PROSPECTS FOR THE CREATION OF BELARUSIAN-CHINESE CONSTRUCTION CLUSTER

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Competitiveness of the national economy is a top priority of socio-economic policies of all states. One of the modern concepts of competitiveness of the national economy is the cluster policy. It is based on the state stimulating the creation and development of clusters in the country. Foreign experience demonstrates the effectiveness of cluster policies and their positive impact on the competitiveness of the economy.

The idea of improving the competitiveness of the national economy through the implementation of cluster strategies is not new. But emerging from the crisis, when traditional methods of diversification can no longer provide adequate return, the use of the cluster model of business organization as an adequate tool to modernize the economy has no alternative. Interdependence and relationship between the processes of clustering , strengthening the competitiveness and accelerating innovation - a new economic phenomenon , which allows to resist the onslaught of global competition and properly respond to the requirements of national and regional development.

Belarus inherited mostly from the USSR enterprises of final production cycle. The process of industrial reorganization that took place in the last decade has not fundamentally changed this situation. Belarusian manufacturers depend more on foreign suppliers rather than from domestic ones. Moreover, the quality of components often allows producing competitive products.

In contrast to Russia, for instance, which, though lost some production chains with the collapse of the Soviet Union, still has the potential to recreate them. And thanks to the existing stock market, in industries such as petrochemical and chemical, non-ferrous metals (aluminum) vertically integrated chains are created. These structures are competitive both in the domestic and foreign markets [4].

In this regard, we can probably conclude that Belarus does not have clusters of competitive industries. And creating them is hardly possible only on the basis of existing domestic sectors and industries. Currently in Belarus term "cluster" is not enshrined in law.

Improvement of the competitiveness of the Republic of Belarus can be realized through the creation of interstate clusters with other countries.

Interstate clusters are : 1) networks of suppliers, producers and consumers - residents of different states, geographically concentrated in the trans-border region (cross-border) cluster 2) international network of national clusters (transnational cluster) that cooperate and compete to be related to the technological chain and complement each other, collaborate with cross-border establishments (including scientific, educational, business infrastructure), organs of state and interstate management, as well as international organizations in order to enhance the competitiveness of the cluster of subjects and the national economy.

Cluster associations create benefits both for the actors of the cluster and for the regional and national economy as a whole. Cluster policy, according V.Valetko helps to create a network of cooperation and dialogue between firms and other actors, within which firms can exchange information, obtain resources to reach a collective decision. Secondly, cluster policy includes collective marketing, which increases awareness of the strengths of the region's industry. Third, enterprises involved in clustering, are provided with the local services such as financial advice, services, marketing and design. Fourth, cluster initiatives attract investors and businesses in the region [2].

One of the main trends of the last decade in the global construction market - consolidation through creating large firms for the provision of a wide range of construction services. Among the types of construction services the largest share in terms of total revenue comes from the construction of engineering and transport infrastructure and facilities of the fuel complex. Participation in such projects intenses competition. Given the growth prospects of these industries, leading construction holdings begin to strategic One of the main trends of the last decade, the global construction market - consolidation by creating large firms for the provision of a wide range of construction services. Among the types of construction services the largest share in terms of total revenue comes from the construction of engineering and transport infrastructure and facilities of the fuel complex. Participation in such projects is intense competition. Given the growth prospects of these industries , leading construction holdings begin to review their strategic activities, strengthen the position in the segment of construction of engineering infrastructure and fuel-energy construction .

By 2020, China will have increased its share in the global market of the construction industry to 20 %, which would correspond to $ 2.5 trillion [5].

By 2020. volume of the global construction market is projected at 12.7 trillion. USD, which should be about 14.6 % of global gross domestic product [5]. Thus, in the next ten years, the market will grow by 70 %. According to experts, the most dynamic markets will be China, the Russian Federation, India and Brazil.

Chine has already invested approximately $ 6 billion in joint investment projects with Belarus [5].

Among the major projects already started in Belarus using Chinese loans: construction multifunctional complex "Chinatown" in Minsk; construction of the hotel "Beijing" (incidentally, this is - the first project where construction, acceptance and operation will be fully exercise by design China); new building of "Victoria" hotel and residential complex capital "Swan"; establishment of production reflectors and automobile headlights in the Minsk region, the construction of photovoltaic power plants for electricity generation and organization of production of decorative plates and artificial stone Chinese technology at the Belarusian cement plant [1].

Increase the level of competition in the construction industry leads to the need for unification of construction organizations. Only under the condition of interaction across the value chain - from design to delivery of the finished goods can perform large-scale construction projects in the region with the prospect of entering the markets of other regions and overseas markets. In foreign countries, the formation of clusters allows to leave the building construction industry for export of contracting services and gain not only national, but also foreign markets.

The creation of construction cluster allows [3]:

- to develop a common policy of the construction market participants in the area of standards, training, introduction of modern technologies and materials, information technology and other business processes;
- to consolidate construction organizations in the region to participate in the federal and regional competitions, tenders on equal terms with other major building structures and organizations;
- to increase the competitiveness of products and services due to lower prices, expanding the range of products and services through improved collaboration aimed at reduction of overall costs;
- to form the basic competence centers, stimulating the development of staff, construction technologies and production of innovative materials;
- to introduce self-regulatory instruments of relations between participants of the construction market, including dispute resolution, undoing defaults, etc;
- to encourage the development of small and medium-sized businesses in the construction;
- optimal distribution of risks between the cluster members and others.

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THE KURDISH FACTOR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ITS ROLE IN THE SYRIAN CONFLICT

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First and foremost, the Kurdish problem is not something that is emerging here and now. For almost a century, the Kurds have struggled to free themselves from central control and overcome their landlocked location. Today, a rapidly changing region is presenting them with new allies and fresh opportunities. Consequently, there is a good reason to doubt that the Kurds will defer their quest for statehood once again. This is what makes the report ever more topical.

The headlines of the most authoritative sources such as the Foreign Affairs Journal, the World Politics Review and the Foreign Policy Magazine often run as follows: «The Kurdish factor is getting more and more influential…»; «The Kurdish factor changes the dynamic of the political events in the Middle East…»; «The Kurdish factor plays its role in Syrian war…»,nevertheless it is impossible to find the exact definition of this very factor provided by a media pundit. What can be said with certainty is that the Kurdish factor consists of the following components: large ethnic minorities of Kurds are represented in Iraq, Turkey, Syria and North Western parts of Iran, where they claim their right to self-determination, that conflicts with the national policies of the above-listed states; more or less organized Kurdish movement promotes the idea of independence, supported by the following popular among the Kurds parties: the Kurdistan Workers' Party in Turkey, the Democratic Union Party in Syria and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Iraq; the Kurdish minority has beneficial positions in the economy of Iraq because of possessing on its territory the huge energy reserves (oil, gas and other minerals resources). In 2012 the Kurds produced 175,000 barrels of oil a day [1]; the Kurdish armed forces mostly remain outside the law (the Kurdish fighters in Syria, guerrillas in Turkey) with the exception of «peshmerga», the official army of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq, which formation became possible after the USA invasion of the state in 2003 and adoption of a new constitution.

Thus, the Kurdish factor is based on shared national interests, confluence of political objectives and economic interdependence of Kurdish communities in the Middle East.