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INNOVATIONS AND INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

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Nowadays the main factor of economic growth in leading states are innovations, the production, and distribution of which is ensured by innovative entrepreneurship with state support. In the article, the author considers the categories of "innovation", "innovative entrepreneurship", analyzes state programs and strategies for the socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus, taking into account promising goals and objectives at the macro, meso and micro levels.

World experience shows that states that prefer the innovative path of development for national economies develop and effectively apply the state innovation policy, the essence of which is expressed in the "State Program for Innovative Development of the Republic of Belarus" and the "National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period until 2030" [1, 2].

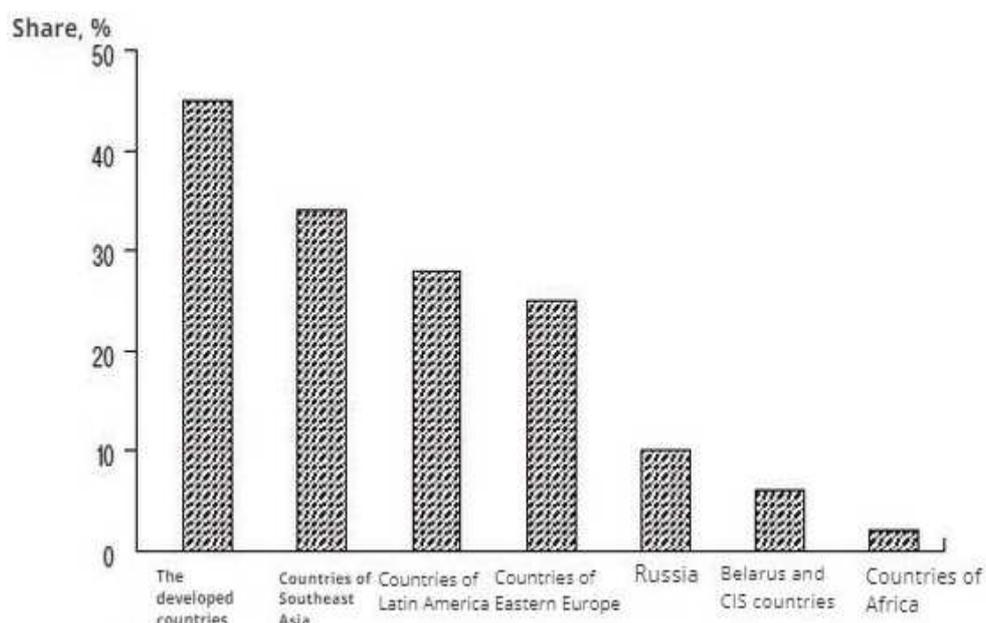


Figure 1. – The share of high-tech (innovative) products in total exports

Source: provided by the author based on data [3]

Today, it can be considered unequivocally proven that innovation plays a huge role in any business, as they may apply to any aspect of the business process (the creation of fundamentally new products or products of improved quality, the introduction of new technological processes, the use of new materials, the expansion of markets and (or) creation of new ones, the introduction of new organizational forms) [1].

The basis for innovative entrepreneurship is scientific and technological developments which are created with the goal of profit (commercialization), in other words, innovation. Based on the above, we can conclude that innovation is at the heart of innovative entrepreneurship.

We think that, basically, innovation consists of two parts: technical and commercial. The technical part is the essence of development, its mechanism of action and the technical (technological) effects when it is introduced into production. Innovation is technological development plus a commercial part (business plan for the sale (implementation)) of technical development on the market [4]. Thus, to understand the essence of the category and its structure, as well as its impact on the economic system, the author analyzed theoretical approaches to determining category "innovation." This analysis is presented in Table 1.

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Table 1. – Theoretical Approaches in Determining the Category of "Innovation"

Author	Definition
O.A. Golikova	Innovation is the outcome of innovation, which has been implemented as a new or improved product sold on the market, a new or improved technological process used in practice
U.U. Kovalev	Innovation is an object or process that contributes to the growth of enterprise profits and improves the efficiency of its production.
R.A. Fathudinov	Innovation is the result of introducing innovations with the aim of changing the object of management and obtaining an economic, social, scientific and technical effect.
U.P. Morozov	Innovation is a set of measures aimed at introducing new equipment or technologies. By innovation we mean the profitable use of innovations in the form of new technologies, types of products, organizational, technical and social and economic decisions of production, financial or other inventions, etc. into the economy.
P.F. Drucker	Innovation is a special tool for entrepreneurs, a means by which they use change as a chance to implement a new type of business or service.
B. Twiss	Innovation is a process in which an invention or an idea acquires economic content.
F. Nixon	Innovation is a combination of technical, manufacturing and commercial activities leading to the appearance of new and improved industrial processes and equipment on the market.
B. Santo	Innovation is such a social, technical and economic process that, through the practical use of ideas and inventions, leads to the creation of products and technologies that are best in their properties, and if it focuses on economic benefits and profit, the appearance of innovation on the market can lead to additional income.

Source: provided by the author on the basis of data [5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12]

When analyzing theoretical approaches to the definition of "innovation", the author revealed the presence of this definition, fixed at the state level in the Republic of Belarus. According to the law "Regulation on the procedure for creating subjects of innovation infrastructure: Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus, January 3, 2007, №1", innovations are created (mastered) new or improved technologies, types of marketable products or services, as well as organizational – technical, administrative, commercial or other solutions for production, that promote the development of technologies, marketable products and services on the market. Based on the data presented in Table 1, we can conclude that: "Innovation is any novelty on the market with the aim of making a profit." After the disclosure of the term "innovation", we should consider some interpretations of the "innovative entrepreneurship" concept, which is closely related to and based on innovation.

Table 2. – Theoretical Approaches in determining the Category of "Innovative Entrepreneurship"

Author	Definition
1	2
V.G. Medynsky, L.G. Sharshukova	Innovative entrepreneurship is a process of updating the sales potential of an enterprise, ensuring the survival of the company, increasing the amount of profit, expanding market share, maintaining its clientele, strengthening its independent position, increasing prestige, creating new jobs, etc.
V.K. Pustovalova	Innovative entrepreneurship is a special type of commercial activity aimed at making profit by creating and actively disseminating innovations in all areas of the economy.
E.G. Pavlova	Innovative entrepreneurship is a special innovative process, leading to the creation of the best goods (products, services) and technologies through practical use of innovations; a constant search for new opportunities, focus on innovation, willingness of the entrepreneur to take all the risks associated with the implementation of a new innovative (venture) project or with the improvement of an existing one, as well as the resulting financial, moral and social responsibility.

The end of table 2

1	2
G.V. Kodakoeva	In the broad sense, innovative entrepreneurship is understood as the process of creating and using technical and technological innovations for commercial purposes; for the most part, innovative entrepreneurial activity is based on innovations in the sphere of products, work and services, which allow to form a qualitatively different market, to contribute to the satisfaction of new, even extraordinary, social needs.
V.J. Gorfinkel, M.M. Maksimtsova	Innovative entrepreneurship is a model of entrepreneurial activity related to innovation, where the role of the entrepreneur is reduced to the creation of innovations, i.e. products (goods and services), technologies, methods of organizing production and management, previously unknown, through the use of traditional factors of production (labor, land and capital), their new combination.
L.M. Borisova	Innovative entrepreneurship is a special innovative entrepreneurial process of creating a new business process, the basis of which is a constant search for new opportunities and focus on innovation.
J. Shumpeter	Innovative entrepreneurship is a type of entrepreneurship that uses new technologies to produce new or old goods, thanks to the opening of a new source of raw materials or a new market for finished products - up to the reorganization of the old and the creation of a new industry.
P.F. Drucker	Innovative entrepreneurship is the search for new ways of enterprise development, which allows us to talk about the concept of growth management, or innovation.

Source: provided by the author based on data [13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20]

When analyzing theoretical approaches to the definition of “innovative entrepreneurship”, the author revealed the presence of this definition, fixed at the state level in the Republic of Belarus. According to "Law of the Republic of Belarus on July 10, 2012 No. 425-3", innovative entrepreneurship is the activity of transforming novelty into innovation. Based on the data in Table 2 and theoretical approaches to determining the category of “innovative entrepreneurship”, the author came to the conclusion that innovative entrepreneurship in Belarus has a legal and economic basis for development on the basis of the National Strategy for Sustainable Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period until 2030 and the State Innovative Development Program of the Republic of Belarus for 2016 - 2020. In addition, to study and analyze the prospects for development, the author considered the definitions given by foreign authors, and concluded that: “Innovative entrepreneurship is a type of commercial activity that uses innovation to make a profit.” Based on the above information, we can conclude that there is no single interpretation of the terms “innovation” and “innovative entrepreneurship”. Table 3 shows the factors which influence the development of innovative entrepreneurship.

Table 3. – Factors contributing to the development of innovative entrepreneurship

Group of factors	Factors
Economic, technological	The presence of a reserve of financial, material and technical means, advanced technologies, the necessary economic and scientific-technical infrastructure, state programs for financing innovative activities; material incentive for innovation.
Political, legal	Legislative measures encouraging innovation and state support for innovation.
Organizational and management	The flexibility of organizational structures, a democratic management style, the predominance of horizontal flows of information; self-planning, making adjustments; decentralization, autonomy, the formation of target, problem groups, reengineering.
Socio-psychological and cultural	Moral encouragement, public recognition; providing opportunities for self-realization, the liberation of creative work. Normal psychological climate among employees.

Source: provided by the author based on data [21]

Based on the data in Table 3, we can conclude that the development of innovative entrepreneurship depends on the demand from consumers for innovation, the availability of developed scientific and technical potential of the national economy, the functioning of venture companies and investors who finance innovative risky activities.

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In addition, innovative entrepreneurship is at the same time an economic phenomenon and a process. As an economic phenomenon, entrepreneurship acts as a form of production relations regarding the production and sale of specific goods to consumers. As an economic phenomenon, it expresses the entire system of relations arising from an entrepreneur in relations with consumers in the process of selling goods.

The basis of innovative entrepreneurship in the Republic of Belarus, as well as the priority of financing, are small and medium-sized innovative enterprises, which is reflected at the legislative level in the "National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the Period until 2030", "Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 244", "Law of the Republic of Belarus dated May 11, 2016 No. 364-3". This is due to the fact that small and medium-sized enterprises are being rebuilt faster in the course of global economic processes and cardinal economic changes [22].

The subjects of innovation infrastructure in the Republic of Belarus include [23]:

- Technology parks;
- Technology transfer centers;
- Venture capital organizations;
- Other legal entities in cases stipulated by legislative acts.

Examples of innovative infrastructure in the Republic of Belarus include: High-Tech Park (HTP), Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone", Science and Technology Park BNTU "Polytechnic", Science and Technology Park of the State University named after Y. Kupala, Minsk City Technopark.

Based on the analysis of data on the categories of "innovation" and "innovative entrepreneurship", we conclude that innovative entrepreneurship is a special innovative business process. It is based on a constant search for new opportunities, focus on innovation, ability to extract and use resources from a wide variety of sources to solve constant problems. Innovative entrepreneurship is the main base of all areas of entrepreneurial activity, which explains the stimulation of this area by the state [21].

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