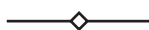


организациями, правительствами и предпринимательским сообществом. Следует отметить, что развитие информационных технологий и цифровизации открывает новые возможности для сотрудничества в секторе услуг, в сфере онлайн-образования, финансовых технологий, цифровой торговли, услуг, сопровождающих производство и туризма. Сектор услуг играет важную роль в устойчивом развитии, поэтому сотрудничество направлено на развитие экологически и социально ответственных услуг.

Таким образом, для успешного сотрудничества с международными экономическими организациями в секторе услуг необходимо: знание целей, мандатов и структуры международных экономических организаций и выработка стратегии данного сотрудничества; активное участие в диалоге с экспертами организаций, включая обратную связь и запросы на консультации; разработка и поддержка учебных программ и образовательных мероприятий, которые помогут развивать квалификацию в секторе услуг; развитие партнерских отношений с национальными и зарубежными предприятиями, которые работают в секторе услуг, для обмена опытом и технологиями, а также для укрепления связей в целях расширения рынков; соблюдение международных стандартов и норм в секторе услуг, для обеспечения высокого качества услуг и защиты прав потребителей; развитие сотрудничества в рамках международных проектов и программ, направленных на развитие сектора услуг и укрепление экономического сотрудничества.

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Technology Transfer Opportunities for MSMEs in Belarus

The research project is devoted to the analysis of institutional support for technology transfer for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the Republic of Belarus and selected developing countries. The study was carried out in several stages. At the first stage, materials characterizing the state and dynamics of MSMEs development for the period 2010–2021 were selected and analyzed. Statistical data compiled using the portal of the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus. Information on the legal regulation of the activities of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, the features of their financing is contained on the website of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus. At the next stage the possibilities of technology transfer in Belarus and other countries were studied. Information about the support system for such a transfer in Belarus is provided by the website of the Belarusian Institute for System Analysis and Information Support of the Scientific and Technical Sphere of the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus. Information about innovation support centers and rankings in the Global Innovation Index of various countries is taken from the website of the World Intellectual Property Organization. The data was tabulated. GII rank shows the degree and potential of the innovative development of nations. It is included in the table to link the state of innovation development with the state of technology transfer support infrastructure. A population indicator has also been added to the table. It serves as an indicator of the scale of the national market, which makes it possible to assess the potential for the creation and development of MSMEs, as well as their technological capabilities. The larger the population, the greater the opportunities for creating MSMEs and their participation in technology transfer.

The main conclusions are made:

– The development of MSMEs in the Republic of Belarus for the period 2010–2021 was unstable. Most of them are located in Minsk City and the Minsk region, although the problems of employment and income growth are more acute in other regions of the country. Despite the increase in the share of MSMEs in the total output of goods and services, the indicator is still much lower than the average world rate and average European ones. In the export of goods they play a more prominent role, but their potential has not been fully realized. However, in recent years, the importance of MSMEs for the country's economy has increased.

– In Belarus as a whole an institutional system of support, including financing, for small and medium-sized businesses has been created. There are also elements of promoting technology transfer. The key problem remains the simplification of procedures for providing assistance, expanding opportunities for access to resources for regional MSMEs. In addition not all financial support mechanisms are suitable for assisting technology transfer.

– Compared to other developing countries analyzed, Belarus has a good record of innovation development and technology transfer support for MSMEs. However, the problem of concentration of support centers in the capital (common to all countries) remains.

– Belarus and other developing countries need to reform their institutional arrangements to support technology transfer. Of course, in different countries, based on the degree of their development, the depth and structure of such reforms will be different. There is no doubt about the need of reforms since not only the sustainable development of the economies of countries, but also the whole society depends on them.



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On the Issue of Diminishing and Increasing Returns

In classical economics the “law” of diminishing returns or the principle of diminishing marginal productivity, as applied to agriculture can be traced to Ann Robert Jacques Turgot in France and Adam Smith and Thomas Robert Malthus in England. In 1815, it was postulated by the British economist and judge Edward West, and in the same year released as a broad conceptual framework by Ricardo. Throughout the early industrial era it was addressed by other prominent English economists, for example, by Mill, but according to Alfred Marshall, one of the founders of neo-classical economics, the true origins of this “law” derive from the Old Testament of the Bible, as the “tendency to a diminishing return was the cause of Abraham’s parting from Lot: ‘The land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together’” [3: 126]. As it is, diminishing returns may indeed be “the oldest of all economic laws known to mankind,” described by Xenophon in the ancient Greece, and systematically reinvigorated in Europe of the Renaissance, notably by Antonio Serra from Italy.

As noted by Bailey, the “law of diminishing returns clearly operates in the natural world, and, indeed, the Malthusian model accurately describes the experience of most species,” yet carrying it over into the human world may be misleading despite all the alluring simplicity [1: 114–115]. For contrary to predictions by Malthus, over the last two centuries it was not demographic but economic growth that has developed closer to geometrical rather than to arithmetic progression, as global output swell by 120 times, including by 275 times in the OECD, while global population increased by relatively modest seven times [2: 376–379]. All in all, then, “the law of diminishing returns appears to have been violated” [1: 116–117], at least in the West and in some developing economies, notably China.

One way or another, though, the belief in the preeminence of diminishing returns still holds ground, for example, as the concern about scarcity. The latter, however, is only one aspect of production which relates mostly to its material side, especially as far as it is provided by nature, directly or indirectly. There is another aspect, provided by man, or more accurately, by his intellectual and spiritual powers, and it is precisely this side which “shows a tendency to increasing returns” [3: 265].

According to Marshall, the “law of increasing return may be worded thus: An increase of labour and capital leads generally to improved organization, which increases the efficiency of the work of labour and capital” [3: 265]. It is, of course, a neoclassical approach focusing on the micro-level and essentially a variation of a “two-factor model in which economic growth... [is] accounted for by adding more labor and more capital to create more goods” [1: 117]. A different, macroeconomic view of increasing returns, was accentuated by Allyn Young a decade before the World War II, and a decade after it was put forward as “historical increasing returns” by Joseph Schumpeter. More recently, it was reinvigorated by Erik Reinert in his theory of collusive growth distribution, by Paul Romer in his “New Growth” theory based on a dichotomy of “ideas” and “things,” and in much of the modern debates on innovation as the ultimate driver of economic growth.

As stressed by Young, increasing returns principally derive from roundabout methods of production and crucially depend on market size, which properly ought to be perceived in its “inclusive sense”, i.e. from a dual perspective of production / consumption capacity “tied together by trade.” This perspective means that any “important advance in the organization of production,” nowadays commonly referred to as innovation, tends to unsettle the economic equilibrium, spreading in a “progressive” and “cumulative” manner [4: 533]. With globalization transforming the world into one vast mass market, the logic of increasing returns also means that economic success gets increasingly concentrated around transnational business capable of transcending physical and virtual borders through both traditional and transfer trade of sophisticated global value chains. Hence, increasing returns may be ultimately responsible for continuation of not just economic progress, but also inequality at both national and international level. Finally, the phenomenon of increasing returns implies, at least theoretically, that “there are no limits” to growth even with no significant demographic or scientific advances, for any small increases in demand or supply