

EUROPEAN SECURITY ARCHITECTURE IN THE 21st CENTURY

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Dnipro, 2026

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E 26 European Security Architecture in the 21st Century:
Monograph. [Electronic Edition]. Edited by Prof. A. Zadoia, Prof.
S. Fedulova. Dnipro: Alfred Nobel University, 2026. 563 p.
<https://doi.org/10.32342/eurosec/9789664346266>

The monograph combines theoretical and methodological, analytical and applied levels of research. It offers a holistic vision of the architecture of global security, where economic, environmental, energy, digital and social dimensions are integrated. The focus is on Ukraine as an active subject in the formation of a new security order in Europe, based on the principles of sustainability, partnership, innovation and mutual responsibility.

The results of the study are interdisciplinary in nature and will be useful to all those interested in the prospects for building a new European security architecture.

ISBN 978-966-434-626-6



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

The monograph was prepared within the framework of the implementation of the international project 'Highlighting the New European Security Architecture in Teaching and Research', No. 101126795 – EuSANU – ERASMUS-JMO-2023-HEI-TCH-RSCH. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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ISBN 978-966-434-626-6

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Preface

Modern geopolitical and geoeconomic processes testify to fundamental shifts in the world order, convincingly demonstrating the strengthening of security factors as one of the key ones that influence the formation of national political, legal and economic strategies. Vulnerabilities of the modern international legal order are provoked by inconsistent, and sometimes deliberate actions of countries that occupy leading positions in world trade, have significant potential in the military sphere and influential political power in relations with other states.

The military aggression against Ukraine, which continues to this day, sends a powerful signal to international organizations and supranational associations that international security safeguards are ineffective and, in this regard, issues of intensifying investment in defense technologies and deepening cooperation between countries in various areas of their common interests appear on the agenda of building a security architecture. This is especially important for strengthening military capabilities and increasing the effectiveness of financial and economic support for cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine on the basis of strategic forecasting and the formation of adaptive legal regulation.

The European Union recognizes Ukraine as part of the European security architecture, as proclaimed in the White Paper on European Defense – Readiness 2030. Measures capable of integrating the Ukrainian defense industry into the European Defense Technological and Industrial Base are recognized as priorities for strengthening the EU's defense capabilities.

This should be considered in the context of much broader European integration processes aimed at bringing the national legal system closer to the law of the European Union. Preservation of the fundamental values on which the European Union is founded simultaneously becomes the ideological basis for reforming the national mechanism of public administration, structural changes in the economy, and building civil society. The implementation of reforms in a stable and sustainable manner, based on the EU principles in the field of law-making, already today lays a solid foundation for preventing risks and minimizing their negative consequences.

A thorough assessment of the current transformations in the political, legal and economic systems of Ukraine, contained in this collective monograph, especially taking into account European integration priorities, forms a comprehensive vision of the further prospects for the integration of the Ukrainian state into the European security architecture.

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Introduction

In the 21st century, the global security system is undergoing a fundamental transformation, driven by a combination of classic geopolitical challenges and new threats, including hybrid conflicts, cyberattacks, energy shocks, pandemics, environmental crises, and structural deformations of the global economy. Classic notions of security as military-political stability no longer correspond to new realities. Today, security is becoming a multidimensional phenomenon that encompasses political, economic, social, informational, energy, environmental, and digital dimensions. At the same time, the system of international institutions created after World War II is increasingly less able to respond effectively to rapid global changes.

The monograph proposed by the authors is devoted to a comprehensive analysis of the modern architectonics of global security and the search for theoretical, methodological, and practical foundations for building its updated model. The purpose of the study is to substantiate a new system of global security in general and European security in particular, adapted to the conditions of a multipolar world, digital transformation and the growing interdependence of states, regions and corporations.

The first section reveals the general principles of building a new system of global security. It identifies key structural elements of the modern system that have lost their effectiveness and proposes conceptual directions for their renewal. The phenomenon of geopolitical recession is analyzed – a gradual decrease in the influence of traditional centers of power, which creates the prerequisites for the formation of a polycentric world. Special attention is paid to the issues of Euroregional cooperation, cross-border security, energy and environmental stability, as well as global business risks that shape new approaches to the management of international corporations.

The second section is devoted to the dialectics of the relationship between global, regional and national security. It analyzes the directions of harmonization of global and national interests in the context of security challenges of the 21st century, the role of European security as a component of the global order system, as well as the problems of forming a national model of sustainable development. A significant place is devoted to the topic of personnel security, reducing disparities in the EU labor market and Ukraine's contribution to the formation of European labor potential.

The third section reveals the economic security of Europe and its components, considering it as an institutional prerequisite for innovative

development and digital integration. The authors analyze the mechanisms of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the formation of a policy of public administration cohesion, adaptation to security challenges in the context of post-war recovery, as well as the impact of artificial intelligence, digitalization and corporate governance on the stability of the European economy.

The fourth section is of an applied nature and focuses on the role of Ukraine in the European security architecture. The potential of Ukraine as a key player in the European security system is considered, as well as its participation in the transformation of the labor market, cross-border integration, financial stability, and the development of innovative sectors of the economy. Particular attention is paid to investment cases of post-war recovery, in particular the creation of cross-border hydrogen clusters and the development of near-shoring production models, which are becoming a catalyst for Ukraine's integration into the European economic space.

The fifth chapter is devoted to the digital transformation of global security. It examines how digitalization, the development of artificial intelligence, Big Tech, and digital management systems are changing the risk structure, business competitiveness, and security strategies of states. The authors analyze the relationship between digitalization, environmental transformation, and the EU's global strategies in the field of sustainable development and economic security.

The sixth section outlines the directions of Ukraine's integration into the European economic and political and legal space, paying attention to methodological aspects of increasing the efficiency of integration processes, harmonization of legislation, development of the judiciary and transformation of the economic space of the de-occupied territories. It is through these processes that a new European security order is being formed, in which Ukraine is gradually moving from the status of a partner to a full participant.

Thus, the monograph combines theoretical and methodological, analytical and applied levels of research. It offers a holistic vision of the architecture of global security, where economic, environmental, energy, digital and social dimensions are integrated. The focus is on Ukraine as an active subject of the formation of a new security order in Europe, based on the principles of sustainability, partnership, innovation and mutual responsibility.

The author team represents scientists from various fields of research (economics, politics, law, technology, ecology, etc.) from all regions of Ukraine. This makes the research comprehensive, and its results interdisciplinary. Therefore, we are convinced that the monograph will be useful to all those who are interested in the problems of global and European security and the directions of its transformation in new geostrategic conditions.

The monograph was prepared within the framework of the implementation of the international project ‘Highlighting the New European Security Architecture in Teaching and Research’ No. 101126795 - EuSANU - ERASMUS-JMO-2023-HEI-TCH-RSCH and is the first in the planned cycle of publications dedicated to this topic.

Be always safe, dear readers!

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Chapter 15
***Europe's economic security in the era of artificial intelligence
and digital transformation***
(V. Zianko, T. Nechyporenko)

The rapid development of digital technologies and the implementation of artificial intelligence are radically changing the structure of economic processes, management models, and security systems at both the national and international levels. The European continent is at a crossroads of new opportunities and challenges: on the one hand, artificial intelligence tools stimulate productivity, and on the other, they create risks that potentially threaten economic security. In these conditions, traditional approaches to security, formed in the industrial or early digital era, are proving insufficient to effectively counter new threats, particularly in the areas of cybersecurity, digital sovereignty, and algorithmic governance. Given the above, the purpose of this chapter is to systematically examine the key challenges and opportunities associated with the transformation of economic security in the era of digital technologies and artificial intelligence.

**15.1. Economic security in the context of digital transformation:
theoretical and methodological discourse**

The concept of economic security has undergone significant changes in its development, adapting to transformations in the geopolitical, economic, and social environment. Its initial formation is closely linked to ideas of national security, in particular the socio-economic policy of US President Franklin Roosevelt, known as the ‘New Deal’, which emphasized the role of the state in ensuring the welfare of citizens during the Great Depression. Further international recognition of this concept was enshrined in 1985 in the resolution ‘International Economic Security’ at the 40th session of the UN General Assembly [6], which recognized the stability of socio-economic development as one of the key factors of global security. In contemporary

scientific discourse, the economic security of a state is interpreted in a multifaceted way, taking into account not only the protective function of the state, but also the need to ensure internal stability, development, and adaptation to global challenges. Thus, O. Pravdyvets [14] defines economic security as the highest function of the state, which consists in creating the preconditions for the sustainable development of the national economy, social welfare, and effective protection of citizens' interests. O. Dyachkov [10] proposes a systemic-structural approach, according to which economic security encompasses a set of elements and processes capable of ensuring the viability of the economy in conditions of instability. The military aspect is particularly relevant: in the works of O. Sokolov [17] and analytical reports of the NISD [13], economic security is considered as an indicator of resilience to military, financial, and social threats. According to this approach, economic security is the basis for long-term national survival in conditions of hybrid warfare, sanctions, and destruction of critical infrastructure. M. Samofalova and co-authors [15] propose a comprehensive vision of economic security as a category that combines economic independence, resilience to external and internal threats, the ability to self-develop, and the implementation of the state's strategic priorities. This approach integrates both classic security functions and requirements for economic adaptability and innovation. In turn, O. Fedoruk [20] emphasizes that in an open economy, economic security takes on a polysystemic character, formed on the basis of a combination of national priorities and the requirements of the international economic environment.

Based on the analysis of the scientific views presented, it can be concluded that in modern scientific thought there is a gradual shift in emphasis in the interpretation of economic security: from the traditional defense-oriented approach to a strategically oriented one, in which economic security is viewed as a multifunctional tool for ensuring the stability, adaptability, and economic self-sufficiency of the state in the face of global challenges.

The interpretation of the category of economic security in constantly changing conditions is characterized by the presence of inherent features that reflect its multifaceted and dynamic nature. Key attributes include balance, systemic stability, resistance to destabilizing factors, and the ability to effectively counter threats, which is synchronized with ensuring sustainable development and meeting the needs of key economic actors. The evolution of this category from a purely defensive, state-centric paradigm to a

proactive, multi-level, and development-oriented model indicates a fundamental transformation of its content. The modern paradigm emphasizes the efficient use of resources, economic freedom, and harmonious development.

Economic security is now positioned not only as a mechanism for preventing destructive influences, but also as a strategic tool for ensuring sustainable development, resilience, and adaptability to dynamic changes in the external and internal environment. In a multi-level system of its implementation – from individual and corporate to regional and national levels – a violation at one level (for example, a cyberattack on an enterprise) can cause cascading negative consequences at the macroeconomic level. This manifests itself in disrupted supply chains, declining employment, falling GDP, and deepening social instability. The high degree of interdependence between the components of the economic system makes it imperative to develop and implement integrated economic security strategies that reflect the dynamics and synergistic interaction of all levels of the economic system. In addition to basic definitions, modern conceptual approaches to economic security cover a variety of aspects.

As we can see, the approaches to economic security presented in Fig. 15.1 complement each other, forming a comprehensive understanding of this category as a multidimensional phenomenon that requires simultaneous attention to four key aspects: institutional strength (effective legislation and policy); structural stability (healthy macroeconomics and diversification); functional adaptability (system flexibility and effective management); social welfare (employment and population protection). It follows that effective economic security can only be achieved through the simultaneous strengthening of institutions, improvement of the economic structure, enhancement of adaptability, and ensuring the well-being of citizens.

Digital transformation is fundamentally changing the understanding of economic security by integrating new dimensions. Categories such as cybersecurity, cyber resilience, information security, and digital sovereignty are becoming particularly relevant. The rapid spread of digital technologies, the transfer of business processes to virtual space, and the growing dependence on information and communication infrastructure are creating new risks and challenges. These threats include: the escalation in the frequency and complexity of cyberattacks, the risks of leakage or compromise of confidential data, the dysfunction of important digital systems, and threats associated with the use of artificial intelligence,

blockchain technologies, and autonomous algorithms for destructive purposes.

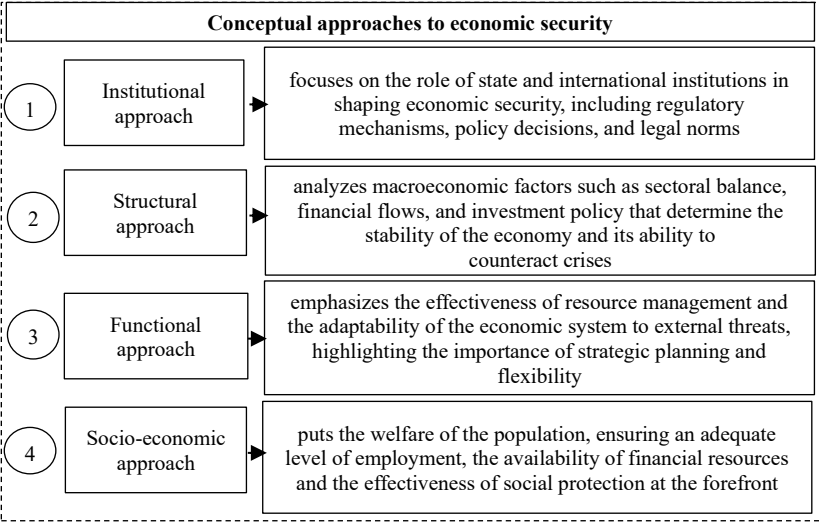


Fig. 15.1. Conceptual approaches to economic security

Developed by the authors

The modern paradigm of economic security requires the synthesis of traditional approaches with digital protection tools, the formation of an adaptive risk management system, and the development of proactive policies to respond to new types of threats caused by global digitalization. The diversity of scientific and methodological views on the essence and provision of economic security in the context of digital transformation is reflected in Table 15.1.

The approaches presented in Table 15.1 demonstrate that digital transformation is radically rethinking the concept of economic security.

It is no longer just protection against traditional threats, but encompasses the complex interaction of new challenges and opportunities, combining protection against digital threats, the development of innovative ecosystems, adaptation to technological changes, and the protection of national interests in the global digital space. This approach requires continuous monitoring of digital threats, active improvement of cyber hygiene, implementation of data protection systems, and ensuring business

continuity even in the event of cyber incidents.

Table 15.1

**Scientific and methodological approaches to defining economic security
in the context of digital transformation***

Author	Contents
Androshchuk G. [8]	The digital transformation of the European economy is changing traditional mechanisms for ensuring economic security, requiring new approaches to data regulation and protection.
Dluhopolskyi O., Simakhova A., Zatonatska T. [1]	The potential of the digital economy to ensure economic security in Europe lies in the creation of sustainable digital ecosystems and the integration of innovative solutions.
European Commission [2]	Digital transformation is a key factor in the EU's economic security, requiring policy harmonization, data protection, and the development of digital skills.
Grazevska N., Chygyrnskyi A. [9]	The digital transformation of the economy creates new risks and threats that require the development of mechanisms to protect national interests.
Kozlovsky S., Gorun S., Mamashvili L. [11]	Economic security of a state is the ability of the national economy to counter external and internal threats, ensure the stability of the financial system, and promote sustainable development through the introduction of innovative and digital technologies.
Kudrina O. [12]	The digital economy is changing traditional approaches to economic security, requiring new strategies for integrating digital technologies into public administration.
National Institute for Strategic Studies [13]	The digital transformation of Ukraine's economy promotes integration into the EU digital market, but at the same time requires mechanisms to protect national interests.
Silchenko V. [16]	Economic security in the context of digital transformation is determined by the state's ability to adapt to technological changes and ensure the stability of the economic system.
Storchak S. [18]	The impact of the development of the digital economy on the economic security of the state: strategic aspects and regulatory mechanisms.
Ukrainian Institute of the Future [19]	The digital economy is a key driver of global economic growth, affecting a country's economic security through market restructuring and technological challenges.

** Source: compiled by the authors*

The key principle is ‘resilience by design’, which involves integrating security mechanisms at all stages of the development and implementation of digital solutions. In addition to protection, these approaches promote the use

of digital technologies to strengthen economic security through innovative development and increased competitiveness.

15.2. Digital technologies and artificial intelligence: opportunities and threats to economic security

Economic security is the cornerstone of stability and prosperity for the European Union (EU) and its member states, providing protection against internal and external threats that could undermine national well-being and integration processes.

In the 21st century, under the influence of rapid digital transformation and the spread of artificial intelligence (AI), the architecture of European economic security is undergoing fundamental changes. Digital technologies and AI, while being powerful drivers of innovation, productivity, and competitiveness for Europe, also give rise to new and more complex challenges and threats. An analysis of the impact of these technologies for the period 2022–2024 shows their ambivalent role in shaping the economic security architecture of the union. Digitalization and AI open up unprecedented opportunities to strengthen the economic security of European countries by providing tools to improve the efficiency, transparency, and sustainability of their economic systems. They are key catalysts for innovation and productivity growth for the European economy. During 2022–2024, there will be a significant increase in the use of AI in European industry (particularly in Germany and France), finance (in centers such as London and Frankfurt), logistics, and other sectors. Automation of routine processes, optimization of production using robotics and advanced AI-based analytical systems enable European companies to significantly increase efficiency and reduce costs [2]. According to analysts, the introduction of generative AI, especially in recent years, is accelerating economic contribution in Europe by offering new opportunities for creating unique content, analyzing data, developing code, and interacting with voice interfaces [7]. This contributes to economic growth, increased GDP, and enhanced competitiveness.

The multifaceted and integrative role of artificial intelligence in strengthening the economic security of the European Union during 2022–2024 is clearly illustrated in Table 15.2, which demonstrates how its functionality covers various areas – from cybersecurity and finance to supply chain management and government regulation – providing systematic protection and increasing resilience. 15.2, demonstrating how its

functionality covers various areas – from cybersecurity and finance to supply chain management and government regulation – providing systemic protection and increasing resilience.

Table 15.2

Areas of application and functional impact of artificial intelligence on Europe's economic security (2022–2024)*

Scope of application in the EU	Example of AI functionality	Impact on Europe’s economic security
Cybersecurity	Predicting and detecting cyberattacks (ransomware, phishing, DDoS) on European networks; automatic incident response; analyzing vulnerabilities in EU infrastructure.	Protecting critical European infrastructure (energy, telecoms, finance); preserving EU citizens’ data; preventing financial losses from cybercrime in the region.
Financial sector	Fraud detection; credit risk analysis in European banks; monitoring transactions for money laundering in accordance with EU regulations; personalization of banking services.	Reduction in financial crime; increased stability of the EU banking system; trust in European financial institutions.
Supply chain management	Forecasting demand in European manufacturing companies; optimizing logistics within the EU and with partners; identifying vulnerabilities in European supply chains; monitoring geopolitical risks.	Strengthening the resilience of European supply chains to external shocks; ensuring the continuity of production and distribution of goods within the EU.
State management and regulation	Optimization of public services for EU citizens; big data analysis for EU policy-making; fight against corruption.	Improving the efficiency of the EU's administrative apparatus; reducing corruption risks, transparency in financial transactions.

** Source: compiled by the authors*

Table 15.2 clearly demonstrates that AI is a powerful tool in the fight against cyber threats and financial crime, which is particularly important for the interconnected European financial system. AI-based systems are capable of analyzing vast amounts of data in real time, detecting anomalies and patterns that indicate potential attacks or fraud. Over the past three years, the EU has been intensively implementing AI solutions for [5]:

– proactive threat detection: AI algorithms predict new types of attacks by analyzing global trends and behavioral anomalies in European networks, which is critical for protecting the single digital market;

- combating financial fraud: the integration of AI analytics and behavioral biometrics has significantly improved the ability of European banks and financial institutions (e.g., in Luxembourg or Ireland) to counter fraud and money laundering, especially in line with strict EU regulatory requirements;

- automation of threat monitoring and analysis: this increases the effectiveness of protecting the economic interests of EU member states and European businesses.

In addition, digital transformation contributes to the creation of more flexible and resilient European organizations. The introduction of cloud solutions, remote workplaces, and AI systems for crisis management allows EU companies to better adapt to unpredictable circumstances, such as pandemics or geopolitical conflicts (e.g., the war in Ukraine, which has significantly affected Europe's energy security). This minimizes economic losses and ensures the stability of priority sectors of the European economy.

Along with opportunities, digital technologies and AI pose significant threats to the EU's economic security, requiring constant vigilance and the development of adequate countermeasures. Since 2022, Europe has seen a significant increase in the number and complexity of cyberattacks, including ransomware, phishing schemes, supply chain attacks, and data leaks. The increase in the number of vulnerabilities disclosed (according to the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity ENISA, their number has grown by 17% over the years analyzed [4]) reflects the constant growth of cyber risks in the region. Remote working and cloud technologies have expanded the attack surface, making end devices and data flows attractive targets for cybercriminals, often sponsored by aggressor states. The economic consequences of such attacks for the EU could be catastrophic, encompassing [7]:

- direct financial losses: ransom payments, system restoration costs, penalties for data breaches (high under the GDPR);

- indirect losses: loss of reputation, customer trust, business process downtime, impact on European stock markets;

- systemic risks: attacks on critical EU infrastructure (energy, transport, finance, healthcare), such as attempts to influence the energy systems of Germany or Poland, could cause widespread economic collapse (Table 15.3).

AI, being a powerful tool, poses new threats to European stability and security:

- AI-driven cyberattacks: attackers can use AI to automate attacks,

create more sophisticated viruses and phishing messages (in particular using deepfake technologies, which create risks of disinformation and manipulation of public opinion in the EU), and to identify vulnerabilities in security systems;

Table 15.3

Analysis of the destructive impact of digital technologies and artificial intelligence on Europe's economic security (2022–2024)*

Threat category	Description and impact on Europe	Example
Cyberattacks on the EU	The increasing number and complexity of attacks (ransomware, DDoS, phishing, APT) targeting European governments, companies, and critical infrastructure.	Attacks on European energy companies (e.g., in Finland or Romania); leaks of personal data of millions of EU citizens from government and commercial databases.
Vulnerability of European software and systems	Flaws in software and system configurations used in Europe that allow attacks and unauthorized access.	Identification of ‘zero’ vulnerabilities in European software products; increased risks for companies that have switched to remote working, particularly in the UK and Spain.
Using AI for attacks against the EU	Malicious use of AI to automate cyberattacks, create deepfakes for disinformation, and manipulate elections in Europe.	Phishing campaigns using AI for high levels of personalization; attempts to influence public opinion through deepfake videos during the European Parliament elections.
Ethical and social risks of AI in the EU	Algorithm bias, discrimination in social and economic processes, manipulation, job losses in key sectors of the European economy.	Controversy surrounding the use of AI in decision-making systems (e.g., credit scoring in France); discussions on the impact of automation on European labor markets, particularly in Scandinavian countries with high levels of automation.
Geopolitical risks and technological dependence	Competition for AI dominance among major players, risk of disruption to technology chains, cyber espionage against European institutions.	Pressure on EU countries regarding the choice of technology suppliers (e.g., disputes over 5G); concerns about dependence on non-European manufacturers of microchips and AI components, which is particularly relevant for the Netherlands (ASML) and Germany (investments in semiconductors).

** Source: compiled by the authors*

– ethical and social challenges: bias in AI algorithms can lead to discrimination in lending and employment in European companies, as well as manipulation of public opinion, undermining social and economic stability in the EU (it is worth noting that the European Union is a leader in the development of ethical standards and regulation of AI);

– unemployment risks and the transformation of the European labor market: automation and robotization, driven by AI, may lead to job losses in certain sectors of the European economy (e.g., manufacturing workers, data entry operators, drivers). This poses challenges for social stability and requires large-scale retraining and social protection programs;

– technological dependence and geopolitical risks: Europe's growing dependence on a limited number of leading AI technology developers (mainly the US and China) creates risks of geopolitical competition for digital dominance. This could lead to a 'split' in the global economy into technological blocs and affect European supply chains, access to critical technologies, and the EU's strategic autonomy.

Digital technologies and artificial intelligence play an ambivalent role in ensuring the EU's economic security. They open up unprecedented opportunities for innovation, productivity gains, and greater resilience for European economies. At the same time, their development creates new, complex threats that require constant adaptation, significant investment in cybersecurity, ethical and transparent regulation of AI, and intensified international cooperation. During the period under review, these trends have intensified, highlighting the EU's need for a comprehensive proactive approach to ensuring economic security. To function successfully in a dynamic environment, it is important for the EU not only to effectively counter threats, but also to optimally realize the potential of digital technologies and AI to strengthen resilience, stimulate innovation, and enhance global competitiveness.

15.3. Strategic approaches to ensuring economic security in the digital age

In response to the opportunities and growing threats associated with digital transformation and the development of artificial intelligence, the EU is actively developing and implementing comprehensive strategic approaches to ensure economic security. These approaches reflect the EU's desire to achieve digital sovereignty and strengthen strategic autonomy.

The EU is consistently strengthening cybersecurity, recognizing that cyber resilience is a prerequisite for economic stability. The emphasis is on multi-layered protection (perimeter, endpoints, networks, data), the implementation of Zero Trust principles, and enhanced threat information sharing between member states and European agencies. The NIS2 Directive plays a key role here, expanding the range of entities subject to cybersecurity requirements (covering, for example, food production, postal and courier services) and strengthening risk management requirements. The European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) also provides important expert support and promotes cooperation. At the national level, countries such as Germany with its ‘Cybersecurity Strategy’ and France with the active development of national CERTs (Computer Emergency Response Teams) demonstrate a proactive approach to critical infrastructure protection [4].

The EU is a global leader in developing a comprehensive regulatory framework for AI – the AI Act, which was adopted in 2024 and will come into force in stages until 2026. This act sets a precedent in establishing global standards, classifying AI systems by risk level (from minimal to unacceptable), and setting strict requirements for transparency, ethics, safety, and oversight of ‘high-risk’ AI systems [3]. In particular, these include AI used in critical infrastructure, law enforcement, education, and employment. A key aspect is not only protecting citizens’ rights, but also ensuring trust in AI technologies, which is fundamental to their safe and sustainable economic use in the EU. In addition, clear regulation through the AI Act contributes to the creation of a predictable legal environment that stimulates investment in the development of safe and ethical AI solutions within the EU, preventing ‘regulatory arbitrage’ and supporting the competitiveness of European developers.

Recognizing the transformation of the European labor market under the influence of AI and automation, the EU and its member states are investing in retraining and training programs to prepare the workforce for the needs of the digital economy. In particular, this involves supporting STEM education, developing digital skills among the adult population, and creating ‘AI Academies’. For example, Spain and Italy are actively developing government programs to improve digital literacy, while the Netherlands is investing in specialized AI research centers [2]. The aim of these initiatives is to minimize the socio-economic risks associated with job displacement and to provide Europe with skilled workers for innovative development. It also contributes to increasing labor productivity and creating new, highly skilled

jobs in growing sectors, building a resilient and adaptable workforce that is fundamental to long-term economic security.

In addition to internal measures, Europe is actively cooperating with international partners (such as the US, Japan, and South Korea) to counter transnational cyber threats, exchange best practices, and develop common standards in the field of AI and cybersecurity. At the same time, the EU seeks to strengthen digital sovereignty by reducing its dependence on non-European technology giants. This is achieved through the development of its own digital ecosystems, including cloud computing (e.g., the Gaia-X initiative), semiconductor development (European Chips Act), and the development of its own AI solutions [2]. This strategy aims to ensure technological independence and protect Europe's economic interests in the face of growing geopolitical competition.

Conclusions. The economic security of European countries in the 21st century is taking on a new, multifaceted dimension, under the unprecedented influence of rapid digital transformation and the exponential development of artificial intelligence. This has fundamentally changed the paradigms of its conceptualization and provision. Traditional approaches are proving incapable of adequately responding to the dynamic spectrum of modern threats and fully utilizing innovative potential. This requires the formation of adaptive strategies and tools that take into account the digital reality.

Digital technologies and AI are catalysts for transformational change, bringing both enormous opportunities and significant threats to Europe's economic security.

On the one hand, they increase the competitiveness of European economies by stimulating innovative development, optimizing production processes, and enhancing efficiency in key sectors such as industry, finance, and logistics. In particular, in 2022–2024, the EU actively integrated AI solutions for cyber security, combating financial crime, and ensuring the continuity of critical business processes, which is fundamental to the stability of the single digital market.

On the other hand, digital transformation generates new, more complex and systemic threats. Analysis of the last three years shows a significant increase in the number and sophistication of cyberattacks that threaten critical infrastructure, government institutions, and the private sector. Direct and indirect financial losses from cyber incidents can be catastrophic for companies and national budgets. In addition, AI creates risks through its ability to automate and amplify cyberattacks (including disinformation

through deepfake technologies), and raises ethical and social challenges related to algorithmic bias, labor market transformation, and Europe's potential technological dependence on non-European technology leaders.

In response to these challenges and opportunities, the EU is taking a proactive and strategic approach to ensuring economic security in the digital age, which includes:

- comprehensive cybersecurity strategies: strengthening collective resilience by expanding coverage and cybersecurity requirements for critical sectors (in particular, Directive NIS2);

- EU Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act): establishes the European Union's position as a global leader in shaping an ethical and safe framework for the development and implementation of AI, minimizing the risks associated with algorithmic bias, lack of transparency, and insufficient reliability of AI systems, while ensuring the protection of citizens' rights and economic interests;

- significant investment in digital skills and education: key to adapting the labor market and overcoming the risks of unemployment caused by automation;

- strengthening international cooperation and striving for digital sovereignty: reducing dependence on external technology giants and developing Europe's own digital ecosystems, particularly in the areas of cloud computing and semiconductors.

Thus, Europe's economic security in the era of artificial intelligence and digital transformation is a complex but manageable process. Its success depends on the EU's ability not only to effectively counter existing and new threats, but also to maximize the innovative potential of digital technologies and AI to strengthen resilience, innovative development, and global competitiveness. This requires constant adaptation of regulatory and strategic approaches, flexibility in responding to rapid technological change, and systemic investment in security and innovation.

Digital transformation and the development of artificial intelligence have fundamentally redefined the concept of economic security in the European Union, turning it into a multifaceted phenomenon. AI is both a powerful driver of economic growth and innovation, strengthening the EU's competitiveness and resilience, and a source of new, complex threats such as cyberattacks, systemic vulnerabilities, ethical dilemmas, and geopolitical dependence. Effective economic security for the EU in the digital age requires a proactive and integrated approach that combines institutional strengthening,

structural resilience, system adaptability, and citizen well-being with ongoing investment in cybersecurity, clear regulation of AI, and deeper international cooperation to ensure a stable and prosperous future.

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Scientific publication

EUROPEAN SECURITY ARCHITECTURE IN THE 21st CENTURY

Edited by Prof. A. Zadoia, Prof. S. Fedulova

Monograph

Electronic Edition

HEI “Alfred Nobel University”
49000, Dnipro, Sicheslavska Naberezhna St., 18.
Phone (056) 778-58-66, e-mail: rio@duan.edu.ua
Certificate ДК № 5309, 20.03.2017