

## INNOVATIVE ACTIVITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

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The main Provisions of The Program of Social-economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the years 2006-2010 give the evaluation of the level of development that was reached within the last five years (2001-2005) of the country's development, state the position of Belarus in the world community, specify the aims, purposes and priorities of the country's social and economic development for the years 2006-2010, measures for their fulfillment, ways of improvement of the macroeconomic conditions, forming of effective economic institutions and the expected results of the Program.

The main objective of the Socio-Economic Development, 2006-2010, is increasing the competitiveness of national economies on the basis of modernization and the fifth anniversary of the slogan - "Man - innovation - the well-being."

We can confidently say that the implemented strategic task of transference of the economy to the innovative development will claim systemic change, involving all branches of the economy and public life. It is not only the field of science, production and other socio-economic spheres that have to absorb a strong innovative component.

The head of the state has developed and approved The State program of the innovation development of Belarus for 2007-2010. It should provide a move to a qualitatively new stage of development of the economic complex, based on the latest advances in science, engineering and technology. As the program will be in realization the problem of turning the science and innovation capacity into the major resource for sustainable growth will also be solved.

It is important to Belarus that the world community does really appreciate the high level of development of its communicatory technologies. This was stated by Alexander Lukashenko on the 21st of April during his meeting with the Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Hammud Ture.

“Well-developed technologies are the most important thing for every country. That is why we are interested that you see our level and the level of our neighbors while attending our country” – said Alexander Lukashenko.

The basis of innovative infrastructure has already been created in the Republic of Belarus. The core of this relatively young organization is the centers for business support, incubators for small business, innovative centers; technologies transfer centers, scientifically technological parks (technoparks), small implementation enterprises, the Hi-tech Park and The Belarusian innovative fund.

40 centers supporting business activity in the country and catering for small business have been created in Belarus. They specialize in personnel training, marketing and information support.

There are 9 incubators for small business on the territory of Belarus, which is definitely not enough. Despite this they provide great support to the small business in the sphere of preparation and realization of innovative projects. Many of them are oriented towards judicial, economic and organizational support of small science-based enterprises the number of which is constantly growing in the incubators.

A great role in the system of promotion of research and development projects is played by the Republican Center of Technologies Transfer. Its branches and subsidiaries are created on the basis of the leading science organizations at the Universities of Belarus. With the support of this Center a number of Belarusian Enterprises have begun to produce new science-based products, a lot of projects on the creation in the hi-tech spheres of Russian-Belarusian and Belarusian-Chinese enterprises are being carried out right now.

Within the System of Higher Educational Establishments there is a network of technologies transfer centers in the Republic. They specialize in machinery-producing industry, radio electronics, constructions, light and food industries and so on. This network of 24 technologies transfer centers is united by the research and information system of information collecting and processing. This system includes more than 800 innovative projects that are to be realized in the economy of the country.

Technoparks as organizational and economic structures give the opportunity to provide the concentration of intellectual, financial and material resources in the most productive spheres of the technical progress, to speed up the application of the innovative ideas into the spheres of production and consumption. Right now there are 10 organizations in Belarus that belong to technology parks according to their main activities.

The central place in the innovative infrastructure of the Republic is supposed to be occupied by the Hi-tech Park that was created according to the President's Decree of the 22nd of September 2005.

The main directions of the work of this Park are: development and application of information and communication technologies, development of software at different organizations, export of technologies and software. According to the plan The Hi-Tech Park is to become The Belarusian analog of the American «Silicone Valley».

Nowadays even though the innovative infrastructure of the Republic of Belarus is well-developed there are a lot of problems that have to be solved somehow:

1. The State is more concentrated on the objects of innovative infrastructure and other issues are not being dealt with.

2. Nowadays the relations between the University and market participants are more educational, and their contacts in the sphere of scientific research and development are non-recurrent.

3. The main thing about the development of innovative processes is the professional staff. For the successful development of innovative sphere in Belarus there have to be 7 thousand specialists in the sphere of innovations management. Right now our higher Educational Establishments do not prepare specialists in the sphere of innovation management at all.

Thus, in order to create the functioning system of innovations in the Republic of Belarus a number of problems will have to be solved. But the greatest amount of work for the construction of the items of innovative infrastructure has already been fulfilled.