, the essence of which is defined as counteraction to existing risks and threats to economic security. Economic security at any level aims to protect against external and internal threats for smooth, efficient and stable activity at that level. At the same time, according to O. Denisov [27], "the content of the concept of 'security' in each specific situation is different and depends on the object of the analysis being determined". O. Ilyenko [20] believes that when defining the concept of "economic security", one should take into account the scope of coverage (mega-, macro-, meso-, macro-level) and the type and features of the research subject. The results of the analysis of the opinions of scientists regarding the content of the concept of "economic security" at different levels give grounds for asserting that the complexity, versatility, structure and diversity of this category determines the existence of a number of interpretations of the term "economic security" in modern economic literature (Fig. 2).

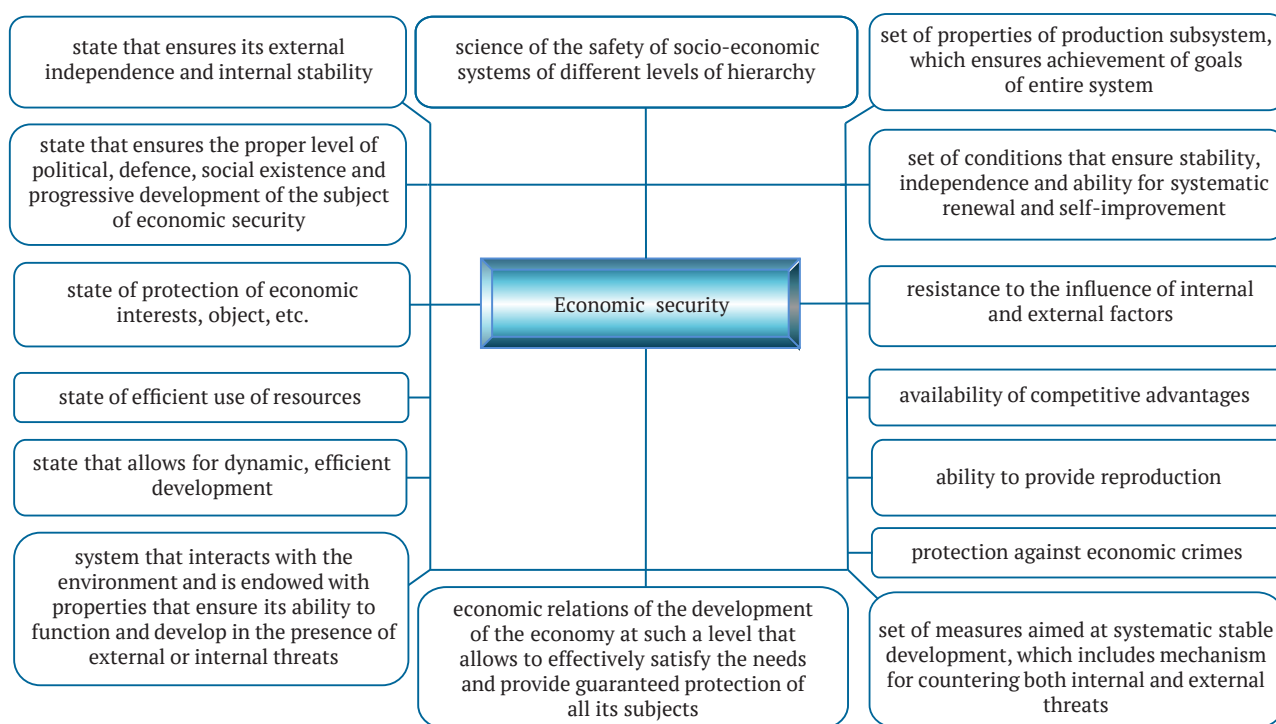


Figure 2. Levels of economic security and their interrelation

Source: developed by the author

As shown in Figure 2, it is proposed to consider it from the point of view of a state that ensures external independence and internal stability, a sufficient level of existence, efficiency of the use of resources, production system, dynamic economic development, security of activities and interests, harmonization of the latter; the system that ensures its ability to survive and develop; economic

relations, under which effective satisfaction of needs and guaranteed protection are carried out; resistance to the influence of factors; a set of properties of the production subsystem, conditions that ensure independence, stability and development; availability of competitive advantages; ability to reproduce; protection against economic crimes; a set of measures for stable development and countering

threats. Despite the fact that economic security is formed at different levels, starting with the state and ending with the citizen, the majority of scientific research, as evidenced by the analysis, is devoted to the economic security of the enterprise. Global, international, national, regional economic security is also a subject of attention of scientists. Therefore, relying on the research of the scientists O. Lyashenko [28], O. Chubukova, T. Voronkova [22], who interpret global economic security as the formation and securing of the functioning of the system of world economic relations, the effective interaction of economic blocs and national economies, and summarizing characteristic features in their views on the definition of this category, under global economic security it is understood that a set of measures allows to ensure the sustainable economic development of the states of the world in order to achieve the maximum safe and high standard of living of each individual. Identifying the features of international economic security, defined by scientists O. Skoruk [29], G. Ivashchenko [13], O. Khimich [18], it is characterized as a component of global economic security, which should ensure such cooperation between countries that will allow to resolve national and global problems of humanity on mutually beneficial terms and will contribute to their socio-economic development.

Recently, there has been a negative impact on the international economic security of such factors as: the outflow of highly qualified personnel from certain countries to the developed countries of the world, where more favourable conditions of activity have been created. As a result, there is an imbalance of personnel potential, which restrains the development of some countries, and at the same time promotes even greater prosperity of others; growth of the value of strategic resources under the influence of political manipulations and limitation of access to them by some countries. The Russian Federation uses energy “weapons” to influence the domestic political situation in European states; complication of the exchange of new technologies for political reasons; the lack of an adequate degree of cooperation even in the face of challenges and threats common to all humanity, such as the COVID-19 pandemic; the aggravation of the struggle between the United States of America and the People’s Republic of China for world leadership; the hybrid war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The emergence of these and similar factors is mostly explained by the presence of political antagonism, anti-democratic manifestations, global and local ideological contradictions on the world stage and it leads to the destabilization of international economic security, escalation of existing and emergence of new conflicts on the world stage, restrains the development of world society.

In the world scientific literature, there are many approaches to the interpretation of national economic security. At the same time, the scientists S. Stetsenko [30], V. Kovalenko, O. Levchuk [14], Z. Varnaliy, S. Onishchenko, A. Masliy [31] single out its sustainability, stability of the economic development of the state, counteraction to internal and external threats, economic independence, possibility of independent adoption and implementation of strategic, for the development, economic and political decisions by any entity, reliability of connections between all elements, possibility of using national competitive advantages

to ensure stability and development, self-reproduction and self-development, national interests. Taking into account the above, national economic security, in author’s opinion, should be considered as the state of the economy and government institutions, which allows to insure the guaranteed protection of national interests, socially oriented, harmonious development of the state. Ukraine is going through a complex process of market transformation and modernization of the economy, which is taking place in the presence of numerous negative factors (the shadow economy, growing economic inequality among the population, increasing unemployment, the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), increasing threats to national interests from the Russian Federation, etc.). To prevent the action of these factors and ensure the protection of national interests and the development of the country, the National Security Strategy of Ukraine [32] was developed for the period until 2025, which defines the following priority directions for ensuring national security: defence of independence and state sovereignty; European and Euro-Atlantic integration; restoration of territorial integrity.

For the purpose of their effective implementation, it is envisaged to create competitive conditions for attracting investments, in particular foreign ones, in such fields as metallurgy, energy, agro-industrial complex, pharmaceuticals, logistics and infrastructure, woodworking, furniture production and the IT industry, since they have a significant investment potential and are the most attractive from the point of view of profitability for the investor. An important step on the way to the implementation of the National Security Strategy of Ukraine should also be the implementation of judicial, land, defence, educational and security reforms. All kinds of support from the state should be given to those sectors of the economy where environmental protection and careful treatment are guaranteed, that is, safe disposal of all waste is provided for, natural resources are effectively used, conditions are created that are favourable for the introduction of the latest technologies that are safe for people and the environment. The further development of the activity of the agro-industrial complex should also be ecologically oriented. In parallel with the ecological transformation of the economy, Ukraine must integrate its own energy markets into the EU energy market, which will allow for diversification of energy sources and energy resource supply routes. The energy system of Ukraine, with the exception of the Burshtyn energy island, which is connected to the European energy system, works in synchronous mode with the systems of Russia, Belarus and Moldova. Integration into the European network will help balance the energy system, reduce dependence on Russia, gain access to new solvent markets, and provide the Ukrainian consumer with reliable and high-quality electrical energy. To create favourable conditions for the development of economic sectors, modernization of transport infrastructure, improvement of tariff policy, acceleration of customs procedures and increase in the use of inland water and air transport are required. An important direction of strengthening national economic security is the development of relations with the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic, neighbouring and other states and a special partnership

with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with the aim of gaining full membership of Ukraine in NATO. The national security strategy takes into account the risks Ukraine faces as a result of a hybrid war with Russia, the pandemic and other factors, and the effectiveness of its implementation will contribute to the neutralization of both internal and external threats that have arisen in recent years.

Economic security of the region [33-35] has its own peculiarities in formation and functioning, which determine its essence. In connection with this, scientists do not have a single position on its interpretation. Most often, this category is characterized as the ability of the region's economy to operate in the mode of extended reproduction and sustainable economic growth, maximally providing the proper conditions for life and personal development [36-37]. The economic security of the region is considered as a characteristic of the state of the economic system of the region, which characterizes the ability to resist internal and external threats, thanks to the management tools and means of protection in all spheres of the life of society [38] and its ability to resist the destabilizing action of internal and external factors and not create threats to the elements of the region, external environment [39-40]. In addition, it is revealed as a range of levels of economic and social indicators that ensure long-term sustainable development of the region or the ability of regional authorities to ensure stability, sustainability and competitiveness of the development of the region's economy [41].

Summarizing the views of scientists, it is suggested that regional economic security should be understood as the state of the socio-economic system of the region, formed thanks to the influence of regional tools of management, business, society, characterized by the ability to resist internal and external threats and the ability to provide appropriate conditions for the life and development of the population. Most scientists do not single out the industry level in the hierarchy of the economic security system at all. According to I. Balanyuk, M. Maksymyuk [1], this type of economic security is a peculiar combination of the economic security of the country and enterprises with their distribution by industries. In the author's opinion, the economic security of the industry is a set of conditions that allow ensuring competitiveness, protection of economic interests and economic development of enterprises that manufacture the same or similar products. The formation of the economic security of the industry is influenced by its specificity, purpose, functions, objects, subjects, inherent risks and threats and the method of their assessment. Under the economic security of entrepreneurship, the state of stability of the enterprise and its ability to develop is understood, which is achieved by the actions of the administration and the staff of the enterprise through the implementation of a system of legal, economic, organizational, engineering and technical, social and psychological measures for the effective use of resources and prevention of threats now and in the future [12].

S. Onyshchenko [42] considers the economic security of entrepreneurial activity as a set of external and internal conditions that ensure reliable protection of the economic interests of the enterprise against the influence of potential and real threats, stable functioning and sustainable development. Analysing the variety of approaches,

the author agrees with the interpretation of the economic security of entrepreneurship proposed by G. Sytnyk [43], according to which it is a state of entrepreneurial activity characterized by a complex of factors that preserves the ability for balanced development of the enterprise and ensures the economic security of the state and the well-being of the nation. The category "economic security of the enterprise", despite the greatest attention of scientists to it, which is due to both the multidimensionality and complexity of this concept, as well as its importance from the point of view of practical significance, remains the least unambiguous. Z. Yakubovych [16], I. Sosnovska, M. Zhytar [44], O. Illiashenko, N. Havlovska, Y. Rudnichenko, T. Momot [45] understand the economic security of an enterprise as: the state of the most efficient use of enterprise resources to prevent threats and ensure stable functioning both now and in the future; the state of protection against internal and external threats; protection against crimes; the ability to provide reproduction, etc. The most comprehensive is the definition proposed by T. Vasylyshyn [12]: the economic security of entrepreneurship plays a decisive role in strengthening and creating conditions for the stable development of national economic security. It represents the competitive state of the enterprise and its products on the market, which guarantees: effective use of resources, intellectual potential; stability, sustainability and progressivity of development; the ability to counteract threats from the external and internal environment. In our opinion, the economic security of the individual, which is not given enough attention in the scientific community, is the main object of the economic security system, because it is the individual and his/her interests that play a key role in the evolution of society and the economy. It represents the state of protection of the vital interests of a human being (individual) in the economic sphere and reflects the totality of economic, social, ecological, technological, scientific and information relations in society.

CONCLUSIONS

The conducted research made it possible to determine the following levels in the hierarchy of the economic security system: global, international, national, regional, sectoral economic security, economic security of entrepreneurship, enterprise and individual. Each level of economic security has its own interpretation depending on the characteristics of the activity of economic objects on it. Ensuring economic security at all these levels is a guarantee and basis for the successful development of the world community. There is a close relationship between these levels of economic security, which ensures its effectiveness and systematicity. In the system of the hierarchy of economic security, an important component that remains out of the attention of scientists is the economic security of the industry. It is a multi-factorial category that ensures the most rational and effective use of resources of enterprises that manufacture the same or similar products to meet the demand of society, neutralization of internal and external threats to their activities and contributes to the development of the state's economy and strengthening of its economic security. The economic security of the industry is formed by the resources needed for its operation, the demand for its products, the structure, the competitive position on the market and the

relationship with other industries. Most scientific studies consider economic security on the basis of industry specific characteristics only at the level of individual enterprises, while not taking into account the interrelations between them, which form the industry level of security. Consider-

ing the number of scientific research on the economic security of the state, the region and the enterprise, and their insufficiency in the field of ensuring the economic security of the industry and the individual, further research should be focused on these areas.

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Система економічної безпеки та рівні її формування

Анотація. Для розроблення методик оцінки системи економічної безпеки суб'єктів в умовах економічної та політичної нестабільності, необхідним й актуальним завданням є визначення суті, характеристики, взаємозв'язку між її рівнями, факторів, що впливають на їх формування. Метою дослідження є узагальнення наукових підходів та з'ясування сутності, особливостей і взаємозв'язку між рівнями формування системи економічної безпеки. Узагальнення існуючих підходів до формування системи економічної безпеки проведено монографічним методом. Сутність рівнів економічної системи визначено методами аналізу і синтезу. У дослідженні проведено аналіз існуючих підходів до визначення ієрархії системи економічної безпеки та представлено схему формування рівнів економічної безпеки, що складається з мегарівня (глобальна та міжнародна економічна безпека), макрорівня (загальнодержавна), мезорівня (регіональна та галузева економічна безпека), мікрорівня (економічна безпека підприємництва, підприємства, особи) та взаємозв'язку між ними. Визначено категорію «економічна безпека галузі» як сукупність умов, що забезпечують економічний розвиток, конкурентоздатність та захист її економічних інтересів. Встановлено, що економічна безпека галузі залежить від її специфіки, функцій, об'єктів, суб'єктів, специфічних ризиків і загроз. Обґрунтовано роль економічної безпеки галузі та економічної безпеки особи в системі ієрархії рівнів економічної безпеки. Отримані результати є базисом для розроблення методик оцінки системи економічної безпеки різних суб'єктів, яка може бути використана їх менеджментом з метою своєчасного виявлення загроз та швидкого впровадження заходів щодо їх усунення

Ключові слова: загрози, ризики, галузь, ієрархія, взаємозв'язок видів