

# Sustainable socio-economic development model: implementation through regional ICT potential assessment

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**Abstract.** Purpose of the study is the theoretical substantiation of sustainable socio-economic development model with realization of human potential, and its practical implementation through the assessment of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) potential at regional level. Novelty lies in generalization of provisions of the proposed model of sustainable socio-economic development with realization of human potential as well as substantiating of implementation of this model through relevant tools in context of digitalization. Identified following results: 1) systematized theoretical approaches to modeling sustainable human development and formation of the author's model of sustainable development with the realization of human potential; 2) assessed the potential of regions of the Republic of Belarus in the field of ICT within three areas: access, use and skills; 3) compared received positions of the regions with their positions in terms of the value of the Gross Regional Product (GRP), which allowed to conclude that level of development of ICT potential influences the economic growth of regions and state. It is proposed to build the potential of the regions of Belarus in the field of ICT, which will ensure their sustainable socio-economic development, while achieving goals set within proposed model of socio-economic sustainable development with realization of human potential.

**Keywords:** strategy, digitalization, ICT, human potential, economic growth, GRP.

## 1 Introduction

The concept of sustainable development of mankind, in which the main goal and objectives of its achievement is the person and the satisfaction of their needs (adopted by the UN General Assembly), which implements an important principle – the creative ability of a person, combined with good physical health, nutrition and medical care, considers a person as a productive and important resource for long-term sustainable development.

According to the UNDP Human Development Report 2020, economic growth is a

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means, not an end: "...humanity must develop the capabilities, representation and values necessary to reduce inequality, stimulate innovation and develop a culture of sustainable natural resource management..." [1, p. 8], in this regard, the human development index taking into account the planetary load, the principles that determine how we live, work, and cooperate, comes to the fore.

Ordinance of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 292 dated July 29, 2021 "On approval of the program of socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus" is at the forefront of the task of progressive growth of the gross domestic product "by at least 1.2 times in real terms in 2025 to the level of 2021", the policy document under consideration formulates the tasks of life expectancy, diversification and growth of exports, expansion of the service sector in the structure of gross domestic product, accelerated development of knowledge-intensive high-tech services [2].

The article systematizes theoretical approaches to modeling sustainable human development by M. Altman, A. Sen, M. Lavoue, E. Stockhammer, S. Storm, P. Welfens, Mundell-Fleming, W. Gimpelson, S. Frey, M. Ford, L. Summers, P. Diamond, E. Maskin, D. Mortensen, J. Stigler [3].

The studies of scientists still do not reflect the construction and implementation of sustainable development models with the realization of human potential, in which the main place belongs to a person as an element of the national economy and the satisfaction of their needs, as well as the production and social needs of the national economic system and needs of the strategic partner countries of the Republic Belarus.

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2035 determined that the strategic goal of sustainable development is to achieve high standards of living standards for the population based on the qualitative growth of the economy on a new digital technological base, the formation of a full-fledged competitive environment, and the creation of comfortable conditions for life and development of personal potential while preserving natural systems for current and future generations [4].

Currently, information technology (IT) is the main digital tool that allows you to successfully implement and effectively use the most diverse resources of society and the state. The creation of a system of information resources in the state is the most important strategic factor in the development of both the economy and the social sphere [5].

The rapid scientific and technological progress and, as a result, the digitalization of all spheres of society's life allow reaching a qualitatively new level of life for the population, while the traditional formats of interaction between people, business structures and authorities require immediate modernization. Humanity is on the verge of a new global technological revolution, and how timely and quickly science and entrepreneurship will be mobilized directly depends on the position of the country on the world stage in the near future [6].

Thus, the sustainable development of the state should be based on human potential as the basis for its development and the potential of information and communication technologies as the main driver of digitalization. Another aspect of sustainable economic growth is the development of strong regions of the country. A condition for the development of a strong state are strong regions.

Nevertheless, Belarusian scientists pay insufficient attention to studies of the impact of information and communication technologies on socio-economic processes in the regions. Despite the fact that the adopted program, forecast and planning documents confirm the relevance and importance of conducting this kind of research.

The nature of potential development in the field of information and communication technologies is determined by a combination of global and local trends. They are determined by Digital Agenda of the Eurasian Economic Union until 2025 [7], Concept of Information Security of the Republic of Belarus [8], Informatization development strategy

for 2016-2022 [9], Strategy “Science and Technology: 2018–2040” [10], National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2035 [4], State program “Digital Development of Belarus” for 2021-2025 [11].

The relevance of the identified problems, the insufficient degree of their theoretical and practical development predetermined the choice of the direction of research reflected in this article, its goals and objectives.

## **2 Materials and Methods**

The methodological provisions of this article are based on the postulate that the sustainable development of the state with the realization of human potential in the context of digitalization can only be realized through the development of ICT potential, including at the regional level.

The purpose of this study is to form the author's model of sustainable socio-economic development with the implementation of human potential as the basis for the formation of ICT potential with its practical assessment at the regional level.

The purpose determined the objectives of the study:

- 1) systematize theoretical approaches to modeling sustainable human development;
- 2) consider the stages of practical implementation of this mode;
- 3) assess the possibilities of implementing the concept of sustainable development at the regional level in the context of digitalization through the potential of information and communication technologies.

The novelty of the study lies in the creation of a model that assumes the unity of the political economic laws of sustainable development and economic growth, built on the principles and tools for implementing economic policy, taking into account the needs, economic incentives of a person, means of realizing human life, innovative factors of socio-economic transformation, as well as in assessing the most important in the context of digitalization of the factor of sustainable development – the potential of ICT based on the regions of the Republic of Belarus.

In carrying out of theoretical analysis systematic approach, method of analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, calculation of aggregated indicators and dynamics indicators, logical generalization, modeling and comparison were used.

The assessment of the potential for the development of regions in the field of ICT is be carried out in three main areas: ICT access, ICT use, ICT skills.

To conduct the assessment, the method of multidimensional comparative analysis was used, which made it possible to carry out a comparative diagnosis of several regions by groups of indicators that characterize the components of the ICT potential. The choice of the method is due, firstly, to the possibility of analyzing several objects for a wide range of indicators; secondly, the possibility of calculating an integral indicator characterizing the level of the region's potential in the field of ICT.

The data of the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus, presented in the statistical compendium “Information Society in the Republic of Belarus”, which did not have a specific publication frequency, was used as the initial information, which, unfortunately, did not allow an annual assessment of this type of potential.

## **3 Results**

According to the UNDP Human Development Report 2021/2022, the Republic of Belarus is in 60th place among 191 states in the Global Human Development Index [12].

The results of the generalization of theoretical approaches to modeling sustainable socio-economic development are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Systematization of theoretical approaches to modeling sustainable socio-economic development.

<b>Theoretical approach</b>	<b>Research value</b>
<b>Morris Altman</b>	interesting in highlighting the institutional parameters of economic growth, as well as substantiating the importance of working conditions and labor relations, innovations, taking into account existing technologies.
<b>Amartya Sen</b>	valuable justification of the socio-economic well-being of society, in the center of which the personality is considered, the fact that the well-being of society is not limited to economic.
<b>M. Lavoie, Engelbert Stockhammer, Servaas Storm</b>	it is concluded that in large economic regions with high intra-regional trade, the implementation of a pro-labor macroeconomic policy contributes to the growth of GDP and the level of employment of the population. In a profit-oriented macroeconomic policy, significant economic growth and an increase in employment are possible with an increase in wages.
<b>Paul J.J. Welfens</b>	considered the principle of economies of scale applicable to innovative industries; the principle of intense price competition in the market of high-tech products, as there is international outsourcing, as well as foreign direct investment in the production of technologically intensive components. It is generalized that human capital generates the Schumpeter-Stiglitz effect in combination with the sales economy and the growth of international trade in manufactured goods. The pattern is substantiated: a higher stock of human capital implies a higher demand for differentiated products in an open economy, and the level of education of the workforce continues to grow.
<b>Mundell-Fleming Model</b>	valuable in revealing the dependence of current real income on current real wages, the expected future wage rate, the degree of use of fixed capital. It is substantiated that the higher the level of wages in relation to the interest rate of fixed capital, the faster the replacement of labor through capital.
<b>Vladimir Gimpelson</b>	characterizes that the implementation of highly qualified human capital is possible to the full extent, if, according to the created educational labor supply, the economy creates a sufficient number of qualified jobs to absorb the supply. Otherwise, surplus workers face higher unemployment, there is a relative decline in income levels, many graduates are forced to work in less skilled jobs.
<b>C. Frey, M. Ford, L. Summers</b>	it is important to take into account the introduction of new technologies and the release of the labor force, to understand alternative ways of avoiding high technological unemployment, the importance of using a tax on robots and the idea of universal unconditional income, a list of professions leaving the labor market, harmonizing the pace of technological change and the rate of retraining for new specialties, the degree of replacement small, medium, highly skilled jobs with new technologies with intelligent functions.
<b>P. Diamond, E. Maskin, D. Mortensen, J. Stigler</b>	valuable by considering the mechanisms for paying compensation to an employee upon dismissal at the initiative of the employer. Takes into account compensatory mechanisms for terminating the agreement between the employer and the employee. The model is notable for substantiating the coexistence of the processes of creating and eliminating jobs, the dependence of the level of wages of an employee not only on the quality of professional and qualification characteristics, but also on the labor market. The accounting of such laws as the transition of the labor force from one profession to another and the law of the division of labor and integration of

	labor is substantiated; the law of sectoral and territorial labor mobility.
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*Source:* compiled by the authors based on data [3]

Thus, the theoretical foundations and causal patterns that formed the basis of the author's model are summarized: an increase in the average level of well-being of society, an analysis of mortality, morbidity, life expectancy, literacy and gender health may require redistribution of income; often making a profit at the firm level is beneficial at the microeconomic level, and at the macroeconomic level - the cumulative decrease in wages narrows effective demand and the possibility of realizing the profits received; a higher stock of human capital implies higher demand for differentiated products in an open economy, and the educated workforce continues to rise; with a growing demand for a differentiated product, the company strengthens its market position for innovation and the introduction of new products; the growth of human capital stimulates the growth of international trade in industrialized countries, as well as the growth of foreign direct investment, including technology transfer; The competitiveness of countries is determined by their ability to generate long-term income through specialization in the export of innovative goods.

Consistency and complexity can be traced in the definition of sustainable development of the regional socio-economic system as the ability of its key subsystems to actively and systematically support the processes of accumulation, conservation and effective use in time and space of their integrated potential, motivation of economic agents based on the principles of flexibility and adaptability to balanced reproduction , as well as the progressive rise in the quality of life of society, without the extensive use of the resources of future generations [13, p. 236]. The key elements of regional development are: interregional integration (aimed at ensuring the national interests of the state bloc); economic growth, infrastructure development, introduction of technologies of scientific and technological progress (in order to meet national interests in the field of economy and ecology); maintaining the population and improving the quality of life (implementation of national interests in the field of human potential) [14, p. 8].

The author's model of socio-economic sustainable development with the realization of human potential reflects the progressive achievement of goals and the definition of conditions for implementation through the characteristics of stages and tasks.

The first stage is the satisfaction of human needs to ensure social equality, the growth of the welfare of the population, the innovative reproduction process of the population through a comparative analysis of the employment structure of the able-bodied population in accordance with the requirements of the sustainable development of the national economic system; gender and age structure of employment; professional structure of employment of the economically active population; substantiation of priority conditions that ensure the improvement of forms of employment and sustainable human development.

The second stage is the growth of the gross domestic product, where the implementation of the policy tools for the innovative development of the economy, export policy, and system of production and social needs of a person are defined as the objectives of its achievement.

The third stage is the formation of employment in the system of sustainable development of the national economy, where the achievement objectives are justified: identifying indicators of demand for innovative labor, taking into account the needs of traditional industries and innovative sectors of the economy, export policy, as well as identifying indicators of the supply of labor resources from among the able-bodied population, as well as the population beyond the working age in the conditions of limited resources of the national economy. The formation of innovative structure of employment is possible through the implementation of scientific and innovation policy, export policy.

The fourth stage is the use of consolidated social mechanisms in the implementation of the state social policy to ensure the professional employment of the population as the basic basis for its well-being through the fulfilment of tasks: creating a model of institutional interaction between the healthcare system, the system of social protection and social security of the population, public authorities, and the institute of public-private partnership.

The active process of digitalization is closely related to the training of specialists in the ICT industry and, accordingly, to the development of human potential [15, p. 548].

The practical implementation of this model in the context of digitalization is possible through the influence of factors that accelerate the socio-economic development of the state and its regions, primarily through strengthening the potential of information and communication technologies. In this regard, the authors assessed the ICT potential of the regions of the Republic of Belarus in three areas: ICT-access, ICT-use and ICT-access.

Table 2 presents the indicators for assessing ICT-access, as well as their values for the regions of the Republic of Belarus in 2018 and 2020.

**Table 2.** Indicators for assessing ICT-access by regions of the Republic of Belarus in 2018 and 2020.

Indicator	Indicator value by region					
	Brest	Gomel	Mogilev	Grodno	Vitebsk	Minsk
1. Access of population to the Internet (percent of total population of corresponding group), %						
2018	75,3	82,2	82,8	82,6	80,3	77,5
2020	80,7	86,1	82,8	85,5	85,2	79,5
2. The share of organizations (percent of total number of organizations with access to the Internet) with a high data transfer rate (30.1 Mb/s and above), %						
2018	23,3	22,6	24,9	27,1	28,2	29,4
2020	38,8	40,2	35,7	42,3	39,4	40,9
3. Number of students of general secondary education programmes per personal computer, people						
2018	18	15	16	11	15	13
2020	17	15	15	10	13	13
4. Volume indices of data transmission services						
2018	120,1	112,1	117,1	121,1	119	121,8
2020	114,4	113,4	111,6	112,8	114,1	110,4

*Source:* compiled by the authors based on data from the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus

The data presented in the table indicate that there is some differentiation of indicators by regions of the Republic of Belarus, although not so significant. Gomel, Grodno and Vitebsk regions are the leaders in terms of population access to the Internet. The weakest position on this indicator is in the Brest and Minsk regions. In terms of the share of organizations with a high data transfer rate, the positions of the Grodno and Minsk regions are the strongest, while the weakest positions are in the Mogilev region. In terms of number of students of general secondary education programmes per personal computer, the Brest

region is also in the lead, as well as in terms of the index of the physical volume of data transmission services.

Thus, it can be noted, firstly, the absence of a single leader in the entire set of indicators, and secondly, a significant change in the positions of regions in terms of indicators in 2020 compared to 2018.

Table 3 presents indicators characterizing ICT-use.

**Table 3.** Indicators for assessing ICT-use by regions of the Republic of Belarus in 2018 and 2020.

Indicator	Indicator value by region					
	Brest	Gomel	Mogilev	Grodno	Vitebsk	Minsk
1. Share of organizations using the Internet, %						
2018	98,6	97,5	97,8	98,8	98,7	97,6
2020	100	99,1	99,7	98,8	99	99,5
2. Internet users (percent of total population) with a high data transfer rate (30.1 Mb/s and above), %						
2018	75,3	79	78,7	78,3	69	74,4
2020	80,7	86,1	82,8	85,5	85,2	79,5
3. Users completely satisfied with the quality of Internet services (percent of the total), %						
2018	38,4	42,5	50	51,1	52,1	48,9
2020	33	41,6	48,4	62,6	47,2	39,2
4. The share of employees who used personal computers with access to the Internet in the headcount of employees of organizations that used personal computers, %						
2018	70,1	65,8	70,9	71,7	71,9	76,5
2020	73,4	65,7	74,4	73,2	77,1	78,2

Source: compiled by the authors based on data from the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus

The most significant differentiation is observed in terms of users completely satisfied with the quality of Internet services. For other indicators, the difference is not so significant.

The leader in the share of organizations using the Internet is the Brest region, however, other regions are also approaching the maximum value of the indicator of 100%. In terms of the share of Internet users, the positions of the Gomel region are still the strongest. It should be noted the negative dynamics of the level of user satisfaction with the quality of the Internet. The highest degree of satisfaction is shown by the users of the Grodno region, and the lowest by the Brest region. In terms of the share of workers who used personal computers with access to the Internet, the Minsk region is a stable leader, and the Gomel region is inferior.

A special role for the informatization of the economy in conjunction with human capital is played by the development of ICT-skills [16, p. 156]. At the same time, the number of indicators in the ICT skills group is limited due to insufficient coverage of statistical data.

Information for the analysis of indicators of this group is presented in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Indicators for assessing ICT-skills by regions of the Republic of Belarus in 2018 and 2020.

Indicator	Indicator value by region					
	Brest	Gomel	Mogilev	Grodno	Vitebsk	Minsk
1. Share of people employed by the type of economic activity “Information and Communication”, %						
2018	6,1	7,1	4,7	5,2	5,3	5,5
2020	5,6	6,5	4,2	5,1	4,8	6
2. Number of ICT sector organizations						
2018	263	283	194	224	214	436
2020	262	293	179	232	214	440

*Source:* compiled by the authors based on data from the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus

The most obvious is the advantage of the Minsk region in terms of the number of ICT sector organizations, which allows this region to most actively form ICT skills. Significantly inferior to other regions in this indicator Mogilev region.

A similar situation is observed with the Share of people employed by the type of economic activity “Information and Communication”. The Minsk region is also in the lead here, and the Mogilev region is somewhat inferior to it.

It is in terms of the level of ICT skills that stability of positions is observed both over the years and in individual regions.

Table 5 presents the results of calculating the multivariate average of the components of the ICT-potential of the regions of the Republic of Belarus based on the data of 2018 and 2020.

**Table 5.** Results of calculating the multidimensional average for ICT-components of the potential of the regions of the Republic of Belarus based on the data of 2018 and 2020.

Indicator	Indicator value by region					
	Brest	Gomel	Mogilev	Grodno	Vitebsk	Minsk
1. ICT-access						
2018	0,925663	0,88289	0,926248	0,895381	0,93669	0,92164
2020	0,964347	0,95712	0,91751	0,908894	0,925517	0,908781
2. ICT-use						
2018	0,90656	0,91912	0,968535	0,977597	0,954488	0,967435
2020	0,871407	0,884526	0,924902	0,9796	0,935398	0,899266
3. ICT-skills						
2018	0,742297	0,843003	0,564	0,632595	0,63172	0,894449
2020	0,740545	0,84954	0,539915	0,668445	0,62525	0,962307
Integral indicator						
2018	0,857589	0,88068	0,819594	0,835185	0,840966	0,927841
2020	0,858766	0,897062	0,794109	0,852313	0,828722	0,923451
Region rank in 2018	3	2	6	5	4	1
Region rank in 2020	3	2	6	4	5	1

*Source:* compiled by the authors based on data from the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus



As the analysis showed, the highest level of ICT-potential is noted in the Minsk region, where a significant part of information and communication resources is concentrated. Nevertheless, there is a slight decrease in the integral indicator of the ICT-potential in the Minsk region in 2020 compared to 2018.

The second place is occupied by the Gomel region, which also has significant positions in terms of ICT-potential components, especially in terms of ICT-access and ICT-skills. At the same time, there is an increase in integral indicator in 2020 compared to 2018.

Brest region, distinguished by a fairly high level of ICT-access, occupies the final 3rd position in terms of a set of indicators. At the same time, the region also demonstrates some growth in the integral indicator due to ICT-access.

4th and 5th positions are shared by Grodno and Vitebsk regions. At the same time, if there is a slight increase in the integral indicator in the Grodno region, then in the Vitebsk region we observe its decrease, which indicates the need to strengthen the ICT-potential of the Vitebsk region in all its components.

And, finally, the Mogilev region demonstrates the weakest position, especially in terms of ICT-skills. In addition, the value of the integral indicator for the region decreased in 2020 compared to 2018.

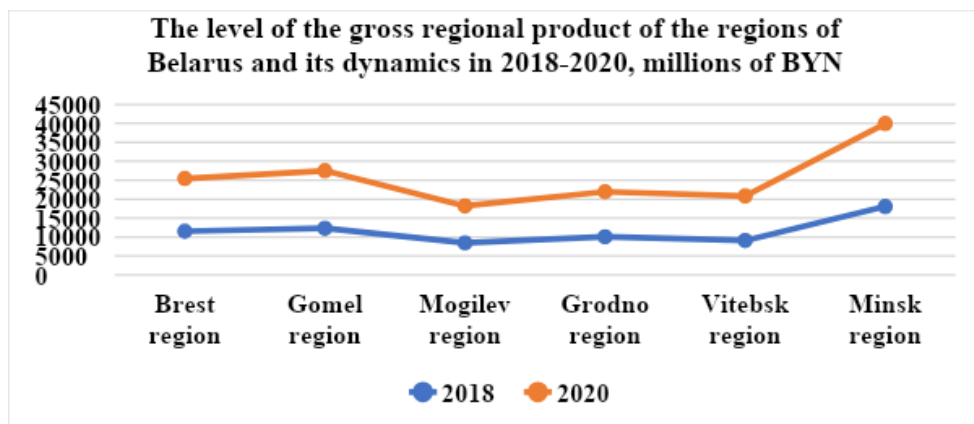
So, the analysis made it possible to identify two regions that need to make serious efforts to strengthen their ICT-potential: Mogilev and Vitebsk regions.

## **4 Discussion**

The model of socio-economic sustainable development presented in the article with the realization of human potential is distinguished by the fact that, along with dialectical unity, it ensures the growth of gross domestic product and the achievement of socio-economic indicators of human life (health, life expectancy, level of education, standard of living); implemented an integrated approach to the implementation of employment policy in accordance with the instruments of innovation and scientific policy, social policy and social protection of the population.

In light of the fact that many authors note the impact of information technology on economic growth [18, p. 688], let us consider our results from the position of their influence on the main economic indicator characterizing the level of economic development of the region - the gross regional product. Let's compare the results of ranking the regions of the Republic of Belarus by the level of their ICT-potential with the results of ranking the regions by the level of gross regional product. To do this, we will study the dynamics of the gross regional product in 2018-2020.

The level of gross regional product by regions of the Republic of Belarus and its dynamics in 2018-2020 shown in Figure 1.



**Fig. 1.** The level of the gross regional product of the regions of Belarus and its dynamics in 2018-2020, millions of BYN.

*Source:* compiled by the authors based on data from the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

The Minsk region demonstrates the highest level of GRP. Gomel and Brest regions follow. The weakest positions are in the Mogilev and Vitebsk regions.

At the same time, the largest growth in gross regional product in absolute terms is observed in Minsk (by 3828.7 million BYN in 2020 compared to 2018), Gomel (by 2889.1 million BYN) and Vitebsk (by 2682.8 million BYN) regions, and the smallest was in Mogilev (by 1286 million BYN in 2020 compared to 2018) and Grodno (by 1809.5 million BYN) regions.

Thus, reserves for the growth of the gross regional product should be sought by the Mogilev, Grodno and Vitebsk regions. One of such reserves can be the strengthening of their capacity in the field of ICT.

To identify the relationship between the studied indicators, we compare the results of ranking the regions of the Republic of Belarus in terms of their ICT-potential with the results of ranking the regions in terms of the gross regional product, presenting them in Table 6.

**Table 6.** The results of ranking the regions of the Republic of Belarus by the level of their ICT potential and by the level of GRP in 2018 and 2020

Indicator	Indicator value by region					
	Brest	Gomel	Mogilev	Grodno	Vitebsk	Minsk
ICT-potential level in 2018	0,857589	0,88068	0,819594	0,835185	0,840966	0,927841
Rank of the region in terms of ICT-potential in 2018	3	2	6	5	4	1
ICT-potential level in 2020	0,858766	0,897062	0,794109	0,852313	0,828722	0,923451
Rank of the region in terms of ICT-potential in 2020	3	2	6	4	5	1
Gross regional product in 2018, mln BYN	11520,5	12304,3	8458,7	10070,3	9073,5	18056,0

Rank of the region in terms of gross regional product in 2018	3	2	6	4	5	1
Gross regional product in 2020, mln BYN	13938,9	15193,4	9744,7	11879,8	11756,3	21884,7
Rank of the region in terms of gross regional product in 2020	3	2	6	4	5	1

*Source:* authors' calculations based on data from the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus

The conducted studies testify to the absolute coincidence of the positions of the regions of the Republic of Belarus in terms of their ICT-potential and GRP. The results of the analysis demonstrate the relationship between these two indicators. Thus, in modern conditions, a region that seeks to actively develop should increase its potential in the field of information and communication technologies. In turn, different levels of ICT development in the regions can become an obstacle to the digitalization of the country's economy [19, p. 67]. Undoubtedly, this hypothesis needs more serious evidence, however, already at this stage, it can be assumed that there is a connection between the studied indicators and a fairly high degree of influence of the ICT-potential on the level of the gross regional product.

In this regard, we believe that the development and implementation in practice of methods for assessing the impact of informatization on the development of the regional economy makes it possible to form priorities in choosing factors to increase their competitiveness.

## 5 Conclusion

Thus, the scientific and practical significance of the sustainable human development model is seen in the justification of the unity of goals:

- 1) progressive growth of the gross domestic product through the assessment of a person and the satisfaction of his needs;
- 2) possibility of a new assessment of development through socio-economic indicators - health, life expectancy, level of education, standard of living;
- 3) ensuring the goals of sustainable development of the country's economy through innovative professional employment of the population.

This model, among other things, is aimed at ensuring sustainable development and economic growth with the realization of the human potential of the state.

The authors substantiate the need to strengthen human potential by involving non-material factors relevant in the context of digitalization, primarily the potential of ICT, in ensuring economic growth.

To illustrate this provision, the article presents the results of assessing the potential of ICT on the basis of the regions of the Republic of Belarus in the context of three areas: ICT-access, ICT-skills, ICT-use. The conducted research allowed to identify the regions leading in terms of ICT-potential, as well as the regions with the weakest positions in terms of a set of indicators.

To confirm the thesis about the impact of the level of development of the ICT-potential on ensuring economic growth, a comparative analysis of the positions of the regions of the Republic of Belarus in terms of the level of ICT-potential and the value of the gross regional product was carried out, which showed a complete coincidence of the positions of

the regions.

Recognizing the importance of this provision, we can conclude that it is necessary to increase the potential of the regions of the Republic of Belarus in the field of ICT, which will ensure their sustainable socio-economic development, while achieving the goals set within the proposed model of socio-economic sustainable development with the realization of human potential.

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