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## **INNOVATIONS IN TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SYSTEMS AS A KEY FACTOR IN EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**

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Ukraine's successful European integration depends on a large number of factors, including financial reforms, the cessation of hostilities, the restoration and modernization of lost or damaged power plants and industrial facilities, the fight against corruption, and so on [1-5]. But one of the main points of Ukraine's successful integration into the EU structures will be the introduction of innovations in transport and logistics systems.

Innovation plays a key role in the development of the state economy and integration processes. They are modern technologies, methods and approaches that contribute to improving the efficiency, safety and sustainability of transport and logistics processes. As well as innovative systems in transport and logistics systems will help Ukraine surpass its Western partners.

One of the main areas of innovation is the introduction of digital technologies such as the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence and process automation. These technologies are capable of collecting, analyzing, and using vast amounts of data to optimize routes, automatically distribute goods, manage inventory, etc.

The second way for Ukraine could be the development of environmentally friendly vehicles and infrastructure. There is an opinion that electric cars are not an environmentally friendly mode of transport due to several factors:

1. The process of extracting the materials needed for the production of electric vehicles is an extremely harmful process to nature.
2. The electricity required for charging electric vehicles is generated mainly by thermal power plants, which is very polluting to the atmosphere.
3. Recycling batteries is very harmful to our planet.

All these factors indicate that Ukraine should go its own way, which is different from the approach of the EU. Firstly, Ukraine should join

international developments in the production of environmentally friendly fuel and/or Toyota's program for the production of hydrogen-powered engines. In the future, these technologies can be integrated into the transport and logistics structures of our country.

Secondly, Ukraine should modernize the railway network, build new modern railway tracks (including the hypothetical introduction of magnetic tracks on the principle of the Maglev (magnetic levitation), on ultra-long-distance routes, such as Kharkiv-Lviv), establish cooperation with French (and not only) manufacturers of modern trains and motivate Ukrainian manufacturers to produce modern, high-quality buses, trams and trolleybuses to replace the current ones.

At the same time, the Ukrainian government should pursue a policy that promotes the transition from its own transport to public transport as more environmentally friendly and cheaper. An example is the German and French experience. For example, in Germany, there is a Deutschland-Ticket system, which implies a pass for any type of public transport, except for high-speed trains, for 49 euros per month. Similar conditions and prices apply in France. Ukraine, which follows this path, can greatly unload the roads and attract new funds to the state budget as taxes of large transport and logistics companies, such as Ukrzaliznytsia.

In addition, innovations in the field of logistics process management, such as the use of robotic warehousing and delivery systems, autonomous vehicles and drones, are helping to increase the speed and reliability of deliveries, which can increase the capacity of Ukraine's logistics systems. It is worth highlighting the introduction of controlled drones into logistics processes. As we know, a large number of technologies in history were first introduced into military operations, and later actively retrained into civilian technologies (such as the Internet). Ukraine already has enormous experience in producing its own military drones, some of which have even proven that it is not necessary to have a navy to control the sea. Therefore, it is worth making the assumption that in the future Ukraine will introduce its innovative solutions into delivery systems for goods and even people, which will make Ukraine one of the leaders in the drone industry in the world and the engine of progress in Europe.

Overall, innovations in transport and logistics systems help to improve a country's competitiveness, speed up the movement of goods and passengers, and reduce environmental impact, making them an integral part of successful European integration.

In addition to all of the above, it is worth adding another extremely ambitious solution to expand the capacity of the transport and logistics system of Ukraine. Probably, in 15-20 years, Ukraine will need a new central unit of the logistics chain. The solution could be the construction

and opening of a completely new, huge airport by European standards on the principle of the Polish project CPK (Centralny Port Komunikacyjny), which is currently being built not far from Warsaw. The construction of such a mega project will help Ukraine strengthen its position as a major logistics hub in Europe, increase passenger and trade flow with the most powerful players on the continent and in the world (including China, Japan and the United States). It could also attract new investment, especially from China, which is interested in expanding its Belt and Road Initiative. And also, such a project can reduce the travel time for an average Kyiv resident, a resident of Lviv or even Minsk to cities such as Seoul, Tokyo, Beijing, Sydney, Singapore and so on. How efficient is it to spend billions of dollars to build a mega airport? We'll find out on the example of Warsaw CPK, in a few years. But even now we can say that this is a promising project that can transform Kyiv from the capital of one country into a logistics hub of continental importance and, as a result, will increase the importance of our country in the international arena [5].

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