

Yuzhang Fan, Wang Yuan,
Shanghai University of Political Science and Law
(Shanghai, People's Republic of China)
2870757787a@gmail.com

THE COMPLEMENTARITY AND COOPERATION MECHANISM BETWEEN BELARUS AND RUSSIA IN THE CHINA-EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

Abstract. *The China-Europe Economic Corridor, as an essential component of the Belt and Road Initiative, serves as a crucial link connecting the Eurasian continent. The complementary cooperation between Belarus and Russia in logistics, industry, and energy has provided solid support for the development of the corridor. By analyzing typical cases such as the China-Europe Railway Express, the China-Belarus Industrial Park, and the Yamal-Europe Gas Pipeline, this paper explores the practices and challenges faced by the two countries in enhancing logistics efficiency, promoting industrial synergy, and ensuring energy security. The study reveals that there remains room for improvement in policy coordination, risk prevention, and financial support mechanisms. This paper offers practical guidance for the high-quality development of the China-Europe Economic Corridor and provides valuable insights for multilateral cooperation models under the Belt and Road Initiative.*

Keywords: China-Europe Economic, cooperation, industrial synergy, energy security.

Фань Юйчжан, Ван Юань,
Шанхайский университет политических наук и права
(Шанхай, Китайская Народная Республика)
2870757787a@gmail.com

МЕХАНИЗМ ВЗАИМОДОПОЛНЯЮЩЕГО СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА МЕЖДУ БЕЛАРУСЬЮ И РОССИЕЙ В РАМКАХ КИТАЙСКО- ЕВРОПЕЙСКОГО ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО КОРИДОРА

Аннотация. *Китайско-Европейский экономический коридор, являясь важной составляющей инициативы «Один пояс, один путь», служит ключевым связующим звеном, объединяющим евразийский континент. Взаимодополняющее сотрудничество между Беларусью и Россией в сферах логистики, промышленности и энергетики обеспечивает прочную поддержку*

развитию коридора. На основе анализа типичных случаев, таких как Китайско-Европейский железнодорожный экспресс, Китайско-Белорусский индустриальный парк и газопровод «Ямал-Европа», в данной статье исследуются проблемы, с которыми сталкиваются две страны в повышении эффективности логистики, содействии промышленной синергии и обеспечении энергетической безопасности. Исследование показывает, что существует потенциал для улучшения в области координации политик, предотвращения рисков и механизмов финансовой поддержки. Данная работа предлагает практические рекомендации для высококачественного развития Китайско-Европейского экономического коридора и моделей многостороннего сотрудничества в рамках инициативы «Один пояс, один путь».

Ключевые слова: Китайско-Европейский экономический коридор, сотрудничество, промышленная синергия, энергетическая безопасность.

The economic complementarity between Belarus and Russia provides a solid foundation for their cooperation and demonstrates significant synergies across multiple domains. Firstly, the two countries exhibit evident complementarities in resource endowments. Belarus is renowned for its competitive edge in manufacturing, particularly in engineering machinery and automotive components, with its products exerting significant influence in the region and becoming an indispensable part of the industrial chains of Belt and Road countries. The establishment of the China-Belarus Industrial Park further strengthens Belarus's industrial clustering effect, attracting numerous multinational investments and serving as a model platform for regional cooperation. Meanwhile, Russia, as a vital energy supplier in the Eurasian region, leverages its abundant oil and natural gas resources, transported through pipelines and railways, to drive the development of the China-Europe Economic Corridor [1].

Geographically and logistically, Belarus occupies a central position in the China-Europe Economic Corridor, acting as a critical hub connecting East Asia and Europe. Russia, on the other hand, relies on its extensive railway network and strategic port resources to provide essential transport support for the China-Europe Railway Express. The collaboration between the two countries in logistics has significantly enhanced regional connectivity.

Furthermore, in the fields of technology and the digital economy, Belarus demonstrates robust growth potential, with its IT industry earning the reputation of being the "Silicon Valley of the East". Russia is distinguished by its advanced capabilities in aerospace, energy equipment manufacturing, and digital technologies. Through their collaboration in technology, both countries capitalize on their respective strengths, injecting momentum into regional technological innovation and economic upgrading.

Belarus and Russia have achieved remarkable results in their collaborative practices within the China-Europe Economic Corridor, encompassing key areas

such as logistics, industry, and energy. The China-Europe Railway Express, a flagship project of the corridor, highlights the central role of both countries in regional logistics cooperation. The Brest hub in Belarus, as a critical transfer station for the railway, has improved transportation efficiency by optimizing track gauge conversion and cargo handling processes. In recent years, Belarus has actively adopted paperless document management, intelligent sealing technology, and blockchain systems to advance the construction of a “digital transport corridor”, significantly enhancing the intelligence level of railway operations. In 2020, Belarus’s transit container volume increased by 25 % year-on-year, further consolidating its role as a logistics hub in the region [2]. Meanwhile, Russia has supported the railway with its transcontinental transport infrastructure, including the Trans-Siberian Railway and other major lines, providing vital connectivity across Eurasia. Through coordinated improvements in customs clearance and tariff policies, both countries have reduced cross-border logistics costs and promoted the efficient operation of international logistics networks.

The China-Belarus Industrial Park is a model of industrial collaboration between the two countries under the Belt and Road Initiative. The industrial park has attracted 113 enterprises from 16 countries and regions, with a total investment agreement exceeding 1.35 billion USD. These enterprises span fields such as machinery manufacturing, e-commerce, new materials, artificial intelligence, and biopharmaceuticals. The park’s robust growth has enhanced Belarus’s manufacturing competitiveness and attracted substantial international capital and advanced technologies, making it a key driver of high-value-added industries in the region. Russia, leveraging the park, has accelerated the transition of its resource-based economy toward diversification by engaging in deep cooperation with enterprises within the park, aligning its resource advantages with advanced manufacturing and technological innovation. Moreover, the park draws on the management model of China’s Suzhou Industrial Park, adapting it to Belarus’s national conditions to establish a modern, efficient management system that facilitates cross-border business operations and stimulates infrastructure development and industrial chain expansion in surrounding areas. The Park also fosters economic and technical exchanges with other Belt and Road countries, becoming a hub for regional industrial collaboration and international cooperation. Notably, it has implemented a series of green development policies, optimizing resource utilization and promoting clean energy technologies to achieve a win-win scenario for economic and environmental sustainability. Furthermore, the park features state-of-the-art research and development centers and innovation platforms, offering enterprises full-chain services from product development to market promotion, thereby enhancing its global competitiveness in industrial cooperation.

Energy cooperation forms another critical pillar of Belarus-Russia collaboration. The Yamal-Europe Gas Pipeline, a core regional energy cooperation project, transports Russian natural gas through Belarus to multiple European countries, ensuring energy security across Eurasia. Belarus benefits from stable energy supplies to meet domestic demand and gains significant transit fees and energy allocation rights, bolstering its economic returns and geopolitical influence. Meanwhile, Russia leverages stable energy exports to consolidate its leadership in regional energy supply. Against the backdrop of increasing uncertainty in the international energy market, enhanced energy cooperation between the two countries not only strengthens their bilateral economic ties but also provides critical support for economic stability along the China-Europe Economic Corridor.

These comprehensive and in-depth cooperative practices not only deepen the synergy between Belarus and Russia in logistics, industry, and energy but also establish a benchmark for multilateral cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative. Through the aforementioned projects, Belarus and Russia have achieved regional economic connectivity, advancing the shared prosperity of the China-Europe Economic Corridor.

To further enhance the efficiency of Belarus-Russia cooperation in the China-Europe Economic Corridor, both countries should deepen coordination at the policy level. By leveraging the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, they can optimize customs policies and transport regulations, achieving greater transparency and facilitation in the trade environment. On the one hand, simplifying customs procedures for cross-border goods can reduce trade costs; on the other hand, establishing more efficient customs clearance processes for the China-Europe Railway Express can shorten cargo turnover times and drive continuous reductions in transportation costs. Additionally, the two countries can use multilateral cooperation platforms to promote the unification of cross-border logistics and transportation regulations, building a standardized logistics system covering the entire region to enhance the coordinated development capacity of the economic corridor.

In light of the increasingly complex geopolitical risks, establishing a comprehensive risk prevention mechanism is critical to ensuring the sustainability of collaborative projects. Belarus and Russia should jointly establish a regional security assessment system to regularly monitor and evaluate potential geopolitical risks. By adopting flexible response mechanisms, they can mitigate the impact of external instabilities and strengthen their economic independence and resilience against risks.

Financial support is a key driver for the high-quality development of projects in the China-Europe Economic Corridor. Both countries should actively utilize international multilateral financial platforms such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Silk Road Fund to expand financing channels for infrastructure construction, industrial park upgrades, and clean energy

projects. Meanwhile, advancing the adoption of the Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS) for RMB transactions can lower cross-border payment costs, improving the stability and controllability of financial flows. Furthermore, the two countries can explore establishing a regional development bank or a dedicated industrial fund to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in participating in the corridor's construction, contributing to the comprehensive development of the regional economy.

While promoting hardware infrastructure development, the two countries also need to focus on enhancing “soft connectivity” to ensure the stability of their cooperation mechanisms. By formulating unified technical standards and legal frameworks, they can address inefficiencies caused by regulatory differences in cross-border transportation. Additionally, leveraging modern information technology to establish an efficient logistics information-sharing platform can enable real-time monitoring and management of cargo flows, improving transparency and coordination in regional logistics. Furthermore, advancing the comprehensive development of multimodal transportation by integrating rail, road, and maritime transport will provide more flexible and reliable logistics support for the China-Europe Economic Corridor, ensuring the long-term sustainability of regional economic cooperation.

References

1. Head of the Chinese Mission to the EU: China and the EU Should Jointly Oppose the “New Cold War” Mentality // People's Daily Online. – September 28, 2023. – URL: <https://world.people.com.cn/n1/2023/0928/c1002-40087209.html>.
2. Senko, Y. Belarus Aims to Optimize the Transit Efficiency of China-Europe Freight Trains / Y. Senko // China Investment. – June 21, 2021. – URL: https://m.thepaper.cn/baijiahao_13233169.

Jiang BoYan,

*Scientific supervisor N. N. Batova,
PhD in Economics, Associate Professor,
Belarus State University
(Minsk, Republic of Belarus)
nbatava@gmail.com*

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE ECONOMY: THE EXPERIENCE OF BELARUS AND CHINA

Abstract. *The article examines the experience of digital transformation in the economies of the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China. It*