

BELARUS: A PLACE TO INVEST

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The object of the research is investments in Belarus. The subject is features and benefits of investing in Belarus. The purpose of our study is to prove the attractiveness of Belarus for investment. To attain the objective of the research the following tasks were set: to study the investment climate of the Republic Belarus, to analyze successful examples of investment projects, and to identify the prospects of the investment development of our country.

Raising capital, including foreign investment, is one of the major issues of the Belarusian economy.

There are numerous reasons why Belarus is an attractive foreign investment destination. The government of the Republic of Belarus has passed a number of bills on simplification and liberalization of investment policy. Six free economic zones have been created following the Chinese example to raise foreign direct investments. A strategic geographical location creates favorable business conditions. Belarus also offers direct access to the Eurasian Economic Union markets and possesses a well-developed infrastructure, including transport, logistics, and communications. Moreover, highly skilled and low-paid workforce contributes to attracting foreign investments. Special legal regimes are available to investors in small- and medium-sized towns, rural areas, and the High-tech Park.

In 2016 foreign investors poured \$8.6 bn into the real sector of the Belarusian economy. Foreign direct investments amounted to \$6.9 bn, i. e. 80.9% of all foreign investments received. The main investors were partners from Russia, the United Kingdom, and Cyprus.

Among the successful investment projects implemented in Belarus are a joint Belarusian-Swiss company “Stadler Minsk”, a Belarusian-German joint venture “MAZ-MAN”, and an American-Belarusian enterprise “Heineken Breweries”.

One of the most profitable and promising spheres for investment is medical tourism.

Medical tourism is getting increasingly popular in Belarus. Foreign tourists can combine travelling and recreation with high-quality treatment and recuperation at Belarus’ best healthcare facilities and health farms.

Belarus has been providing healthcare services to foreigners for a long time. Foreigners often come to Belarus for a complicated surgery or in-hospital treatment. In recent years Belarus has proved one of the most promising medical tourism destinations in The Commonwealth of Independent States.

In recent years, the number of foreigners receiving medical services in Belarus has been on the rise. People from over 70 countries worldwide come to Belarus for medical services. Those are mostly citizens of Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Georgia, Syria, Germany, Israel, Italy, Cyprus, Yemen, and some others.

In addition to improving the quality of medical services and efficiency of treatment, Belarusian healthcare facilities are constantly working to expand the variety of high-tech and sophisticated surgeries.

In conclusion it should be mentioned that medical tourism is considered to be one of the priorities of the Belarusian economy in the near future. The government spends a lot of money for reconstruction of the leading medical centers, development of high-tech medical care, and purchase of modern equipment. In combination with the high professional level of our specialists, our medicine today is competitive and attractive for foreigners.

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