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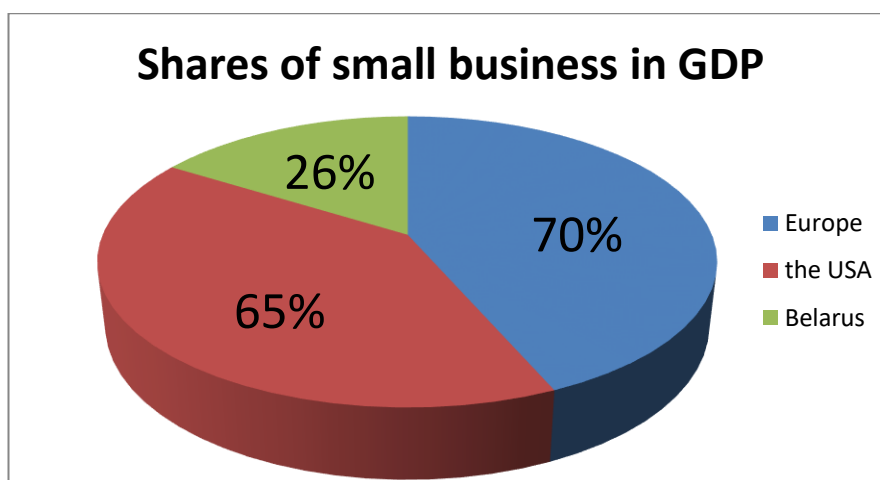
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SMALL BUSINESS IN BELARUS, THE USA AND EUROPE

The purpose of my abstract is to find out the most effective way of conducting small business in Belarus. In order to do this we compared small business in Belarus with that in the USA and Europe.

Historically, entrepreneurship has existed in the USA and Europe for many years. In Europe small and medium-sized businesses represent more than 70% of GDP, in the USA this number is 65% and in Belarus they account for about 26%. Nowadays small innovative firms' shares in GDP are about 30% of scientific research and 20% of all inventions.



The main field, in which small business operates in European countries, is retail trade (small shops, cafes, restaurants, market trade), where 21% of small enterprises are engaged, 70% - in service sector, 18% - in industry. In the USA from 20 million enterprises 82% are engaged in service sector, 13% - in industry, 5% - in other branches. At the same time, Belarusian representatives of small business in service sector are 45,6%; in industry – 17,8%. According to these results, the basic sphere for opening a successful business in Belarus is service sector: food services, financial services, IT-technologies and household services.

The factors that have impact on the development of small business in Belarus, the USA and Europe are core protection mechanisms. One of them is *stable legal framework* that doesn't allow big corporations to create competition with small business. Belarus has laws on the support of small business, present ones are reviewed and new ones are created, but in practice they're not always effective.

Another core protection mechanism in Europe and the USA is *favourable tax action with lowering the rates during work*. Belarus also has favourable tax treatment, but it is far different from European.

Accelerated depreciation (the capability of equipment cost cancellation up to 100%) during the effective work of an enterprise is also important in small business. Unfortunately, Belarus doesn't have such possibilities.

Without *concessional lending* small business is unlikely to prosper. The more effectively an enterprise works, the more profitable the loan is. That's why export projects are the priority for Belarusian banks. Since 2014 the Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus has been a part of the small and medium-sized businesses system of support.

Support on the level of local authorities (Boards of Trustees) is control over fair competition and assistance to work. 88 support centers of entrepreneurship and 19 incubators have been created in Belarus, but there is a lack of them in towns.

The influence of the Government in Europe and the USA is minimal whereas state regulation in the Republic of Belarus remains strong in social and economic spheres.

In Europe and the USA most enterprises are regulated by *market*. A manufacturer sells goods through international cooperation, and there are almost

no negotiators. On the other hand, in Belarus existence of negotiators in goods realization reduces their competitiveness at international market. Nowadays a number of small businesses are increasing. Consequently, Belarus aims at economic diversification. According to the plans, small business's share in GDP must reach 40% by 2021.

To summarise, it's necessary to learn from the experience of other countries and carefully approach to their integration in Belarus. The main idea is the improvement of tax legislation. Market regulation, free competition, simplification of consumer goods realization, actual advertising and seeking out new markets – all these events will aid to Belarusian small business to get to the next level.

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ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS: MODERN TRENDS AND THE SITUATION IN BELARUS

Since early centuries people from generation to generation have been using the planet's resources to satisfy their needs. The economic prosperity of any country used to be measured by the number of factories and the level of natural resources exploitation. The economic growth of countries was causing serious environmental problems. Today the situation is changing for the better. Most developed counties are trying to reduce the harm to the environment, but the question is how they are doing it. Thus, the first aim of this research is to analyze which exactly economic tools they are using to protect the ecology. The second aim is to study whether any of these tools can be applied to belarussian reality. Finally, the third aim of the research is to determine what difficulties citizens of Belarus are facing today on the way to save the environment.

The countries, whose examples have been taken for the analysis, were chosen according to the 2018 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) which was produced by the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy. The information about how these countries are using economic tools for the purpose of solving