The world economy being a complex and multi-level system is subject to a certain number of risks: economic, ecological, social, technological, geopolitical, etc. It is the geopolitical risk which has become especially sharp lately. And uncertainty has turned out to become its major characteristic.

As Kristalina Georgieva, Head of the International Monetary Fund, pointed out international uncertainty is one of the major reasons for the world economy slowdown. Thus, the global economy growth is projected at 3 % in the year 2019 which is the lowest level since 2008 manifesting the decrease by 0,3 % in comparison with the economic forecast for the year 2019 projected by the International Monetary Fund [1].

The aim of the paper is to substantiate the claim that uncertainty is the key factor of the world economy slowdown. The map of the world given in Picture below illustrating the major sources of uncertainty appears to be a sort of decision-making base for the present paper where three different colours mark different levels of risk characterising a peculiar location: the red colour defines high-level risk, the orange colour defines average-level risk and the yellow colour defines low-level risk.
The methodology of the research can be briefly presented as comprising two points: 1) defining the source of uncertainty (mainly based on the information in mass media), 2) defining the grounds on which the location is referred to this or that level of risk (mainly as a potential effect on the world GDP which occurred de facto (but not de jure) or can occur according to the assessment of researchers).

Brexit without deal and potential escalation of the trade war between China and the USA can serve as examples of high-level risk. The unstable situation in Venezuela, armed conflicts in the Middle East can be regarded as average-level risk. Russia’s sanctions policy is an example of low-level risk. Being restricted by the demands for the volume of the paper we shall focus on sources with high-level risks.

Researchers predict that losses of the world economy in 2020 due to the trade war between China and the USA will amount to 850 billion dollars [2]. Tariffs introduced by the states are the main reason for such losses. Restrictions negatively affect the world trade slowing it down. More than that, tariffs have an indirect effect on the world economy. It is manifested in the negative reaction of the market, decrease of investors confidence, capital overflow from regions, etc.

Ultimately, all these factors lead to economic activity deceleration. Thus, indirect adverse tariffs effect has far more negative consequences than their direct mission.

In Europe the major source of uncertainty is Brexit. The scenario of Brexit without deal will lead to negative consequences not only for Great Britain, but for Europe. New trade tariffs will be introduced and as a result the global financial system will suffer. Recession will follow in Great Britain which will lead to GDP loss at 2,0 per cent in 2020 [3].
Summarising the paper, it is worth saying that uncertainty really is one of the key risks for the world economy. To avoid further growth of uncertainty and to prevent the world economic activity decrease the states must conduct the policy aiming at the development of international cooperation and easing tension in conflict zones.

References


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GLOBALIZATION AS THE MAIN TREND
OF THE WORLD ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

ГЛОБАЛИЗАЦИЯ КАК ОСНОВНАЯ ТЕНДЕНЦИЯ
РАЗВИТИЯ МИРОВОЙ ЭКОНОМИКИ

The aim of the research is to consider the main features and aspects of globalization impact on the national economy.

By the end of the XX century the process of globalization has made a considerable impact on the development and performance of the world economy. Globalization began to demonstrate its features in all spheres of human activity. The processes