

long these regulations will work, not all countries are ready to accomplish the requirements.

These all lead to establishing of a new model. According to this new model the shale oil industry will flourish. In this case, the leaders of commodity market might change. As a shale oil and gas production start flourish newcomers such as South Africa, China and Argentina are also getting ready to attempt to development in bid for energy independence.

On the other hand, many developed countries started to invest into usage of renewables. The continuous technological advancement and cost in reduction of renewables such as solar and onshore wind keeps those sources of energy competitive. Whereas, the whole world economy is changing to this model, national oil companies are going to face challenges. Oil producing companies must avoid the extractions with high cost, to stay afloat they must differentiate their production with a minimum costs.

The performance of the world's economy is finally filtering into commodity prices. Even after years of commodity producers limiting their output to support prices, they should be wary of loosening their belts too quickly. The main exclusion from this volatility of prices is that countries must avoid the dependency on fuel.

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THINK TANK: THE ART OF INFLUENCE

Within the last decade or so, the world community has faced a variety of issues that dramatically changed the long-standing rules. It is about the most unorthodox president Donald Trump and how he will continue to upset the world order; the increasing number of terrorist attacks and the flows of migrants and refugees all over the EU. Moreover, the structure of the global economy is transforming from the bipolar to the multipolar field.

Our world is a complex system where everything matters and practically each country to this or that extent is involved in the problem-solving process. Governments make policy changes in response to economic conditions. They strive to engineer economic growth or prevent negative economic effects. But at the same time the decisions are often made with ideology and political rather than economic interests in view. As a result, countries try to impose their own rules on each other which provokes conflicts and equivocity.

No doubt, the world is in need of so-called ‘referee’ as an independent and unprejudiced observer. It is time for new format institutions. Think tanks, in fact, are a growth industry. Think tanks are public-policy research analysis and engagement organizations that conduct policy-oriented research, analysis, and advice on domestic and international issues, thus enabling policy makers and the public to make informed decisions about public policy. Think tanks may be affiliated or independent institutions that are structured as standing bodies, not ad hoc commissions. These institutions often act as a bridge between the academic and policymaking communities and between states and civil society, serving in the public interest as independent voices that translate applied and basic research into a language that is understandable, reliable, and accessible for policy makers and the public.

At their best, think tanks act as filters and synthesizers that facilitate the identification of policy issues, the design of policy solutions, and the implementation of and feedback on policy decisions. The proliferation, global expansion, and networking of think tanks have magnified their potential to research and develop solutions to global public policy issues of today.

But other than that, on the global market of innovations, think tanks need to develop national, regional, and global partnerships creating platforms to deliver their products and services. Collaboration of think tanks via the world will help to promote constructive dialogue, collaborative research and analysis on economic issues through the creation of global issue networks, and identify strategies and technologies that will facilitate collaborative research.

On the other hand, *“think tanks are all about influence. They are not always neutral ivory towers that undertake entirely value-free research and offer value-free advice...They all want something”*, argued Enrique Mendizabal, the founder of Think Tank.

As for Belarus, it has a potential for developing in economic, political and technological spheres. But, the political situation in the country does not favor the work of independent think tanks. They have difficulties in terms of registering the organizations in the country. This leads to practical problems for the very existence of think tanks as well as making it difficult to hold events, and impairs presence in the media. At the same time, the government generally does not trust the opinion of independent institutions, which diminishes the role of think tanks in society. Yet being one the least reformed countries in the post-Soviet space, Belarus vitally needs new ideas and policy proposals to address the various challenges the country faces.

Despite the limited support from the state there are some leading think tanks in Belarus who work out the ways of transformation, and arrange economic and political forums. They have achieved great results for several years, and set a good example to others. They organized some forums, for instance, KEF. This conference seeks answers that would help to lay foundations of the future and close the gap between policies and practice.

Think tanks play several roles in the decision-making process. On the one end, they can act as evaluators of government programmes and provide advice on immediate policy concerns. But on the other end, these organizations can influence many spheres through different instruments to achieve their strategic goals. It can direct communication with policy-makers or leaders, and interaction with the public sector by providing them with vital information. Think tanks are not the solution to a defined challenge, nor are they the only response to a state's needs; but they are an additional tool, both different and complimentary, in the technical and strategic range of tools a state has at its disposal.

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DEVELOPMENT OF STATE-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN CUSTOMS SPHERE IN THE EU: NEW TRENDS

Modern processes of globalization and integration in every possible way promote the development and expansion of foreign trade relations both at the regional and global levels. Customs do not stand aside. The process of modernization of national systems of customs administration in many ways promotes the development of new forms of interaction between customs and business, the implementation of the latest achievements in information technology and progressive management decisions in the field of customs control. In terms of interaction in the last decade customs authorities and participants in foreign economic activity have made significant progress in simplifying and unifying customs procedures. However, issues that are at the junction of the customs and business competencies remain unresolved. At the same time, customs should take into account and understand all the subtleties of conducting business.

The European Union is the leader in introducing into customs and foreign trade practice progressive forms and mechanisms of interaction between customs and the business community. In addition, the EU experience in this field of activity is, in our opinion, the most acceptable for Belarus and for the member states of the EAEU. In the European economic model, the norms of economic freedom and business procedures that are simple for business are optimally combined with the traditionally active role of the state in stimulating the development of innovations in this field. The EU is one of the