

Thus, to avoid worsening the situation especially its economic and political perspectives, the EU needs to explicitly assess economic challenges viewing them from the two aspects – Potential Negative Impact and Risk Probability which will allow the EU to focus on the most troublesome problems.

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THE IMPACT OF ROBOTICS ON THE WORLD ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

One-third of Belarusians believe that robots will soon perform most of the work done by humans but 70% also believe their jobs will be unaffected. Robots are becoming a global trend. Countries from developing to developed are increasingly seeking to automate all production processes.

Robotics gradually penetrates into an increasing number of areas, provides modern people not only with tempting prospects, but also condemns them to problems that cannot be easily solved. Self-driving cars, equipment that independently analyzes x-rays, algorithms that sensitively respond to customer requests – these are all manifestations of new forms of automation.

Despite the fact that these technologies enhance productivity and improve quality of life, some people have fears about robots eliminating jobs. That is a matter of concern in today's society. The “robot revolution” will change the global economy over the next 20 years, reducing the cost of doing business but exacerbating social inequality as machines take over everything from caring for the elderly to making hamburgers.

In a report disclosed by the Guardian, analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch consider it the fourth industrial revolution, the revolution of mass production and electronics. However, this revolution can put a large number of employees out of work for the next 20 years, according to research done by Oxford University. One of the main risks posed by robotics and artificial intelligence is the potential for increase in labor force polarization, especially for low-paid jobs, and the disappearance of manual jobs with average income.

According to the International Federation of robotics (IFR), the ‘robot revolution’ has an ambiguous impact on the economy. On the one hand, the

introduction of one new robot per 1000 low-skilled workers reduces employment by 0.18%, which is equivalent to the loss of work for three people; the average salary is reduced by 0.25%. On the other hand, IFR adds that less than 10% of jobs can be fully automated: robots complement and expand them, and the net impact on employment is positive. For example, in the UK, technology led to the loss of 0.8 million low-skilled jobs, but at the same time contributed to the creation of 3.5 million highly-skilled jobs. Countries with the highest production automation level, for example, Germany and Korea, have the lowest unemployment rate. Robotization also leads to an increase in wages in the economy, stimulating the demand for highly qualified labor force. The challenge is to allow middle-skilled workers, which is declining, to increase this qualification. The trend of automation cannot but affect the Republic of Belarus. At the moment robotics at Belarusian enterprises is widely used primarily in welding, painting, assembling, and surface mounting technologies for radio-electronic components.

At the public corporation «MAZ», the management company of the «Belavtomaz» holding, a robotic system is used for welding the sides of dump trucks, which has significantly improved their quality. Robotic equipment has also been introduced for the production of passenger cars in the joint stock company «BELGEE». The welding shop has 26 robots manufactured by KUKA. Besides, there are 9 DURR robots in the paint shop.

As for the service sector, many multinational companies represented in Belarus, including McDonald's, take steps to the use of robotics in order to fully automate many production processes and accept orders. «Create your taste» kiosk is an automated touch-screen system that allows customers to create their own burgers without interacting with another human being.

According to statistics, by 2025, the total global market for robots and artificial intelligence will reach \$248 billion and increase productivity by 30% in some industries. In the four years from 2016 to 2019, 8 million robots were purchased worldwide in the field of education and science alone. And this number does not include industrial production, medicine, and military affairs. They have appeared in many industries, engaged in dangerous or monotonous work, where a person can make mistakes due to reduced concentration. In 2016 1.8 million robots were used in the global industry-according to forecasts, by the end of 2020 there will be 3.5 million of them. Other areas are still lagging behind: in logistics and construction by 2020 there will be 177,000 robots worldwide, 34,000 robots in agriculture and 8,000 in medicine.

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IMPROVEMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Foreign trade is a key factor in the socio-economic development of any country. The economic situation of any country in the world is largely determined by the volume and structure of foreign trade relations. The development of trade relations with China is an important direction of the foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus. The potential of the Chinese economy today stands out significantly in the world economy, which can significantly affect the development of the Belarusian economy. In turn, the Republic of Belarus is attractive to the PRC, as it has a number of technological, scientific and production capabilities. Based on the significance of the foregoing, we consider the study of the problems and prospects of the Belarusian-Chinese trade cooperation relevant.

A theoretical study allows us to conclude that foreign trade cooperation is one of the types of entrepreneurial activities aimed at the implementation of sales transactions on the foreign market of goods, services, information and intellectual property results.

The Civil Code of the Republic of Belarus reads as follows: “entrepreneurial activity is an independent activity, carried out at your own risk and peril, aimed at the systematic receipt of profit from the use of property, sale of goods, performance of work or the provision of services by persons registered in this capacity in the established manner” [1, p. 2]. This logically implies the conclusion that, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus, foreign trade cooperation acts as a type of entrepreneurial activity, the main purpose of which is to make a profit as a result of the international exchange of goods and services.

In general, we propose combining all methods of foreign trade policy into two large groups: system-strategic and situational-tactical. An analysis of foreign trade policy made it possible to note that ultimately it should be focused on the development of the domestic economy, ensuring its balance at the domestic market level, creating favorable conditions for structural changes in production, and facilitating the country's integration into the international division of labor.