

<http://www.pecob.net/Yarashevich-Viachaslau>

Affiliation: Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany

Full title: Humboldt Visiting Researcher

Address: Konradstrasse 6, 80801, Munich, Germany

E-mail: viachaslau.yarashevich@soziologie.uni-muenchen.de

From February 3 to 29 May 2020, Dr. Viachaslau Yarashevich conducted his research of competitiveness and Eurasian integration at the Department of Political Science of the University of Bologna, Forlì Campus. Below is the summary of research outcomes, as well as updated information on publications of Dr. Yarashevich.

The research undertaken by Dr. V. Yarashevich as a visiting fellow of Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the UniBo's Department of Political and Social Sciences in spring 2020 focused on the early outcomes of the Eurasian Economic Union political economy. It was structured along two underpinning arguments. The first one concerned missed opportunities in the EAEU's internal trade, which not only remained static despite upbeat official pledges on prospects for this most important aspect of any economic integration initiative, but also preserved its resource-dominated profile. Instead of nurturing cross-border value chains characteristic of globalized economic order, the Eurasian partners spent much of their "honeymoon" sorting out numerous barriers and exemptions to internal economic freedoms declared on paper but troublesome in practice.

The situation is further complicated by a confrontational line in relations with the European Union pursued by Russia in a unilateral manner, i.e. without due consideration of its implications for smaller Eurasian partners. As a result, some of them, notably Armenia and Belarus, which also happen to be members of the Eastern Partnership, a specific dimension of the EU's Neighborhood Policy, may be weighing their integration options more critically. Indeed, following Russia's confrontational geopolitical lead is set to result in missed investment and technological opportunities not just for land-locked yet still industrially strong Belarus, but also for its similarly land-locked peers, especially Armenia and Kyrgyzstan with per capita manufacturing value added several times lower than the EAEU's average. It is also noteworthy that the EAEU is a block of extremely commodity-dependent economies determined to raise their competitiveness, at least as formally declared in the founding Treaty of the Union. Historically, such development strategies implied industrialization, but the EAEU has so far been ambivalent about it, which is evident in the absence of both a common industrial policy and sufficient funding mechanisms.

As a neighbor with unrivalled industrial expertise and financial clout, hypothetically the EU could play a prominent role in the EAEU's new industrialization effort should it be at all conceived. It can be assumed from the experience of those post-communist members which joined the EU, as their manufacturing output, propelled by European and global FDI, grew to such an extent that they came to be considered Europe's new industrial core. To be sure, the EAEU is unlikely to benefit from better EU relations in exactly the same manner, but it naturally stands next in the line of attracting at least some FDI should geopolitical conditions permit it. Ultimately, then, competitiveness of the EAEU's smaller members may to a great extent depend on the trajectory of relations between the EU and Russia, unless, of course, the latter comes up with a serious reindustrialization initiative of its own making.

Publications

A. Books

1. Yarashevich, V. 2017. *Political economy of modern Belarus in the postsocialist discourse*, Beau Bassin: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing.

B. Peer-reviewed articles

2. Yarashevich, V. 2020. Competitiveness through new industrialisation in the EAEU, *Post-Communist Economies*, DOI: 10.1080/14631377.2020.1793591.
3. Yarashevich, V. 2020. Eurasian Economic Union as a regional development project: expectations and realities, *Area Development and Policy*, DOI: 10.1080/23792949.2020.1756362.
4. Yarashevich, V. 2019. Political economy of the Eurasian integration, *Interdisciplinary Political Studies*, 5 (2), pp. 405-442.
5. Yarashevich, V. 2014. Political economy of modern Belarus: going against mainstream? *Europe-Asia Studies*, 66 (10), pp. 1703-34.
6. Yarashevich, V. 2014. Post-communist economic integration: Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russia, *Journal of Economic Integration*, 29 (4), pp. 582-623.
7. Yarashevich, V. 2013. External debt of post-communist countries, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, 46 (2), pp. 203-16.
8. Yarashevich, V., Karneyeva, Y. 2013. Economic reasons for the break-up of Yugoslavia, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, 46 (2), pp. 263-73.
9. Yarashevich, V., Ioffe, G. 2011. Debating Belarus: an economy in comparative perspective, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 52 (6), pp. 750-79.

C. Conference theses

10. Yarashevich, V. 2016. EU competitiveness – in search of a new impetus. Proceedings of the II Jean Monnet international conference ‘The European Union and Republic of Belarus: getting closer for better future’. 2 June 2016. Minsk: BSU, pp. 199-201.
11. Yarashevich, V. 2014. EU competitiveness in post-crisis global economy. Proceedings of the I Jean Monnet international conference ‘The European Union and Republic of Belarus: getting closer for better future’. 5 June 2014. Minsk: BSU, pp. 116-8.
12. Yarashevich, V. 2014. Political economy of Eurasian integration. Proceedings of the V international conference for young scientists ‘Mezhdunarodnye otnosheniya: istoriya, teoriya, praktika’ [‘International relations: history, theory, practice’]. 4 February 2014. Minsk: BSU, pp. 132-4.
13. Yarashevich, V. 2013. European integration at the crossroads: implications for Belarus. Proceedings of the IV international conference for young scientists ‘Mezhdunarodnye otnosheniya: istoriya, teoriya, praktika’ [‘International relations: history, theory, practice’]. 4 February 2013. Minsk: BSU, pp. 131-3.

D. Other

14. Yarashevich, V. 2015. EU competitiveness in a globalized world, *PECOB Occasional and Working Papers Series*, Forli: University of Bologna, pp. 1-10.
15. Yarashevich, V. 2014. Political economy of Eurasian integration, *PECOB's Papers Series*, 54, Forli: University of Bologna, pp. 3-62.
16. Yarashevich, V. 2014. Political economy of reforms in Eastern Europe, *PECOB's Papers Series*, 50, Forli: University of Bologna, pp. 3-28.