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EU GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN TERMS OF CLIMATE CHALLENGES*

ABSTRACT: *The study of the global leadership of the EU considering the climate challenges is a relevant theme of research in view of the dynamism of modern international challenges and threats related to both the direct problems of climate change (being the consequence of industrial activity) and the purposeful creation of climate issues to achieve absurd goals, which we currently see in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war, i.e., using the climate as a weapon, creating large-scale environmental problems, etc. It was found out that global leadership is interpreted as the efforts aimed at changing the limitations and opportunities obtained from social interaction, the direction by one subject of the behavior of others over a long period of time, and the social role formed in the process of interaction between the leader and the followers. The EU has recognized climate change as a global challenge and has shown global leadership precisely in solving climate change issues. This resulted in the adoption by the EC of the European Green Deal (EGD) course in 2019, the main objective of which is to achieve climate neutrality and the new European strategy Global Gateway in 2021, which is implemented through the projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific region, as well as in sub-Saharan Africa. The aim of the Global Gateway is to unite the world via investment and partnership. The carried out studies showed that the EU has the potential for global leadership of a mixed type with a clearly expressed projection of the practical application of leadership, that is, via precise effective actions. The dominant types of the EU leadership are the exemplary (e.g. EGD) and the entrepreneurial (e.g. Global Gateway). The EU has the capacity, experience and legitimacy to influence the external players.*

KEYWORDS: global leadership, European Green Course, climate diplomacy, green diplomacy, environmental policy

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1. Introduction

Modern determinants of the international political development set the EU in the situation which necessitates it to simultaneously manage internal crises, form economic stability, political significance, adapt to new threats and respond to them. In addition, these trends affect the modification of tools and mechanisms for implementing of the ambitions of the European Union's global leadership in climate change issues, which for many years have been a key area of its foreign policy activity and are of vital importance for the EU and many countries nowadays.

Therefore, the study of the EU global leadership in terms of climate challenges is a relevant topic of research in view of the dynamism of modern international challenges and threats related to both the direct issues of climate change (these being the consequence of industrial activity) and the purposeful creation of climate issues to achieve absurd goals, which we currently see in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war, namely, using the climate as a weapon, creating large-scale environmental problems, etc.

It is worth noting, that in the context of new international trends, the European Union has adopted two key long-term environmental strategies, which are also aimed at solving climate problems, namely, the European Green Deal and its derivative, the Global Gateway. The ultimate goal of the European Green Deal is to achieve environmental transformation in the world, the search for ways of economic recovery, decarbonization (mitigation of the consequences of climate change) and the increase of the environmental friendliness of the economy in the EU and its partners. This is, just as though, setting parameters for changing the "rules of the game" in the EU climate diplomacy. The Global Gateway strategy, in their turn, is the result of the evolution of the European environmental policy, i.e., its transition from technical actions to a broader and more informed policy that involves the support of civil society, private investors led by the EU and positions it as the leader in the international community, as well as the recognition of the protection environment and combating climate change being the main objectives of the EU. Both strategies highlight the EU vision of the green economy and offer it to others. Given that 2023 was characterized by severe storms, floods, droughts and forest fires, and aiming to improve the ability of the management systems of the EU and its Member States to cope with these climate risks, on 12 March 2024 the Communiqué titled "Managing Climate Risks – Protecting People and Prosperity" was adopted by the EC. Thus, following its strategic goals regarding the climate challenges, the EU strengthens them according to the dynamics of the climate challenges themselves as well. These strategies represent the EU as the promoter and implementer of the climate values and outline the EU global leadership in terms of climate challenges.

The aim of the article is the necessity to study the global leadership of the EU on the example of solving the problems related to climate challenges. The article dwells upon the following parts of the research:

literature review; theoretical and methodological foundations of the research; the essence and the approaches to interpreting the global leadership of the EU; the particularities and priorities of the European Green Deal; the Global Gateway strategy and its projection on solving the problem of climate change; international cooperation of the EU regarding the implementation of the green diplomacy policy; the cooperation between Ukraine and the EU on climate challenges; the prospects for the realization of the EU global leadership in relation to climate change in terms of modern challenges.

1. Literature review

Scientific research analyzing the EU global leadership in the climate challenges is divided into five main groups. The first group of studies focuses on the scientific works devoted to the interpretation of the EU global leadership. Due attention is paid to clarifying the term “global leadership” (Michalski and Parker 2024; Ioannou, 2021; Ugur et al., 2016; Rondinelli and Heffron 2009) and the approaches to the leadership (Aggestam and Johansson 2017). The researchers Erik Brattberg and Mark Rhinard (2013) managed to single out four criteria for the EU global leadership.

The second group includes the studies that highlight the goal of the European Green Deal (Dixigroup 2020; Taydas 2023; Türkelli and Segó 2023) and their priorities (Shared green deal, n.d.). The main components of the EGD initiatives/documents on climate change are identified (SDSN, n.d.). Besides, the Global Gateway strategy (Walsh and Takhar 2023; E3G, 2021) and its priority sectors were considered (European Commission, n.d.c). The issue of private financing and its risks for Global Gateway has been studied (Türkelli and Segó 2023).

The third group is aimed at the analysis of the international cooperation of the EU regarding the implementation of the policy of green diplomacy (Council of the EU, 2024), where the main focus was on the analysis of cooperation with African countries (Habro, 2022; European Commission, n.d.a; Tagliapietra, 2024), Latin America (Averchenkova et al., 2023; Thiébaud, 2023; Dennison and Engström 2023; European Commission, n.d.b; European commission, n.d.d; O’Shea and Talvi 2024; Euroclima, n.d.) and Asia (Lazard and Jayaram 2023).

The fourth group of studies examines in detail the cooperation between Ukraine and the EU as to the climate challenges (European commission, 2023; Dixigroup, 2023). It is noted that Ukraine has joined the LIFE Program – the Environmental and Climate Action Program (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2022). The main aspects of the implementation of the goals of the EU green diplomacy in Ukraine are highlighted

(Razumkov Centre, 2022) and five initiatives of the Global Gateway strategy are identified (Turchyn and Lukachuk 2024).

Finally, the fifth group of studies sheds light on further prospects for the realization of the EU global leadership in relation to climate change in modern realities (Dennison and Engström 2023; Treyer, 2023; Fusiek, 2021; O’Shea and Esteban 2024).

2. Theoretical and methodological foundations of the research

The study of leadership in international relations is, as a rule, based on the definition of the components of its typologies, which are based on different regimes or bases of power. Thus, Mitchell Young identified three types of leadership: structural, involving the use of political and economic power; an entrepreneurial stance, which is carried out through diplomacy and negotiation; and intellectual, which is necessary to involve other actors (Young and Ravinet 2022).

The issue of international climate leadership of the EU is raised in the work by Sebastian Oberteur and Claire Dupont (2021). In particular, they analyze the EU past achievements and current challenges in this area, mainly, the internal and external dimensions of EU leadership (exemplary and diplomatic leadership), the framework conditions or the extent to which the EU has adapted its leadership strategy to practice, the turbulent international context, which requires the EU to constantly increase its strategic capabilities etc.

Noteworthy scientific research was conducted by Andrew Sherriff and Pauline Veron (2024); there they analyze geopolitical and geoeconomic changes that affect the internal politics of the European countries, foreign policy priorities, and international cooperation. The authors pay considerable attention to the Global Gateway strategy and its ability to positively modify the emphases of the world politics.

To analyse the issue of global leadership of the EU regarding the climate challenges, general scientific (i.e., analysis, synthesis, generalization, induction, deduction), empirical and logical methods were used, which made it possible to study the scientific literature and source base on the specified topic, and to identify general patterns and features of the global leadership of the EU in the context of its solution to climate problems, especially in the interaction with the addressee countries of the implementation of green diplomacy.

In particular, the analysis method made it possible to single out the main theoretical approaches to the interpretation of the EU global leadership in the scientific literature; the synthesis method was used to clarify the features and priorities of the European Green Course, and to analyze the purpose and objectives of the Global Gateway strategy; the generalization method, provided the opportunity to focus on the important aspects of the research; the induction method was used to characterize certain aspects of the EU international

cooperation regarding the implementation of green diplomacy policy in Africa and Latin American countries; and the deduction method made it possible to analyze the influence of geopolitical factors, primarily the Russian-Ukrainian war and energy issues, on the dynamics of the EU climate policy.

In addition, the systemic method was used, sustaining the consideration of the EU global leadership on climate change in the context of modern geopolitical determinants; as well as the structural-functional method, which made it possible to find out and understand the relationship between the current environmental policy of the EU and a number of other spheres (political, economic, social), etc.

It should be noted that the concepts of global leadership and normative power are interrelated. Normative power is one of the tools of global leadership, which is achieved by the ability of an actor to establish norms that will have an impact on others. At the same time, normative power is manifested through the actions and scope of influence of a global leader.

A significant role in the study of normative power is played by Danish political scientist Ian Manners. He was the first to formulate the term “normative power of Europe”, which would later become popular in the scientific community and be used to refer to the ability of the European Union to exert “ideological influence” on other international actors by disseminating the norms it formed. In this concept, the political scientist focuses on the legitimacy of the dissemination of such norms, persuasive actions, and socialisation as the desired normative effect. According to Ian Manners, “the most important factor that determines the role of the EU in the international arena is not what it does or says, but what it is” (Manners, 2002).

Ian Manners believes that the concept of normative power allows us to assume that the fundamental normative principles on which the European Union is based encourage it to function in a normative way in the system of international relations. Thus, the political scientist argues that the positivist dimension of the EU’s normative power is manifested in the fact that the Union acts to spread its norms to the international system, and the normative dimension is that the EU is simply has to act in such a way as to spread these norms in the international space (Manners, 2002).

The implementation of the EU’s global leadership in climate change management through the mechanisms of normative force is primarily based on the formation of an extensive legal framework regulating environmental issues. It defines the basic principles of environmental law that shape the “environmental behaviour” of the EU member states and serve as the fundamental basis for the member states’ climate policies. Among these principles are the polluter pays principle, the principle of integrating environmental issues into EU policies and actions, and the principles of precaution, prevention, sustainable development of the planet, compensation for the damage caused by eliminating it at the beginning of its occurrence (Hutsaliuk, 2022).

Thus, the overarching question of the study is how real the normative power of the European Union is in practice. The study used a normative approach that allows us to analyse the practical dimension of the

EU's normative power through the prism of its ability to shape and establish values, rules and standards of climate policy in the international arena. This approach is intended to help identify the mechanisms through which the EU shapes global climate norms and assess their effectiveness.

In addition, the methodological basis of the study is the criteria of the EU's global leadership, defined by scholars Erik Brattberg and Mark Rhinard (see Table 1):

1. Context (conditions of recognition, opportunity, authority).
2. Capability (choice of tools to achieve goals, negotiations).
3. Coherence (coordination of priorities, values, procedures, results).
4. Consistency (unification of obligations between partners, practical legitimacy, quality of assistance) (Brattberg and Rhinard 2013).

Table 1 «Criteria for global leadership»

Effectiveness criteria	Functioning	Sub-indicators	Hypothetical impact on efficiency
1. Context	Favorable structural conditions	Recognition, Opportunity, Authority	Are there favorable structural conditions for action by the EU?
2. Capability	Ability to mobilize means to achieve policy goals	Tools, Negotiations	Does the EU use practical means to develop effective negotiations?
3. Coherence	Consistent political priorities in efforts to spread influence	Values, Preferences, Procedures, Strategies	Does the EU demonstrate coherent values, procedures and results of its activities?
4. Consistency	Clear commitments between policy discourse and practice	Legitimacy, Quality of assistance	Does the EU fulfill its obligations in a coherent manner within the framework of its political documents?

The analysis of these criteria is important not only for seeing the EU's current compliance with the "standards" of global leadership, but also for determining the potential prospects of the Union to remain a powerful global leader, despite climate threats and other challenges of the modern world.

3. The essence and the approaches to interpreting the global leadership of the EU

Fundamental changes in the international system over the last decade and the weakening of the traditional international order determined the EU to strengthen its global leadership. At the same time, geopolitical changes question the EU ability to lead in many areas of global governance and require the formation of the new approaches to its global leadership. Thus, the EU has to form new rules and norms of global governance. Nowadays, especially with the tension in the field of international security, there is an increasing urge for the change in the geopolitical role of the EU and how this role is compared with the treatment of the EU as the global leader, which is traditionally expressed as a Normative Power, a Market Power and a Security Power (Michalski and Parker 2024; Tsebenko and Ivasechko, 2023: 3).

Global leadership is interpreted as the effort aimed at changing the limitations and opportunities derived from the social interaction (Ioannou, 2021). According to Louise Underdahl, leadership refers to asymmetric influence, where one subject manages or directs the behavior of other subjects over a long period of time. It is, first and foremost, the relationship between the leader and the followers (Ugur et al., 2016: 289).

The approaches to leadership identified by the scientists Lisbeth Aggestam and Markus Johanson are as well worthy of attention, they focus on a) the role of individuals, b) the position of actors, c) the processes of implementing leadership, and d) the results created by the leadership. These approaches are based on the explanation of the EU leadership depending on the use of the power resources/credentials, i.e., material, institutional and ideological. These sources often further identify different types of leadership strategies. In addition, the scholars consider EU global leadership based on sociological approaches through the lens of conceptualizing leadership as a social role based on the interaction between the leaders and the followers (Aggestam and Johansson 2017).

Besides, it is appropriate to point out that the global leadership of the EU is explained through the normative prism of the role theory. According to the theory of roles, the leadership role of the EU is carried out through the social interaction between the partner countries. The EU executes an important normative role in cooperating with others to provide aid under the auspices of "humane internationalism". Meanwhile, it is often stated that the development goals tend to be de-prioritised in the EU foreign policy thus leading to aid

selectivity. Therefore, the European Commission controls the provision of aid, emphasizing the need for the “policy isomorphism”. To address these challenges, the EU has to restore its external effectiveness role.

The scholars Dennis A. Rindinelli and John M. Heffron believe that leadership is of key importance in the process of forming the actor identity of the EU. In this aspect, the fundamental theoretical model for explaining the external relations of the EU is the theory of actorness, which is defined as “the ability to behave actively and cautiously in relation to other subjects of the international system” (Rindinelli and Heffron 2009). This model provides the following criteria for global leadership: recognition (partnership and interaction); authority (legal competence to act); autonomy (institutional apparatus during negotiations); cohesion (success in forming a common policy); opportunity (external context determining EU actions); and presence (conceptualizes the EU ability to act globally) (Rindinelli and Heffron 2009; Ioannou 2021, p. 14).

Besides, according to the theory of acting, the scientists Erik Brattberg and Mark Rhinard singled out four criteria of the EU global leadership: context (recognition conditions, opportunity, authority); capability (choice of tools to achieve goals, negotiations); coherence (alignment of priorities, values, procedures, results); and consistency (unification of obligations between partners and practical legitimacy, quality of assistance) (Brattberg and Rhinard 2013).

For example, the context can be considered the concept of “development” to be no longer limited only to the provision of EU aid to other countries, since there have arisen numerous issues that go beyond these frameworks (migration, security problems, etc.), therefore the concept of “effectiveness of aid” was replaced by the “developmental efficiency”. The ability can be viewed in terms of the EU tackling the issues in negotiations within the framework of the Paris Declaration by reaching a consensus on development. Regarding the coherence and consistency, these are quite complex criteria, as they touch on the analysis of joint actions in the EU (Ioannou, 2021).

The scholars Lisbeth Aggestam and Markus Johanson believe that the basis of the EU foreign policy is the paradox between the demand for leadership effectiveness (strategic actions) and the perception of legitimate leadership (adequate behavior). The demand for strategic leadership is a response to the issues of collective action in the EU foreign policy and the recognition of leadership as a necessary, though not sufficient, factor for international cooperation. Instead, the sources of legitimate leadership continue to be based at the national level of the member states (Aggestam and Johansson 2017).

Most theorists are convinced that the EU has the potential for global leadership, primarily due to the fact that it is a model of development. In this regard, one should highlight the following general approaches:

1. The EU has the opportunity to take the position of the world leader. This approach is based on the statement that global processes negatively affect the accumulation of power in one country, for instance, the United States being the superpower, as evidenced by the events of September 11.

2. For the EU to exercise its leadership, it should possess sufficient power. Here one should consider the importance of such dimensions of leadership as political, economic, sociological, technological and military.

3. Global leadership requires motivation and strategy as well. There ought to be consistency of words and actions in all EU institutions and actions. The EU values, namely, democracy, human rights, rule of law, multiculturalism and the protection of minority rights have to be consistently applied to win international trust. Protecting vested interests, alienating some through the use of the concept of the “other”, shirking migration, worrying about innovations such as genetically modified food and protecting short working hours under the rubric of the welfare state will not safeguard the EU its existing level of prosperity, let alone achieve the position of world leader.

Traditionally, global leadership has been measured by the degree of participation in high politics via the solution of security problems and the implementation of external activities. Meanwhile, the environmental or climate policy issues were considered more peripheral. However, the EU has recognized climate change as a global issue that needs to be taken seriously. Therefore, the EU became an ambitious player in the international politics, more fully demonstrating its global leadership precisely in solving the problems of climate change that have gone far beyond national borders and are equally applied to all states (catastrophes, air pollution, acid rain, water pollution, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, etc.). This gave the EU the opportunity to establish themselves as the leader and prove their ability to be one. This was as well facilitated by the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the withdrawal of the US from their obligations under the Kyoto Protocol, the EU used the moment to assert themselves (Ugur et al., 2016, p. 285).

4. The particularities and priorities of the European Green Deal

The EU climate policy involves the management of political measures to mitigate climate change and adapt to it both in the EU as a whole and in the individual member states. This climate policy is based on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The important result of the EU climate policy was the adoption by the EC in 2019 of a new strategy, namely, the European Green Deal (EGD) or the European Green Course (EGC), which deals with the issues of sustainable development and climate neutrality. In a political sense, the EGD is a response to the challenges of the global issues of climate change, pollution, loss of biological diversity and, accordingly, the positioning of the EU as the global leader (Dixigroup 2020, p. 14).

The main goal of the EGD is to achieve climate neutrality, which was presented in the EU vision "A Clean Planet for All", published in 2018. EGD is an integral part of the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda as well (Taydas 2023, p. 79).

EGD is considered to be: a) the strategy and program of actions of the highest executive body in the EU; b) a set of measures that determines EU policy for the coming years in such areas as climate, energy, biodiversity, industrial policy, trade, etc.; c) a long-term plan for the development of Europe and a road map for the creation of new policies and strategies both at the pan-European and national levels; d) a comprehensive strategy aimed at making the European continent a carbon-neutral, resource-efficient, innovative and socially just continent by 2050.

The EGD priorities are: clean energy (the supply of clean and safe energy); circular economy (clean closed cycle economy); efficient repair (construction by energy- and resource-saving methods); sustainable food (from "farm to fork" ecologically clean food system); sustainable mobility (acceleration of transition to permanent mobility); preservation of biodiversity (preservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity); climate action (increasing the EU climate ambitions for 2030 and 2050); zero pollution (environment without toxic substances) (Shared green deal, n.d.).

It is worth dwelling in more detail on the issue of climate change outlined by this strategy. The main constituent initiatives/documents of the EGD on climate change are the following:

1. Enhancing Europe's climate ambitions by 2030 (September 2020) has been designed to address the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions up to 55 per cent by 2030. The EU is convinced this step to contribute to the well-being of its residents, improving their health, air quality and reducing damage to the environment in particular. The EU seeks to achieve economic growth, employment and calls for educational reforms (appropriate education and professional training), as well as the formation of ecological production.

2. European Marine Renewable Energy Strategy (November 2020). The EU is known for their numerous sea basins, hence, it can develop renewable energy in the sea as well. Pilot projects specializing in determining the ecological benefits of wind and aquaculture are already being developed. These are the projects in Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, the Netherlands and Portugal on shellfish, algae and multifunctional marine platforms (e.g., Edulis, TROPOS, Wier en Wind).

3. European Climate Pact (December 2020), established by the EC as a Pan-European initiative aimed at encouraging people and organizations to participate in climate actions and the development of a more sustainable Europe. The pact provides for the activities of the following nature: exchange of information; dissemination of knowledge about climate; discussion of the implementation of decisions on climate measures, etc.

4. EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (February 2021). Its adoption is due to the fact that climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable people as well as the human rights. That is why the EU considers

it necessary to better understand the health threats caused by climate change. Therefore, an important component of the long-term EU budget for 2021–2027 is the adaptation, that can add to minimizing these threats. In addition, the EC aims to ensure the poorest communities, particularly in developing, unstable and conflict-affected countries, to receive appropriate funds for health restoration.

5. The Climate Act (2021/1119) strengthens the EU efforts and commitments to combat climate change. It operates within the framework of the EU Green Deal and contributes to the formation of the resilience of societies and ecosystems to climate change. Accordingly, eliminating the risks associated with climate change requires strengthening actions to guarantee safe water and food, and improving conditions in the affected regions.

6. Fit-for-55 package (July 2021), developed within the framework of EGD with the aim of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The EU tends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next decades. The first step should be to reduce them by 55% by 2030. In particular, to this end, the EU is revising its climate, energy and transport legislation as part of the Fit-for-55 package to align it with the 2030 and 2050 targets.

7. The ReFuelEU aviation initiative is planned to force fuel suppliers to use green aviation fuel for the planes refueling at the EU airports. Similarly, the FuelEU maritime initiative will encourage the adoption of the green fuels in shipping. In addition, the review of the Energy Taxation Directive (ETD) is envisaged to align energy taxation with the EU energy and climate policy, the promotion of clean technologies, etc. (SDSN, n.d.).

The mentioned initiatives within the framework of the EGD consider the involvement of both private financing for solving the climate change issues and public financial resources. However, according to experts, attracting private funds can have a negative impact on sustainable development in the developing countries. After all, the reliance on the private sector in ensuring the development of state infrastructure and services provides for the profit for private investors, in particular through the guarantees of favorable contractual conditions. These steps can contribute to the undermining of the state control over certain industries in general. In addition, many EU partner countries consider the EGD to be the political framework.

Therefore, EGD aims to convince and support others in the fight against climate change and environmental challenges. This involves the implementation of appropriate diplomacy, trade policy, development support, etc. It is important for the EU to influence the choice of the green course of its partners and the developing countries, in particular in Africa. Hence, creating stronger partnerships with Africa is one of the main priorities of the EU (Türkelli and Segó 2023).

5. The Global Gateway strategy and its projection on solving the problem of climate change

The Global Gateway Strategy is the EC initiative that promotes the development of the markets of the developing countries that are partners of the EU, in particular in the areas of digital technologies, energy and the environment on the basis of attracting private investment. The Global Gateway was launched at the end of 2021 during the French Presidency of the EU and aims to accelerate digital, energy and environmental transitions in the markets of the developing countries.

Under the Global Gateway, the EU aims to mobilize EUR 300 billion in aid by 2027 to support the financing of high-quality, sustainable infrastructure that meets social and environmental standards. Global Gateway is implemented through the projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, Asia Pacific, and sub-Saharan Africa.

The Global Gateway brings together the EC, the EU Member States and their development agencies (including the Agence française de développement (AFD)) and the major European donors, namely, the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and other European development financial institutions (EDFIs).

Global Gateway is funded by the EU, the member states and the European Investment Bank. As already mentioned, it as well attracts private investments. It is worth noting that the key tool for implementing the Global Gateway strategy is the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), which provides guarantees and financing of investments in the sustainable development. It is to attract up to EUR 135 billion of investment in various sectors of the Global Gateway. This development fund is an innovative tool that helps generate investments through the guarantees that cover the risks of large and small projects, as well as grants that are combined with long-term loans.

The Global Gateway strategy focuses on 5 priority sectors:

1. Digital technologies (access to digital infrastructures, protective regulatory framework, skills development).
2. Climate and energy (renewable energy and critical minerals management, sustainable agro-food systems, water and sanitation, waste management and ecosystem conservation).
3. Transport (rail, road, port networks, logistics centers and multimodal platforms, regulatory convergence and agreements).
4. Health care (security of pharmaceutical supply chains and development of local production capacities).
5. Education and research (access to quality education and training, creation of academic and research networks) (European Commission, n.d.c).

The Global Gateway projection of climate change is motivated by the fact that the investment in infrastructure is a tangible way to put the goals of sustainable development into practice. Fighting climate change requires renewable energy stations, power grids and EV charging infrastructure, just as health requires hospitals, education needs schools, and communication depends upon ports.

The motivation behind the formation of Global Gateway is the realization of the need for large investments in global infrastructure. For example, the World Bank estimates that achieving the goals of climate and environmental protection, universal access to energy, water and sanitation, greater mobility, and improved food security requires the investment of approximately EUR 1.3 trillion per year in infrastructure.

The EUR 300 billion mentioned above is the total investment the initiative strives to mobilize between 2021 and 2027. The total amount consists of:

1. EUR 135 billion of investment is foreseen under the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), where the EU provides EUR 40 billion as a guarantee, of which EUR 26.7 billion through the EIB and EUR 13 billion through the EFSD+ new window dedicated to the Global Gateway, targeting national financing and development financing institutions.

2. EUR 18 billion to finance projects related to climate action, clean energy and communication in the EU partner countries.

3. EUR 145 billion of planned investments by financial institutions of the EU countries and the development financing.

4. The existing programs, i.e., Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) III, Interreg, InvestEU and Horizon Europe will also be used to mobilize resources under the Global Gateway.

The EU requires the partner countries to observe the rule of law, to respect the high standards of human rights, social rights and labour rights, as well as to adhere to the international norms and standards of intellectual property. The investment programs will be implemented in the following main areas:

1. In the partnership with the EIB, the EU will provide a guarantee covering EUR 26.7 billion in financing to support investments in several sectors, namely, in clean energy, green infrastructure and health care. The EU guarantee will have maximum impact on Global Gateway investments in those partner countries where the sovereign and other public sector risks still remain unsettled. The EFSD+ partnership approach will ensure clear governance in line with Global Gateway priorities, promoting synergy and complementarity with all areas of the EU external action.

2. A special Global Gateway window will be opened, which, together with other thematic windows, i.e., the Sustainable Finance window, will focus on the sectors of sustainable energy, clean transport and digital technologies. A separate digital support window will as well be created with a country-level approach to strengthen convergence with the EU digital economy packages.

3. The EU will use EFSD+ blending mechanisms. These institutions use grants and loans to support non-bank investment projects in the EU partner countries, while increasing their sustainability, climate protection and development impact.

4. Besides, the EU is exploring the possibility of creating the European Export Credit Facility to complement the existing export credit agreements at the level of member states. The mechanism will provide a more level playing field for the EU companies in the third-country markets, where they increasingly have to compete with the foreign competitors who receive a lot of support from their governments, and thus facilitate their participation in the infrastructure projects.

On 28 April 2023, the EC and the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced their intention to jointly provide EUR 18 billion to finance the projects related to climate action, clean energy and communication in the EU partner countries (an unspecified list covers the new markets).

The initiative uses the “Team Europe” approach that brings together the EU, its Member States and their financial and development institutions. The climate-focused projects currently planned by Global Gateway include the partnership with Guyana and Suriname in the South American region, which will focus on the green transition through the initiative to end deforestation and strengthen climate and biodiversity protection; the Sustainable Connectivity initiative, which will support the interconnection of ASEAN electricity grids to improve access to renewable energy and promote environmentally, economically and socially sustainable value chains; and the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience initiative, which will bring together the existing and new climate change adaptation programs in sub-Saharan Africa worth more than EUR 1 billion.

At COP27, the agreement was reached to establish a special “loss and damage” fund to help the developing countries respond to damages caused by the climate change. Recently, in March 2023, G20 finance ministers and central bank governors have committed to mobilizing \$100 billion in climate finance by 2020 and annually through 2025 to meet the needs of the developing countries, and President Joe Biden pledged \$1 billion dollars to the Green Climate Fund. A UN-led program to help the developing countries become more resilient to climate change and to adopt to clean energy (Walsh and Takhar 2023).

As noted by Jennifer Tollmann, the Senior Policy Advisor in E3G Climate Diplomacy and Geopolitics team: “We are still far from halving the emissions this decade. As the recovery from COVID-19 continues, the Global Gateway is the EU best chance to engage international partners in the transition to climate neutrality. Money flowing into the green and climate-resilient infrastructure in 2022 could change the curve. This can give confidence to the emerging economies considering a greener recovery. At the same time, it can offer

a better alternative to the low-income economies seeking to avoid increasingly risky fossil fuel-based development paths. This is a chance for the EU to be the “best offer” and set the bar for quality cooperation” (E3G, 2021).

It is the EGD and Global Gateway push for private finance and capital incentive policies that anticipates the situation where leveraging additional private finance and robust private sector investment will accelerate the path to climate neutrality and fill the existing infrastructure finance gap in the developing countries. At the same time, it is important that the powers of the states are not limited (Türkelli and Segó 2023).

Like EGD, Global Gateway involves attracting private investment, which potentially creates similar risks, namely: the lack of distinction between state development aid and financing from private funds, the lack of accountability of the latter; focusing on the profitability of private investments, their priority over the financing of projects most needed by the local communities in the EU partner countries; transformation of the EU mechanisms into financial instruments for promoting geopolitical tasks, etc (Türkelli and Segó 2023).

6. International cooperation of the EU regarding the implementation of the green diplomacy policy

Recently, on 18 March 2024, the European Council has reaffirmed the EU commitment to promote a just and inclusive green transition to or the implementation of the green diplomacy objectives, and to support the implementation of global commitments in this regard in close cooperation with the partner countries around the world. Besides, the Council expressed serious concern about the climate and environmental damage in the countries where there occur hostilities. At the same time, the Council emphasized that Russia’s illegal war of aggression against Ukraine has caused enormous damage to the environment, threatened nuclear safety, and caused the energy and food crisis in the world. The interrelationship between climate and security is evident here, therefore, the EU is committed to promoting solutions to the interrelated challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, peace and security with its partners (Council of the EU, 2024). We will further focus on the analysis of international cooperation of the EU in terms of climate challenges with the countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia.

An important tool for supporting the green transition in Africa is trade. For example, the EU concluded the Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya, which contains ambitious provisions on sustainable development and climate protection. In addition, African trade in critical raw materials and green hydrogen represents a clear opportunity for the EU. At the same time, the environmental issues and climate change are important in the EU-Africa relations (Habro, 2022).

Africa is a key regional priority of the Global Gateway and the focus of the most important investment package provided by the EU for the Global Gateway strategy. The EU leadership is convinced that the Global Gateway will contribute to the elimination of the huge investment gap in Africa, which prevents the continent from using its economic potential and making the transition to net zero (European Commission, n.d.a). During the EU-African Union summit in February 2022, it was announced that Africa will receive half of the allocated funding from the entire strategy, and it was confirmed by the signing of the EU-Africa Global Investment Package, worth EUR 150 billion.

The package aims to support Africa for the strong, inclusive, digital and environmental recovery and transformation. The EU aims to implement this package via the Team Europe initiative through the precise and transformative projects in priority areas that include the green transition and sustainable growth. The EU and the member states will finance this package through aid, grants and loans.

For example, with the help of the initiatives of Team Europe, the EU aims to achieve five ambitious goals in Africa, namely, to accelerate the transition to a green environment, the digital transition, sustainable growth, improvement of working conditions, health care system, as well as education and training. The Team Europe initiative is directed to climate change adaptation and sustainability in Africa. It combines the resources from the EU, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden. This initiative is expected to strengthen cooperation with African partners to further respond to their needs for climate adaptation and climate risk reduction (European Commission, n.d.a).

Besides, the investment package for Africa focuses on promoting resilience by supporting climate change adaptation, effective response to natural disasters and more effective risk management. The Disaster Risk Reduction Program, launched in 2022, will reduce the impact of disasters, including those related to climate change and biological hazards, and increase resilience in the partner countries (Tagliapietra, 2024).

One prominent project aimed at Africa's green transition under the Africa-EU Energy Partnership is the production of clean hydrogen for both Africa and the EU to meet half of the EU estimated annual demand of 20 million tons of hydrogen by 2030. Additionally, these steps are targeted at compensating for Russian gas.

Another platform for cooperation with the EU in the framework of the implementation of climate diplomacy is the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LA, LAC (LAC)).

The EU and LAC cooperate in the framework of the EGD. However, according to some researchers, the implementation of EGD goals in some LA regions is limited (Averchenkova et al., 2023). Brazil has taken the lead in the EGD and will likely make continued efforts for the future projects (Thiébaut, 2023). Brazil has been an important player in green energy and its international advocate since the country hosted the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Although Brazil accounts for nearly 7 per cent of the world renewable energy production, its reliance on hydropower is a cause for concern. The country is below the world average in the use of nuclear energy and natural gas for electricity generation, the fields that can be further explored in the partnership with the EU. In the early 2023, looking for an alternative to the energy crisis, the EU pledged to invest EUR 2 billion in the green hydrogen in Brazil. This shows that the EU is already seeking to strengthen cooperation with the home of the “lungs of the world” (Dennison and Engström 2023). It should be understood here that the LAC Region enjoys a special ecological and geographical diversity, which makes it the region with the largest share of the renewable energy sources in the world. Therefore, one of the main goals of the Investment Agenda is to accelerate a just green transition in the region.

The energy transition and strategic autonomy will be carried out through the development and deployment of the renewable energy sources (wind, solar, renewable hydrogen), improving energy efficiency and economy, as well as ensuring the availability and quality of the energy supply. Therefore, in accordance with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, LAC focuses on: 1) zero-emission mobility due to the development of electronic mobility and the modernization of public transport systems; 2) climate financing through the attraction of international investors and assistance to local capital markets in the transition to sustainable sources of financing; 3) investing in critical raw materials to meet the growing demand while ensuring reliable access to the resources and promoting high social and environmental standards (European Commission, n.d.b).

At the EU-LAC Summit, which took place on July 17-18, 2023 in Brussels, the Heads of States pinpointed that LAC are the potential suppliers of raw materials, energy and target markets against climate change. As part of the EU-LAC Global Investment Plan (GGIA), more sustainable investments are expected through the Global Gateway connectivity strategy. The GGIA is a roadmap of strategic priorities in which the EU has decided to invest together with its LAC partners (European Commission, n.d.d).

Although the budget allocated to this region under the NDICI-Global Europe is only EUR 3.4 billion (5.6 per cent of the budget allocated to geographical programs), in general, with the help of the investments, the EU aims to invest in this region up to EUR 45 billion (O’Shea and Talvi 2024). For example, the additional part of the Global Gateway strategy is the Euroclima program, which builds the partnership for a green and just transition between the EU and LAC. This is a EUR 105 million program jointly funded by the EU and the German federal government via the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and vulnerable communities to climate change (Euroclima, n.d.).

In addition, the EU is actively developing cooperation between the EU and the Association of South-east Asian Nations – ASEAN in combating climate change, reducing the risk of natural disasters, and implementing clean energy projects. The EU has been an official partner of ASEAN in the climate dialogue since

1977 and it takes into account the climate vulnerability of Southeast Asian countries. The EU mainly provides financial aid and climate change capacity building assistance to ASEAN.

The EU supports Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) in Indonesia and Vietnam, since these countries seek to decarbonize electricity sectors, expand renewable energy, move away from coal-dependent economies, and strengthen international support for key minerals and clean energy technologies (Lazard and Jayaram 2023).

In return, ASEAN seeks deeper cooperation with the EU to improve disaster resilience and the transition to clean energy in the region. As a result, ASEAN believes that the EU supports protectionism, falls prey to incoherence and increases fragmentation of the international market, which hinders economic growth and climate adaptation (Lazard and Jayaram 2023).

7. The cooperation between Ukraine and the EU on climate challenges

With the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war on February 24, 2022, that has particularly exacerbated the negative consequences of climate change, which, given their scale, threaten the global environment and climate on a global scale, the cooperation between Ukraine and the EU to overcome them has become particularly important for both parties (Buchyn, 2023, p.27). It goes without saying that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has devastating consequences, first of all, for the basic infrastructures, natural resources, critical ecosystems and people's health, means of livelihood and security.

The damage caused by the war to the environment and ecological infrastructure is estimated as follows: the total damage is more than EUR 52 billion; 497 water management facilities were damaged or destroyed; more than EUR 1.4 billion in losses in the forest sector; 20 per cent of the protected areas are under threat. There was also environmental destruction as a result of the destruction of the Kakhovka HPP, the worst man-made disaster since the accident at the Chernobyl NPP. Currently, Ukraine is the most mined country in the world (European Commission, 2023).

In general, the war in Ukraine poses a serious threat, in particular, to global environmental governance in terms of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, it affects deforestation and ecosystem degradation, etc. (European Think Tanks Group (ETTg), 2022). Concurrently, the green restoration, to which the cooperation of Ukraine and the EU should be directed, is to eliminate this damage and lead Ukraine to the new path of environmental and social sustainability (European Commission, 2023).

Today, the EC is already helping Ukraine bring environmental legislation into line with the EU standards. Besides, the EC builds coalitions, working closely with international partners (i.e., UNEP, UNIDO,

World Bank) and support groups, e.g., the High-Level Working Group on the Environmental Consequences of War. In particular, in June 2023, the Mechanism for Ukraine worth EUR 50 billion was suggested for the period 2024-2027, due to which the EU will help restore Ukraine's infrastructure, while ensuring that environmental sustainability is taken into account in the future investments (European Commission, 2023).

It is of high importance, that the initiatives within the framework of the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP28) outlined new opportunities for cooperation between the EU and the partner countries, including Ukraine, which is enshrined in agreements on international investment projects with the participation of the EU funds (Dixygroup, 2023). For example, Ukraine has already joined the LIFE Program – the Environment and Climate Action Program, designed for 2021-2027. It should be noted that this is an EU financial instrument aimed exclusively at environmental protection and climate action. The program is with a total budget of EUR 5.4 billion. The aim of the Program is to restore and improve the quality of environmental components, including air, water and soil, as well as to preserve biodiversity and overcome the degradation of natural ecosystems (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2022).

It should be emphasized that the strengthening of cooperation between Ukraine and the EU within the framework of the EGD will play an important role in solving many of the consequences of the war in Ukraine in both the short-term and long-term perspectives. To achieve the main goals of EGD in this aspect, the researchers identify three general approaches, namely, ensuring policy coherence between sectors and institutions, developing appropriate social protection measures and advancing international cooperation.

We consider the following aspects of the implementation of the goals of the EU green diplomacy:

1. In accordance with the agreements signed with the EU, a number of legislative acts have already been adopted in Ukraine to improve energy efficiency in buildings, industry, transport and public utilities services.

2. Some definite goals were achieved in the implementation of energy-saving technologies, in particular, the transition to modern European practices in the field of energy audit, energy management and eco-design.

3. In accordance with the Law "On Energy Efficiency", the state programs to reduce energy consumption are being implemented; this is caused, in particular, by the huge destruction in the energy sector as the result of missile attacks on critical infrastructure, due to which the consumption of natural gas decreased by more than 40 per cent.

4. Ukraine has become a key partner of the European Clean Hydrogen Alliance and the research on the possibilities of low-carbon hydrogen production, its competitive price, the ways of its supply, etc. is being conducted here (Razumkov Centre, 2022, p. 28).

5. At the same time, the updated EU climate and energy goals came into force, in particular, in the development of renewable energy sources, which should as well be taken into account when approving future

national goals in Ukraine. In addition, a number of important debates took place and political decisions were made, in particular on the new legislation on the development of the hydrogen market, sustainable aviation transport, reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector, etc. (European Commission, 2023).

Regarding the cooperation between the EU and Ukraine within the framework of the Global Gateway strategy, five initiatives are singled out here:

1. Sustainable, innovative, “green” and competitive economy, the direct support of 100,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (the total amount of investments is up to EUR 1.5 billion).

2. Economic transformation of rural areas, the assistance to more than 10,000 small farms (the total amount of investments is up to EUR 100 million).

3. Modernization of the border crossing points with the countries of the European Union (the total amount of investments is up to EUR 30 million).

4. Acceleration of digitization, the modernization of the state IT infrastructure (the total amount of investments is up to EUR 200 million).

5. Increasing energy efficiency and supporting the transition to the renewable energy sources based on hydrogen (the total amount of investments is up to EUR 100 million) (Turchyn and Lukachuk 2024, p. 181-182).

The \$750 billion recovery plan for Ukraine was announced in Lugano (Switzerland). In general, the cost of energy independence (with the emphasis on nuclear, renewable and hydropower, hydrogen and biofuel production, etc.) and the green transition of Ukraine is estimated at \$130 billion. (Razumkov Centre, 2022, p. 27).

8. The prospects for the realization of the EU global leadership in relation to climate change in terms of modern challenges

One can for sure state that the European EGD and Global Gateway strategies are practical signs of the EU claims to global leadership in the face of modern climate challenges. The EU has already successfully implemented significant steps within their framework in many countries of the world and has no intention to stop. However, precisely by cause of the Russian-Ukrainian war, new and not only security risks arose, these are as well the risks related to the strengthening of the climate problems, which require the EU as a leader in this field to take more conscious and clear steps and reconsider some aspects of its climate policy in particular.

Importantly, the Russian-Ukrainian war expanded the understanding of the types of power that can be used as weapons, i.e., from technology and trade to energy and climate. Russia also holds hostage other global

goods, notably food security, and precisely because of this, as the scholars point out, there is every reason to believe that the international order will consider the cooperation on climate goals as part of agreements on positioning and power in the global system. (Dennison and Engström 2023).

However, despite the well-founded focus of the EU on the war in Ukraine, Europe must as well continue an extremely active dialogue with the least developed and most vulnerable countries of the South; this is to be done not only with the aim of countering China, but for the sake of rebuilding specific strategic partnerships, which will enable the EU and its partners to resist Chinese and Russian rivalry. In this regard, environmental multilateralism is an inevitable step (Treyer, 2023).

Analyzing the manifestations of the EU global leadership, the scholar Dawid A. Fusiek equates it to the so-called normative power. He explains it by the fact that, unlike other great powers, the EU forms the international system not based on the use of the principles of “hard power” (for example, military power or economic sanctions), but primarily due to the attractiveness of ideas, standards and values (peace, freedom, democracy, rule of law and human rights, social solidarity, anti-discrimination, sustainable development, etc.) (Fusiek, 2021).

In particular, he believes that the EU, as the leader of green regulatory diplomacy, is supposed to: a) to ensure smooth implementation of the Green Agreement at the European level; b) to use it to support the debate on climate change in the face of US-China hostility and diffuse European goals and values; c) to use it to form new bilateral and global alliances, to ease tensions arising from its implementation, and to establish its role in global climate governance as an environmental normative (Fusiek, 2021).

The foundations of the EU global leadership in this area are the following factors:

1. The EU has historically demonstrated that it can be a global player in the environmental diplomacy. A sound examples are the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Conference Protocol and Strategy for the EU after the US withdrawal in 2016. In both cases, the EU proved to be able to fill the gap created by its American partners and helped to maintain not only political balances, but the incentive to support cooperation and progress in the field of environmental policy as well.

2. The EU has the tools and capabilities necessary to implement an effective environmental policy. For example, sustainable development is one of the defining norms of the EU. As Robert Faulkner emphasizes, ambitious environmental legislation embraces universal values that place the global common good above national interests.

3. By implementing its environmental policy, the EU has shown its ability to influence the third countries. This sets it apart from other global players and confirms its alignment as a normative force (Fusiek, 2021).

By promoting global leadership in the climate sphere, the European Union transmits its own climate principles (the polluter pays principle, the precautionary principle, etc.) to other international actors by using its normative influence. For this purpose, the EU uses various mechanisms, in particular, it can be analysed on the example of mechanisms aimed at achieving the normative effect (according to Ian Manners):

1. Mechanism of contagious spread (demonstration of climate-responsible behaviour by example).
2. Procedural dissemination (institutionalization of climate relations with international actors).
3. Informational dissemination (informing about the intention to involve other actors of international relations in climate initiatives through legal documents).
4. Open dissemination (holding diplomatic and public events on the EU climate policy by the EU Delegation in different countries).
5. Transfer (use of financing instruments to support European countries in implementing climate reforms).
6. Cultural filter (implementation of educational, scientific and innovative programs on climate issues).

Given the mechanisms used by the EU to promote its climate values, we can say that there has been progress in the manifestations of global leadership and the EU's normative power. In particular, this can be seen in Ukraine. There has been a significant intensification of relations between Ukraine and the EU in the area of climate change, mostly within the framework of the Eastern Partnership, where the EU and Ukraine can in practice join forces to address global challenges and achieve common goals (Hutsaliuk, 2022). By working together, the EU is committed to achieving Europe's climate-neutral status, and Ukraine is making efforts to fulfil the terms of the Association Agreement and become one step closer to full membership in the European Union. This underlines the fact that although each actor pursues its own goals and benefits, it is important to have a "symbiosis of goals" where each party finds mutual benefit.

It is worth noting that, in the opinion of Italian political scientist Nathalie Tocci, determining the impact of the normative power of an actor is a complex process. Since it requires determining when, how and to what extent the use of foreign policy instruments can "cause specific institutional, political or legal changes in a third country" (Tocci, 2008).

In our opinion, the EU's performance as a global leader and promoter of climate values can be best assessed by the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), which takes into account climate change, ecosystem viability, and environmental health indicators from 180 countries. According to the EPI 2024, the leading countries in terms of environmental performance are as follows: Estonia, Luxembourg, Germany, Finland, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Austria, Switzerland, and Denmark (EPI, 2024). To summarize, all of the above countries are geographically located in Europe, with 7 of them being EU member states.

The Global Gateway strategy we reviewed became an indisputable fact of the EU global leadership in solving climate challenges. However, according to the experts of the Royal Elcano Institute, the Global Gateway is a fairly new program that is still being formed and improved, nevertheless, it focuses on geostrategic potential, development impact, the ability to create innovative financing and closer alignment of initiatives and coordination between stakeholders, which proves the right of the EU to be the global leader in this issue (O'Shea and Esteban 2024).

The SDSN Europe experts' report on co-financing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda identifies certain recommendations for the realisation of the EU's global leadership: reform of the legal system is needed to ensure a holistic approach to reporting on losses and profits that cover the environmental transition; intensification of EU cooperation with EU governments and non-governmental organizations should become the basis for EU leadership in implementing innovative solutions; develop sustainability plans for member states and the EU itself; clear alignment of incentives and targets for climate impact is needed; reorient the capitalist system to a more responsible model that would better meet the challenges of combating climate change, etc. (SDSN, n.d.).

Since the methodological basis of the study is the criteria of global leadership proposed by Erik Brattberg and Mark Rhinard, it is worth determining how the European Union meets these conceptual parameters in the field of climate change management.

Firstly, we take into account the context, the sub-indicators of which are the conditions of recognition, opportunity, and authority. Assessment of the EU's actions according to this criterion provides an understanding of how influential the EU is, given its leading role as a global player in the geopolitical dimension; recognition of the EU among the states with which it has established diplomatic relations and among international organizations in which the EU has representation. It also refers to the ability of the Union to reaffirm its leadership through global initiatives. It is important for other states to recognize not only the EU as an Union, but also its norms, standards and policies in the field of climate change management; for international actors to adopt these norms in their policies; and for other states to use EU instruments in the fight against climate change. The European Union has several structural conditions in its arsenal that contribute to its leadership in international climate policy: strategic documents through which the EU can set the global agenda (the European Green Deal); financing instruments (Horizon Europe, Just Transition Fund, European Development Fund) that help other states improve their climate policies and ensure their implementation, while at the same time securing the EU's direct or indirect influence on these policies; adherence to the principles of the Paris Agreement, which is the foundation of the "revolution" in global climate policy.

Secondly, we consider capability as a sign of the EU's global leadership (choice of tools to achieve goals, negotiations). The key indicator here is the EU's capacity to implement climate policy and combat

climate change using various instruments and mechanisms, including negotiations and diplomacy. The European Union participates in the annual UN climate negotiations as a collective participant and has observer status, which allows it to represent its interests at the global climate conference. In addition, the EU's participation in high-level summits gives the Union a “voice” in addressing global issues, including setting standards to combat climate change. The EU uses many practical means to develop effective climate negotiations, one of which is the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), which acts as an economic lever of the EU's influence on emissions management. In addition, the tools used by the EU contribute to the realization of normative power, in particular, the soft imposition of climate values and principles on other actors in international relations.

Thirdly, coherence is important, which is explained by the alignment of priorities, values, procedures, and results. The EU is characterized by coherence in climate values, standards, and rules among its member states, as well as with external partners and states. In shaping the “rules of the game” in the fight against climate change, the EU is also guided by the general principles of sustainable development, international law, and the principles of environmental responsibility, taking care to preserve the international order. The European Union, through its initiatives, demonstrates that the declared values and priorities are not only about promises, but also about real actions. This is evidenced by the EU's achievements in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, developing alternative energy, and progress in implementing the European Green Deal and the Fit for 55 program. However, we should not dismiss the fact that there are discrepancies between the climate ambitions of the Union and their practical implementation, which are caused by both external difficulties (international crises, global transformations) and institutional limitations of the EU's capability.

Fourthly, the unification of commitments between partners, practical legitimacy and quality of assistance, which form the consistency of global leadership, can be seen in the activities of the European Union. First of all, it is worth noting that the EU's consistency in implementing its climate policy means achieving its goals and providing long-term support to countries in bringing their policies closer to climate standards. Legally, it is important to have legitimate instruments for allocating aid, as well as accountability and transparency of this process. The unification of obligations between partners is controversial, as it often sets precedents for “climate injustice” (e.g., states that cause the least environmental damage should pay the same as states with the highest emissions); imposes different economic burdens on the budgets of states with different GDPs; and promotes bureaucratization. These challenges are currently difficult to regulate by the EU. In addition, the EU's fulfilment of its commitments under political documents is often criticized by representatives of environmental movements and international climate organizations. It is important to note that even achieving EU coherence and capability building will not matter much if the EU does not fulfil its commitments (Brattberg and Rhinard 2013).

Thus, the European Union meets the criteria for global leadership according to Erik Brattberg and Mark Rhinard due to its ability to promote climate values in the international arena, the consistency of its declared principles and actions, etc.

Taking into account the above analysis, the prospects for the implementation and consolidation of the EU global leadership, depend, in our opinion, on the following factors:

1. The EU's overcoming of significant discrepancies between its discourse (declared goals and aspirations) and practice, which often contradicts the main ideas in this area.

2. The ability of the EU to support its environmental policy in the countries with a lower level of development, in cooperation with which, in order to achieve the set goals, it is necessary to reduce the consequences of climate change, while taking into account new factors of both the environment and economic and political determinants.

3. Achieving international influence by conducting a dialogue to unite different types of activities and motivations, as well as the cooperation based on consensus and compromises with other participants (European Parliament), partners and recipient countries.

4. The ability of the EU to adjust the ambitions of climate diplomacy in accordance with the geopolitical realities of politics (for example, the Russian-Ukrainian war).

5. The creation of a "level playing field" for member states, the implementation of innovative, cost-effective solutions primarily with a social orientation in the recipient countries.

6. Solving the issue of the influence of the political and economic interests of individual member states on the EU climate diplomacy.

9. Conclusions

Global leadership of the EU is a multifaceted, controversial and complex concept. The EU aims to remain a global standard-setter. By establishing global standards, the EU exports its values. The EU can achieve a global leadership position by setting an example with its shared values. However, to gain this legitimacy, the EU should apply these values both internally and externally in all its actions and reflect them in all its structures. Modern international transformations require the EU to reconsider the approaches to global leadership.

In general, the EGD is an ambitious long-term strategy of the EU, the goal of which is a kind of change in the "rules of the game" via ecological transformation in the world, finding ways of economic recovery, decarbonization and increasing the environmental friendliness of the economy in the EU and its partners. It is

based on the assertion that climate change and environmental degradation pose an existential threat to Europe and the world. In order to overcome these challenges, the EU should form an environmentally resource-efficient, competitive economy. It contains a set of initiatives aimed at solving more specific tasks of this goal.

It is worth pointing out that the EU Global Gateway external investment strategy is closely related to the EGD, which strategically allows the EU to continue to grow by turning its economy and energy sources into the “green” ones. In particular, one of the directions of the European Global Gateway strategy is also the issues of climate change.

The Global Gateway initiative aims to use EUR 300 billion between 2021 and 2027 for connectivity projects, namely, in the digital sector, climate and energy, transport, health, as well as in education and research. The EU considers the Global Gateway as a positive offer to other countries and a means of promoting green diplomacy through influence, expertise and financial resources in order to build global climate neutrality. Overall, EGD and Global Gateway highlight the EU vision of the green economy and offer it to others. The EU has long played a leading role in global efforts to tackle climate change issues.

The implementation of the aims and objectives of the EGD was one of the strategic priorities within the framework of climate cooperation between the EU and Ukraine even before the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war, and after the full-scale invasion it became even stronger. Ukraine seeks to closely cooperate with the EU in this aspect. Meanwhile, the EU-Ukraine cooperation within the framework of the Global Gateway strategy should focus on the formation of the EU investment strategy in clean and environmentally friendly energy that will protect Ukraine and Europe in the future, while expanding the influence of the latter for the benefit of the whole world and only contributing to global leadership.

To summarize, the EU is working to improve its global leadership qualities by choosing to combine different types of leadership. The EU, with its strong normative leadership traits, is strengthening it with enhanced exemplary (EGD) and entrepreneurial leadership (Global Gateway). At the same time, the EU’s greenhouse gas emissions reductions compared to other international actors reduce its chances of being a structural leader, especially with the rising power of economies such as China.

In addition, according to the criteria of Erik Brattberg and Mark Rhinard, the European Union deserves the status of a global leader, formed by its achievements in the fight against climate change and environmental protection. Given that normative power is an effective tool of the Union, it is important to confirm the thesis that the normative approach is effective. In addition, the results of EU initiatives or strategic documents demonstrate the real impact of normative power in practice. Despite the existing challenges and criticism, the European Union remains an influential normative actor capable of transforming the global climate agenda by applying innovative approaches. Thus, the EU’s normative power is becoming a real driver of climate change.

Thus, the EU has the capacity, experience and legitimacy to influence the external players in the field of environmental policy. We consider the prospects of the EU global leadership regarding the climate challenges of the modern world to be primarily the implementation of the EU climate diplomacy on the basis of internal coherence (its conformity both de jure and de facto) and its projection on the solution of the declared climate ambitions through international coherence, which in order to achieve results involves taking into account geopolitical, economic and social conditions. However, the implementation of the EU's global climate leadership has come at a time of crisis and turbulence, which both complicates the task and demonstrates the EU's true potential as a leader.

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