Assets in socially screened portfolios climbed to $5.67 trillion at the start of 2014, a 76% increase since 2012, according to the US SIF's 2014 Report on US Sustainable, Responsible and Impact Investing Trends. One of six dollars under professional management in the US is involved in socially responsible investing—nearly 18% of the $36.8 trillion in total assets under management tracked by Cerulli Associates.

It goes without saying that the main aim of any firm, corporation, enterprise, regardless of their size, is profit. And it isn't connected with egoistic nature of every homo sapiens but it's just a question of business evolution and capitalistic market system functioning. That's why every sensible businessmen asks himself a question :

Is it profitable for my company to deal with SRI?

The answer is obvious. More and more investors make sure that a triple bottom line concept which includes a combination of Financial, Social and Ecological parameters during the evaluation of investment project isn't connected with additional expenses (That means that SRI doesn't mean the investment to the detriment of their potential profits). The latest research shows that ethical investment doesn't lead to negative financial results. Besides, some analytics are sure that companies that pay their attention to the solutions of social/ecological problems will have a huge competitiveness and investment attractiveness in the long term.

"Put your money where your heart is!"

Amy Domini, the SRI pioneer

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SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

Now everyone seems to be an admirer of "special economic zones" (SEZs) that offer a combination of tax-and-tariff incentives, streamlined customs procedures and less regulation. Three out of every four countries have at least one. SEZs—enclaves in which exporters and other investors receive tax, tariff and regulatory incentives—create distortions within economies. Other costs include required infrastructure investment and forgone tax revenues. The hope is that these are outweighed by the boost to jobs and trade. In reality, many SEZs fail. Performance data are elusive because the effects of zones are hard to disentangle from other economic forces. But anecdotal evidence suggests they fall into three broad categories: a few runaway successes, a larger number that come out marginally positive in cost-benefit assessments, and a long tail of failed zones that either never got going, were poorly run, or where investors gladly took tax breaks without producing substantial employment or export earnings.

SEZs have a long pedigree: the first free-trade zones were in ancient Phoenicia. The first modern one was set up at Shannon airport in Ireland in 1959, but the idea took off in the 1980s after China embraced them. The world now counts about 4,300 SEZs, and more are being added all the time. Myanmar and Qatar have recently unveiled new ones; Indian officials call their SEZ ambitions "revolutionary"; Shinzo Abe, Japan's prime minister, announced special strategic zones as part of his reform agenda. A study conducted in 2008 estimated that 68m people worked in them. They come in many forms, from basic "export processing zones" to "charter cities", urban zones that set their own regulations in all sorts of areas that affect business.

The overall impact of SEZs on trade is poorly understood. A paper published in 2014 by economists at Paris-Dauphine University found that, for a given level of tariff protection, SEZs increase exports for the countries they are in and for other countries that provide intermediate goods or components. This helps explain why the World Trade Organization generally tolerates SEZs, even though many breach its subsidy rules. However, the paper also concluded that zones sometimes give countries an excuse to retain protectionist barriers around the rest of the economy.

SEZs are exposed to world economy through their export trade. They are instrumental in the process of globalization and economic interdependence. The units in the SEZs try to assimilate the latest technology in their production process and marketing management. This assimilation of modern technology both imported and indigenously developed lead to technological upgrading in the production and marketing areas not only among the units in the SEZs but also among the units outside these zones. Thus the technological advancement achieved by the SEZs has an indirect implication on the economic development of the economy.

If they encourage experimentation in otherwise sclerotic economies, SEZs can be useful. The failure of some may seem a price worth paying, if you end up with a Shenzhen-style blockbuster. But they require patience and planning, and they are always inferior to nationwide reforms that cut trade barriers and boost competitiveness. The countries that don’t need zones at all are the really special ones.

There are six free economic zones in Belarus, namely, “Brest”, “Vitebsk”, “Gomel-Raton”, “Grodnoinvest”, “Minsk”, “Mogilev”. The first of them were created in 1996. The youngest are FEZ Mogilev and “Grodnoinvest” – they were established in 2002. In Belarus FEZ are considered as the tool of investment policy to attract foreign and national investors in order to develop production, new technologies and management, promote the creation of modern import-substituting production technologies and a favorable environment for economic growth.