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# SOCIOWORLD

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#### CONCEPTUALIZATION OF DIGITAL MANAGEMENT AS A MODERN TREND

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#### ABSTRACT

The article is aimed at exploring theoretical aspects of designing a digital management system as a tool for the inclusion of the country in the global system of division of labor and the international cooperation system. The author has found out that digitalization processes substantially affect the system of global division of labor and create conditions for digital inequality, which requires new approaches to management of organizational systems.

The article considers the possibilities of digital management initially focused on the activation of inclusion of organizational systems in global division of labor and cooperation processes at a new level of managerial efficiency as such an approach.

Keywords: digital management, management, division of labor, cooperation, activation, transformation.

#### INTRODUCTION

The rapid development and expansion of information and communication technologies in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries resulted in the information explosion or information revolution dating back to the 1980s and continuing to the present day. In just a few decades, information and communication technologies entered all areas of social life, and information became the main production resource at the post-industrial development stage similar to energy and raw materials. Moreover, since the 1980s, the stage of economic globalization as the highest stage of internationalization has begun as a result of the scientific and technological revolution evolving into the information one.

Thus, in the late  $20^{\text{th}}$  and early  $21^{\text{st}}$  centuries, we could see significant changes in the system of international division of labor, which led to the necessity of shifting to a brand-new concept of management now being formed – to digital management.

In recent years, problems of digital management organization have been widely highlighted in the Western scientific literature because in Ukraine, for various reasons (low level of participation in the international division of labor, late inclusion in digitalization processes, etc.), this management model is not considered as a promising area of modern management, its features and potential benefits are not studied.

It defines the relevance of problems revealed in the article and its goal: to examine theoretical aspects of designing a digital management system as a tool for the inclusion of the country in the global system of division of labor and the international cooperation system.

**Presentation of the basic material.** Globalization, which covers more and more areas of modern life every year, is based on the economic relationship of states, their interaction to create a unified world production and economic system. The development of scientific and technological progress leads to the blurring of clear national borders, which contributes to the creation of unified

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financial and information spaces, the growing influence of transnational companies, sales market integration, and technology advancement.

One of the most significant trends in the development of the global economy is the increasing differentiation of countries in terms of the level and quality of life. Differences in income levels have been increasing almost exponentially since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Besides, about two-thirds of the difference in incomes is caused by cross-country inequality, which is a consequence of digital inequality due to the fact that developed countries actively use digitalization achievements for the economic development, while other global market players face problems in accessing digitalization achievements [5].

In the process of post-industrialization of the world economy, mass industrial production is moving to developing countries. Such movement is carried out both by transferring enterprises to other countries and by creating production subsidiaries of transnational corporations abroad. Developed countries, such as the USA, Japan and Western Europe, are characterized by the advantage of non-productive elements of industrial complexes over industrial production. Besides, the main driving forces of the global economy at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were large oil, metallurgical, machine building and mining enterprises. Nowadays, the largest companies include representatives of the digital economy, whose activities are based on the functioning of digital platforms (Table 1).

Table 1

No.	Marketplace	Regional coverage	Number of visits per month
1	Amazon	Global	5.9 billion
2	PayPay Mall	Japan	2.1 billion
3	eBay	Global	1.6 billion
4	Mercado Libre	South America	661.7 million
5	AliExpress	Global	639.1 million
6	Rakuten	Global	621.5 million
7	Taobao	China	545.2 million
8	Walmart.com	USA	469.0 million
9	JD.com	Global	318.2 million
10	Etsy	Global	266.3 million

The largest digital platforms by number of visits [12]

As we can see, the global character of digital platforms given the number of users compared to the population of certain countries provides conditions for digital globalization when the digitalization erases traditional boundaries of the division of labor, creating a common global space of digital commerce.

At the same time, we should admit that the situation forms a new type of division of labor where countries that are the centers of physical location of companies acting as owners and operators of digital platforms (Amazon, eBay (USA), Taobao (China), etc.) succeed.

The growth poles in such countries are not industrial centers but centers of idea generation and creativity, which become drivers of the digital economy, the international division of labor, and



cooperative relations based on achievements of the digital transformation of businesses and management systems.

Therefore, we can assume that inequalities in the division of labor, especially technological and information inequalities, will intensify in the coming years. [12]

As to our country, today Ukraine occupies a rather modest position in the international division of labor. This is because its full-fledged inclusion in the system of the international division of labor took place in the early 1990s and was accompanied by an extremely negative scenario characterized by the following aspects:

- the main place in international trade is occupied by finished products and services based on high technology, while the majority of Ukrainian exports are raw materials and products of the first processing;

- manufacturers essentially remain outside international industrial and investment cooperation: they do not have strong cooperative relations with foreign partners, are not included in international reproduction chains [9];

- digital transformation in Ukraine began 15 years later than in Europe, the USA and China. Therefore, the management system of inclusion processes in the global system of division of labor and cooperative relations is currently under development.

That is why the digital transformation of business processes related to the development of the digital economy in Ukraine requires a new theoretical and methodological substantiation of approaches to market economy management, taking into account the features that now determine the international division of labor.

Considering the above-mentioned problem, one should take into account the fact that, according to researchers [14], over the past years, the international division of labor has been related to the technological transformation based on the division of the world economy by the level of human capital development, which allows speaking about the establishment of cognitive time in the system of division of labor.

Therefore, the evolution and transformation of basic concepts of management took place in developed countries: financially oriented management, marketing management, quality management (process-oriented management), knowledge management (cognitive management). Besides, scientists emphasize the use of various services based on cognitive computing in modern management [6].

At the same time, one cannot but agree that the penetration of cognitive ideas in the economy allows us to distinguish cognitive constructs in any activity area related to decision-making and characterized by a high degree of uncertainty of future events. The shift of attention from the object to the subject of management allows us to focus on cognitive constructs of managers' thinking, development of their professional competencies, and achievement of a cognitive breakthrough for efficient activities of both the individual employee and the organization as a whole.

However, in any case, the emergence of the managerial concept of cognitive management is explained by the understanding that the priority among production factors of the organization includes not material (natural) resources, and not information, but intellectual (knowledge, technology, experience) ones.

Scientists focusing on the application of cognitive (intelligent) tools in management of company development processes in the context of globalization talk about the increasing penetration of



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artificial intelligence in the managerial decision-making system, which is a consequence of the development of the digital economy [14].

Meanwhile, the analysis of works [6; 14] allows us to conclude that the concept of cognitive management, transforming literally in one decade, has reached a new level of conceptualization. Having not yet fully formed, cognitive management can be transformed into digital management based on the best practices. Indeed, the concept of professional managerial competencies is already the basis of employees' digital skills [2]. Now in addition to critical thinking, emotional intelligence, creativity, and the ability to lead people, a candidate for a managerial position needs media literacy, cognitive flexibility, and digital thinking. Therefore, tools for competence-based organization management in the digital economy necessarily include the convergence of knowledge management, artificial intelligence, and cognitive science [11].

Based on the above, let's design a comparative characteristic of cognitive and digital management approaches (Table 2).

Table 2

Criterion	Cognitive management	Digital management
Object of management	Combination of live and robotic	Combination of live and robotic
	labor	labor
Key resource	Knowledge, experience	Digital resources
Manager's role	Organizer, coordinator	Profile of the role of
		communicator, coordinator
Communications	Personal communications prevail	Collaboration based on digital
		technologies
Management	Departments, services,	Digital offices, digital platforms
infrastructure	management personnel	
Organizational culture	Ethics of personal and business	Digital culture, virtual
	communication	communication
Foundation	Cognitive technologies and	Digital technologies
	cognitive systems	
Use of Industry 4.0	Used to make decisions	Widely used
technology		
Competencies	Cognitive competencies	Digital competencies (hard skills,
		soft skills)
Decision maker	Person who independently	Person who generates decisions
	generates decisions based on	using artificial intelligence
	cognitive systems	
Strategic goal	Aimed at achieving key goals of	Integrated goals of the
	organization development	organization, society, and the
		individual

Comparative characteristic of cognitive and digital management (designed by the author)

The comparison of cognitive and digital management conducted by the author allowed us to determine that digital management is an extension, the development of cognitive management both technologically and conceptually. The differences show only the level of development of the digital environment, infrastructure, and requests for managers' competencies. In fact, it is the



external environment through the inevitable implementation of the digital economy that has given impetus to the development of digital management. If talking about the essence, the use of cognitive technologies at the intersection of biological, technological, and psycho-scientific achievements will allow us to create comprehensive tools for managerial decision-making in digital management [5].

The emergence and evolution of digital management, as well as any other concept, is impossible without a theoretical platform. It is the technological strategy of Industry 4.0 and the state program of digitalization of the economy that have become, to our mind, the basis of the digital environment where digital management emerges (Fig. 1) [4].



Fig. 1. Conceptual model of digital management (based on the data [1; 4; 5])





At the same time, it is the degree of maturity of the necessary resources: intelligent (human competencies), infrastructural (technological), and social (organizational and cultural), that has also become the prerequisite for the possibility of the establishment of digital management.

The list of subjects of digital management can be expanded given the industry specifics and the level of implementation of this system.

It is obvious that the above-mentioned objects and subjects of digital management are subject to critical reflection.

V.I. Liashenko and O.S. Vyshnevskyi suggest distinguishing business ecosystems, which mean a set of subjects united around the industry digital platform, as a new object of management in case of the development of the digital economy [2].

The cost-saving operating model aims to optimize business processes. It thrives due to the less is more culture and the standardized organizational structure.

Companies applying a data-driven operating model establish digital competence centers; processes are backed by deeper analytics, rapid testing and learning [8].

SkyNet intensively uses robotics and automation to increase the efficiency and flexibility of production.

One of the most interesting operating models of international business development in the digital economy is the open model that builds an ecosystem around a common customer. In the digital economy, platforms create a network effect that transforms a company by shifting production from inside the company to outside. Besides, they not just create values on their own but organize the creation of values by external users. The platform is more important than the product in this inverted model. The value of the platform is increased due to reuse and wider use, and it increases with positive feedback, eventually dominating the static value of the product or declining value.

With users being producers and the company acting as an intermediary, the inverted model redefines traditional models of interaction between public and private sectors, requiring transparency that managers brought up on traditional competitive dynamics find difficult to cope with. However, once the scale is achieved, digital ecosystems become very powerful [10].

Thus, we can conclude that the creation of the company's digital model focused on active inclusion in the system of modern international division of labor and production cooperation implies changes at organizational, process, and functional levels, the creation of a unified ecosystem of the company and digital assets, the integration of digital services into key business areas, providing access to information and analytics in real time.

The use of the digital business model requires defining the main areas of transformation of the company's business processes. In particular, one notes the digitalization of technological processes, procurement activities, preparation of financial reporting and control of deviations from business plans, risk management based on big data, control of the implementation of investment programs, human resources management [3].

Digital breakthrough technologies, such as robotic process automation, intelligent automation, application of artificial intelligence, in-depth analytics and big data, cutting-edge business modeling tools – simulation modeling, open up new opportunities for foreign trade companies.

Robotic automation of business processes has led to the emergence of software robots taking over most of the routine operations and not requiring human participation. Intelligent automation (computer vision technology, unstructured information processing, machine learning) assumes that software robots work together with artificial intelligence, can replace the employee not only in simple operations but also in making complex decisions based on data analysis and self-



learning. Collecting statistics on the state of internal processes of the foreign trade company using mobile sensors (IoT – Internet of Things) allows data to be accumulated in corporate storages, which are then analyzed by artificial intelligence systems and software robots to make more complex decisions. Business planning applies simulation modeling technology in the form of computer programs that can build a model of any complex object in real environment [7].

The digital environment is characterized by a high level of changes, active use of technology, work processes are becoming much less structured and predictable, whereby it is not enough to have digital skills, as you should also learn how to work in the innovative environment.

The introduction of digital technologies causes the need to develop digital skills of personnel, which primarily include: digital literacy, data analysis and decision-making based on artificial intelligence, systemic thinking and understanding of business models, continuous advancement using cost-saving and flexible methods.

The most important competencies for digital workforce are related to continuous learning and innovations, awareness of differences between relevant and irrelevant data for finding insights, network interaction, and improved performance. A foreign trade company that has implemented a digital business model should change the personnel management function to work digitally using digital tools and software to deliver solutions, the combination of talents, technologies, and the digital workplace.

One should take into account different levels of maturity inherent to the digital transformation of foreign trade companies. Thus, T. Saldanha highlights five stages of successful digital transformation [13].

At the first stage, one should create a foundation for the digitization of assets and the shift to digital transformation. The foundation is the automation of internal processes using the CRM system.

At the second stage, one launches the digitalization of individual functions or departments. This stage is quite isolated and allows experimenting with different breakthrough business strategies, for example, the financial department can shift to financial and technical solutions to facilitate international transfers, the use of the Internet of Things has made major changes in logistics management, etc.

At the third stage, one achieves partial synchronization between divisions and business processes, but there is no unified structure and management. Therefore, one should implement coordinating programs of digital transformation strategy and develop guidelines for divisions of the foreign trade company.

The fourth stage produces platforms, products, and processes based on digital technologies, as well as attains full synchronization of division operations.

The fifth stage indicates that the digital transformation enters the core of the business strategy and is traced in the culture, mission, and business model of the company [13].

Thus, digital capabilities and the flexible innovative culture become the foundation for the development of the company focused on active inclusion in the system of modern international division of labor and production cooperation, while the digital management system allows organizations to rapidly adapt to the dynamic conditions of the modern division of labor.





#### CONCLUSION

The analysis of changes in the international division of labor occurring in the information age has allowed us to define the set of transformation processes, the most important of which is the change in the paradigm of management of organizational systems.

Currently, digitalization processes affecting the whole system of division of labor globally require new management approaches. Therefore, it becomes relevant to integrate the digital management model into management processes, which actually means the use of digitalization achievements in management processes of organizational systems.

Methodical tools for digital management are aimed at achieving the main goal of management: integrated, harmonious development of the organization and personality in the digital economy.

Thus, this conceptual model reveals the paradigm of inclusion of organizational systems in the international division of labor and cooperation activities based on the intensification of digital interaction and the use of digital technologies in various areas of management.

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