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ASSESSMENT OF THE INNOVATION POTENTIAL OF THE REGIONS OF LATVIA, LITHUANIA AND BELARUS CONSIDERING THE RESULTS

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Abstract. World scientists apply several approaches to assessing innovation potential. When studying the potential of innovation from the point of view of the result, the author uses the integral indicator developed by himself. As a result of the research, regions with different levels of development of innovation potential have been determined, the causes of the current situation have been defined and recommendations for further actions to improve the situation have been provided.

World scientists distinguish several basic approaches, within which innovation is viewed as a change, a set of resources, and a process or a result. The author studies the innovation potential of the regions of Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus considering the results.

The aim of the study is to assess the innovation potential of the regions of Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus considering the results. The following tasks have been set to achieve this goal:

- to determine the structural components of the innovation potential of the regions of Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus;
- to develop methodology for assessing the innovation potential in the regions of Latvia, Lithuania, and Belarus;
- to approbate the developed methodology and with its help to assess the quantitative and structural differences in the innovation potential of the regions of Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus.

Research methods are statistical methods of quantitative data processing and analysis (the method of sum of the coefficients of determination of the largest dependent variable according to the explanatory variable, the method of the linear

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scaling principle, frequency analysis, correlation analysis, the method of grouping into quintiles, the cartographic method, etc. statistical analysis methods).

The author evaluates the results of the innovation potential calculations with the help of a self-created integral indicator, the calculation process of which consists of several stages:

- unification of statistical indicators with a linear scaling technique in the interval from 0 to 10, sorting it into stimulants and destimulants,
- selection of determinant indicators of innovation potential from a wide set of available statistical indicators, which excludes indicators with similar or duplicate meaning without reducing the objectivity of the results,
- creating integral index by the selected indicators.

The author evaluates the innovation potential according to the following indicators (Drucker, (2009); D.Kokurin (2001):

- number of innovative companies;
- share of turnover of innovative companies.

The author determines the range of the obtained integral index value in the interval [0;10], dividing the value rows into quintiles.

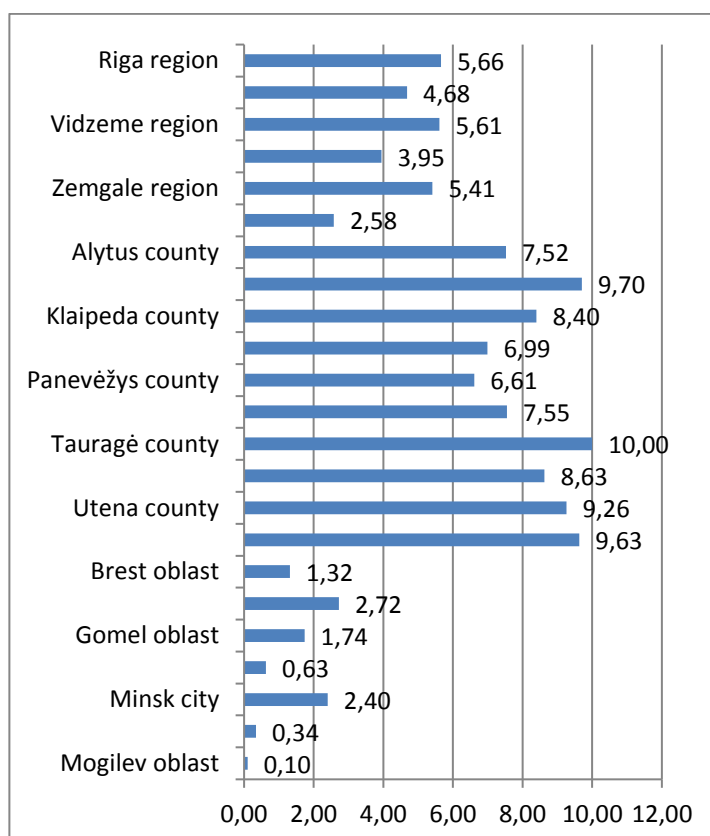


Figure 1 – Assessment of the innovation potential of the regions of Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus

Source: created by the author based on the data of the regions of Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, using the innovation potential assessment methodology developed by the author

The obtained values of the integral indicator, expressed in normalized values, are divided into quintiles by the author for easier perception and visualization.

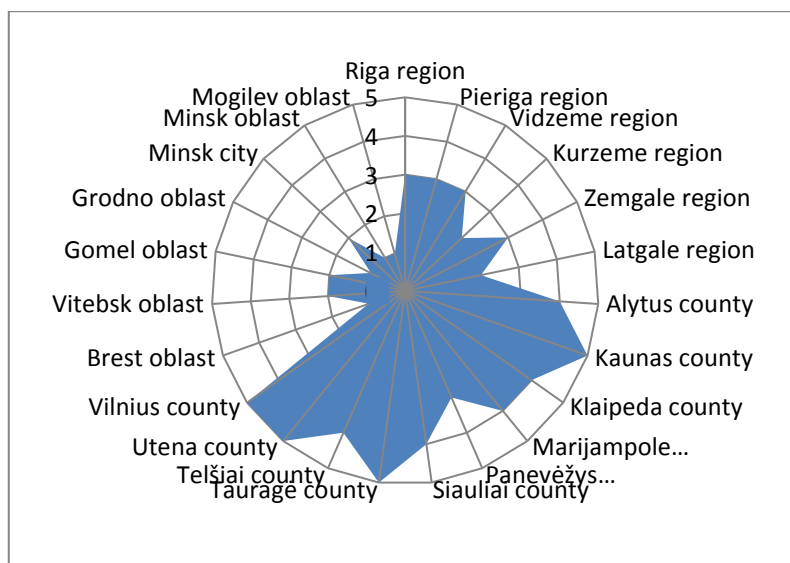


Figure 2 – Map of quintile groups of innovation potential of regions of Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus

Source: created by the author based on the data of the regions of Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, using the innovation potential assessment methodology developed by the author.

High values of innovation potential are obtained only by the county of Lithuania: Tauragė county (10.00 normalized values), Kaunas county (9.70 normalized values), Vilnius county (9.63 normalized values), Utena county (9.26 normalized values), Telšiai county (8.63 normalized values), Klaipeda county (8.40 normalized values), Šauliai county (7.55 normalized values), Alytus county (7.52 normalized values). Low values of the innovation potential are obtained by: Mogilev oblast (0.10 normalized values), Minsk oblast (0.34 normalized values), Grodno oblast (0.63 normalized values), Brest oblast (1.32 normalized values), Gomel oblast (1.74 normalized values), Minsk (2.40 normalized values), Latgale region (2.58 normalized values), Vitebsk oblast (2.72 normalized values).

The first group of quintiles includes Brest oblast, Grodno oblast, Minsk oblast, and Mogilev oblast. The second quintile group includes Kurzeme region, Latgale region, Vitebsk oblast, Gomel oblast, and Minsk. The third group of quintiles consists of Riga region, Pieriga region, Vidzeme region, Zemgale region, Panevėžys district. The fourth quintile includes Alyta county, Klaipeda county, Marijampole county, Šiauliai county, and Telši county. The fifth quintile includes Kaunas county, Taurage county, Utena county, and Vilnius county.

The highest value of the integral indicator of innovation potential is obtained by Tauragė county (fifth quintile group), and the lowest by Mogilev oblast (first quintile group).

In the counties of Lithuania, the level of innovation potential shows mostly high values, which indicates a well-developed network of cooperation between business representatives, scientific institutions and state administrative institutions and effective use of existing resources. The innovative development of the region is limited by the number of existing resources. In the conditions of available resources, the level of the innovation potential of the region considering the results largely depends on the organization of the innovative activity, that is, on the organization of the transition process, as a result of which the innovative resources turn into an innovative result. The given processes in the regions of Latvia and Belarus must be studied, which will also determine the development problems of the innovation potential of the given regions.

The development of innovation potential in the regions of Lithuania is also facilitated by the implementation of many innovation-promoting projects: Vilnius 2IN, Hack Me if You Can, IT MUST, Intelligent Energy Lab, volunteers project Gedimino legionas etc. Vilnius (European Innovation, 2021) received the third place in the finals of the competition European Capital of Innovation (iCapital), in which 38 cities took part with the number of population not less than 50 000 people. European Capital of Innovation (iCapital) is an annual recognition award given to European cities that best promote innovation.

The highest level of innovation potential has been found in the counties of Lithuania, the average – in the regions of Latvia, and the lowest – in the oblasts of Belarus, which indicates the effective use of existing resources in the regions of Lithuania. In the regions of Latvia and Belarus, the use of resources is difficult. In the given regions, the transition process of innovative resources to the result must also be studied, which will definitely explain and determine the deficiencies and weak points of the innovative development of the regions, and cooperation between science, business and the state must be developed, which will definitely increase the level of innovation potential in the studied regions.

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