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BANKING SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF SERVICING FOREIGN ECONOMIC OPERATIONS

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Annotation. The article is devoted to the analysis of banking services in the field of foreign economic operations, including cash and settlement services, letters of credit, bank guarantees and lending. Currency risk management, implementation of digital technologies and compliance with international standards are considered. The role of banks in ensuring the efficiency, security and transparency of foreign economic activity, as well as attracting foreign investment, was emphasized.
Keywords: banking services, foreign economic operations, international trade, currency risks, digitalization, letter of credit, lending.

Introduction. In the context of globalization and active integration of national economies into the global financial system, international trade and foreign economic activity are becoming particularly important as factors of sustainable economic growth of the state. Banks that provide services in the field of foreign economic transactions perform the strategic function of intermediaries between domestic exporters, importers and international financial institutions. Their role goes far beyond just making payments: financial institutions coordinate and control the flow of funds, facilitate timely fulfillment of contractual obligations, and create mechanisms to protect against financial and operational risks.

Particular attention is paid to managing currency risks and ensuring the reliability of settlements, since international transactions are invariably associated with exchange rate fluctuations, differences in the legislative and financial systems of partner countries, as well as potential insolvency of counterparties. Banks act as a guarantor of the stability of financial flows by introducing tools for letter of credit services, bank guarantees, and insurance of export-import operations. In addition, through proper management of foreign economic operations, financial institutions stimulate the inflow of foreign investment, strengthen the confidence of foreign partners in the national banking system, and create favorable conditions for the country's participation in international economic and trade projects.

Thus, banks serving foreign economic activity become an integral link in the chain of international financial relations, performing simultaneously the functions of a financial intermediary, risk manager and consultant. Their activities ensure the efficiency, transparency and reliability of foreign economic operations, which in turn directly affects the strengthening of economic stability, increasing the country's investment attractiveness and integrating the national economy into global capital markets.

The main part. Banking services in the field of foreign economic operations are a set of financial instruments and services that banks provide to their clients to ensure safe and efficient conduct of international trade and participation in global economic processes. They are aimed at supporting export-import transactions, managing currency and credit risks, as well as helping

attract foreign investment and integrate enterprises into global financial flows. In a broad sense, such services include: (see: Figure 1)

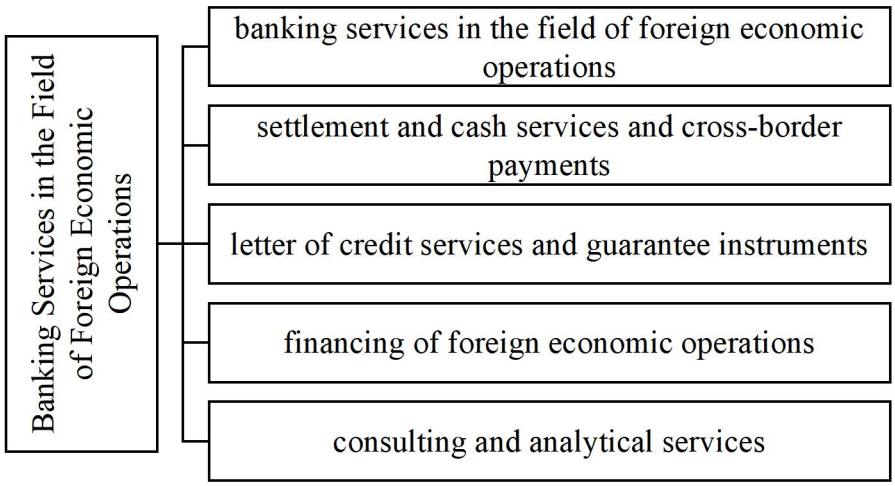


Figure 1. Banking services in the field of foreign economic operations

We'll look at them in more detail below.

Banking services in the field of foreign economic operations. Servicing foreign economic transactions is one of the key areas of modern banking activity, forming the basis for safe and effective interaction of national enterprises with international markets. Depending on the functional focus, banking services in this area can be divided into several categories, each of which plays an important role in ensuring the stability of financial flows and reducing the risks of participants in foreign economic activity.

Cash and settlement services and cross-border payments include making international transfers, currency conversion, opening foreign currency accounts, and making payments under contracts with foreign partners. These services can not only speed up the flow of funds, but also ensure transparency of financial transactions, which is critical for maintaining trust between counterparties.

Letter of credit services and guarantee instruments are the most important mechanisms for protecting the interests of participants in foreign economic transactions. Bank letters of credit, guarantees, and collections minimize the risks of non-payment by ensuring that counterparties fulfill their obligations. At the same time, banks act as a kind of security guarantor, helping to reduce financial and operational uncertainty in the implementation of international contracts.

*Lending to foreign economic operations is the*provision of short-and long-term credit resources to finance the purchase of raw materials, equipment and the implementation of export-import projects. This tool provides companies with the ability to quickly manage capital, implement large projects, and maintain the continuity of production and trading processes.

Consulting and analytical services complement financial instruments by offering clients recommendations on optimizing currency flows, managing currency and credit risks, and ensuring compliance with international standards and regulatory requirements. Such support increases the efficiency of foreign economic operations and strengthens the confidence of investors and partners in the national banking system.

Thus, the comprehensive provision of banking services in the field of foreign economic operations makes it possible to create a safe and transparent infrastructure for international trade, reduce risks and ensure sustainable development of the country's foreign economic activity.

The National Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan traditionally occupies a leading position in servicing foreign economic operations due to:

- significant resource base and high capitalization;
- developed system of correspondent relations with foreign banks;
- experience in international financial markets;
- introduction of modern electronic platforms for settlement and control of transactions.

Other major banks, including Asakabank,Uzpromstroy bankand Halyk Bank, are also actively developing their foreign economic operations services, expanding the range of services, increasing the speed of payment processing and reducing customer costs.

Modern international financial transactions impose increasingly high demands on banks due to the dynamism of global markets, the complexity of financial instruments and the increase in the volume of foreign economic transactions. In these circumstances, banks are forced not only to retain their traditional functions as intermediaries and creditors, but also to actively implement innovative approaches that ensure the safety and efficiency of servicing international transactions.

One of the key trends is the widespread adoption of digital technologies. Electronic platforms, specialized online services, payment automation and integration of mobile applications can significantly speed up cross-border payments, reduce the likelihood of errors and ensure transparency of all operations. Thanks to digitalization, banks can track cash flows in real time, minimize operational risks and provide a high level of service to customers, regardless of their geographical location.

Currency risk management is becoming an equally important area. International transactions are always associated with fluctuations in the national and foreign currency exchange rates, which can negatively affect the financial results of participants in foreign economic activity. To mitigate such risks, banks use a range of hedging instruments, including currency derivatives, forward contracts and options. Such measures allow clients to forecast the costs and revenues of international transactions and protect them from adverse changes in the exchange rate.

Another critical aspect is compliance with international standards and regulations, including FATF, SWIFT and Basel III requirements. Their compliance ensures not only the bank's financial stability, but also increases the confidence of foreign partners, facilitates cooperation with international financial institutions, and reduces the risk of legal and operational sanctions. Compliance with these standards is becoming a prerequisite for national banks to participate in the global economy and attract large foreign investors.

In addition, current trends suggest actively attracting foreign investment through expanding the range of banking services, providing loans and guaranteed mechanisms for international contracts. Effective servicing of foreign economic operations creates a positive image of national banks, strengthens their reputation in the international arena and promotes the country's integration into global financial systems.

Despite the obvious successes and positive changes, the banking system faces a number of difficult challenges. Among them are limited digital services for small and medium-sized businesses, insufficient experience in working with modern complex financial instruments, as well as the need for constant professional development of employees to work in the context of global financial standards. These problems require a systematic approach to modernizing the infrastructure

of banks, introducing innovative technologies and improving the professional skills of staff, which is a key condition for improving the efficiency of servicing foreign economic operations.

Thus, current trends in the banking sector simultaneously create new opportunities and impose increased requirements on financial institutions. Successful integration of digital technologies, competent management of currency risks, compliance with international standards and active attraction of foreign investment are the basis for the competitiveness of banks and effective development of the country's foreign economic activity.

Conclusion. Modern banks that serve foreign economic activity play the role of strategic intermediaries between national enterprises and global financial markets. Their activities cover not only the classic functions of settlement and lending, but also comprehensive management of financial flows, currency risks, ensuring transparency of operations and compliance with international standards.

Comprehensive provision of banking services-from cash settlement services and letters of credit to consultations on optimizing foreign economic processes-forms a safe and efficient infrastructure for international trade. National banks, such as the National Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, due to their developed resource base, international correspondent relations and the introduction of modern electronic platforms, take a leading position in ensuring the stability and reliability of foreign economic operations.

Current trends, including digitalization, process automation, and the active use of hedging instruments, open up new opportunities for improving efficiency and reducing risks. At the same time, the banking system faces a number of challenges: limited digital services for small and medium-sized businesses, the need to improve the skills of employees and work with complex financial instruments.

Thus, the successful development of banking services in the field of foreign economic operations becomes a key factor in strengthening economic stability, increasing the country's investment attractiveness and integrating the national economy into global capital markets. Effective organization of such services contributes not only to the growth of international trade and attracting foreign investment, but also to the formation of a positive image of national banks in the international arena, creating conditions for sustainable economic development and state competitiveness in the global economy.

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