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## **UKRAINE IN CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION: HISTORIOGRAPHICAL INTERPRETATIONS ON EXAMPLE OF LEARNING EXPERIENCE OF CARPATHIAN EUROREGION**

The emergence of a common border with the European Union after the «big» EU enlargement in 2004–2007 opened new opportunities for Ukraine on the international arena and contributed to intensification of Ukrainian efforts in the implementation of European integration. The new EU members, countries of Central Europe are the most important and closest strategic partners of Ukraine on this way. These countries provide substantive support for Ukraine to implement its European plans; they often act as «lawyers» of Ukrainian interests in the all-European governing institutions. It was formed the effectively operating system of interstate cooperation between Central Europe and Ukraine, which covers various fields, types and levels of cooperation. The cross-border cooperation takes a special place in the system of international relations, because it is more massive, informalized and multifaceted than cooperation of central government institutions.

The cross-border cooperation is an important part of good neighborly relations, strategic partnership between Ukraine and Central European countries as well as effective means for accelerating the European integration of Ukraine, practical mechanism for applying European standards at the level of border regions of neighboring countries. «Eastern» enlargement of the European Union has significantly changed the system of inter-regional and cross-border cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe: there have been radical changes of its essential characteristics, mechanisms, principles. The new opportunities for deepening the EU–Ukraine dialogue at the regional level were opened after signing the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union in 2014, in which the separate section was dedicated to cross-border cooperation.