

SMALL BUSINESS (IN COMPARISON OF BELARUS AND THE UK)

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1. SMALL BUSINESS IN GENERAL AND PECULIARITIES IN BELARUS

There are numerous definitions of the term “small business”. Small business is a privately owned and operated business. Small business has at least 2 of the following characteristics:

- Management of the firm is independent. Usually the manager is also the owner;
- Capital is supplied and the ownership is held by an individual or a small group;
- The area of operation is mainly local, with workers and owners living in one home community;
- The relative size of the firm within its industry must be small when compared with the biggest units in its field.

Today small businesses are the heart of the market economy. There are a great number and variety of small businesses. Whether or not the law says that a business is "small" is different in different countries and industries.

According to the UK's Companies Act 2006 a small company is defined as one that does not have a turnover of more than £6.5million, a balance sheet total of more than £3.26 million and not more than 50 employees. In Belarus – the number of employees varies in different industries (in transport organization – 100 employees, in retail trade – 30 employees).

Small businesses are common in many countries. Some examples include: convenience stores, other small shops (such as a bakery), hairdressers, lawyers, restaurants, guest houses, photographers, small-scale manufacturing and online business.

Speaking about our country small business is the most important area that potentially will contribute to economic growth in Belarus. The government tries to support small business thus some programs of state support have been adopted. The main objectives of this program include: increasing business activity of the population, reducing administrative barriers for doing business, increasing the efficiency of the operation and support of entrepreneurship.

However, at the moment we can't say that these objectives can be accomplished. The reasons for this are the financial crisis of 2011, the loss of purchasing capacity of the population, macroeconomic instability.

According to the statistics the role of small business is increasing in our country. The share of small business in GDP of Belarus has increased by 8.3 % in the last 10 years.

The number of organizations involved in small business has also increased (in 2002 there were 29 044 companies, in 2012 – 82 612).

2. TWO COMPANIES COMPARISON

We are going to analyze the way small business operates in Belarus and in the UK comparing two companies – Belarusian Café “Moulin” and British Café “Biscuit”

2.1. Moulin

“Moulin” is a small café located at Chechota st., 7. The owner of this nice place is Tatiana – a former bank employee who was able to realize her dream. Tatiana told us about all the difficulties a person might face while opening a small company, about her personal experience and how she copes with managing the café.

2.2. Biscuit

“Biscuit” is a trendy café where you can paint your own pottery including cups, plates and vases, or simply drop in and enjoy a hot drink and a delicious home-made cake. “Biscuit” café was established in 2008. The idea came up to Mr. Basil Z. who is now the manager of the café. “Biscuit” is not a part of a chain or a franchise.

3. CONCLUSION:

The UK:

- There were an estimated 4.9 million businesses in the UK which employed 24.3 million people.
- Small businesses alone accounted for 47 % of private sector employment and 33.1 % of turnover.
- Only 22.5 % of private sector turnover is in the arts, entertainment and recreation activities, while 92.7 % is in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector.
- With 841,000 private sector business, London has more firms than any other region in the UK.
- There are 220,000 British businesses online. Small businesses are encouraged and supported.

Belarus:

- There were an estimated 96.929 businesses in Belarus which employed 1.8 million people.

- Small business in Belarus alone accounts for 24 % in the GDP.
- 41 % of private sector is in public catering and trade activity, 20.2 % – in industry, 10.5 % – in building, 8.2 % – in transportation services.
- With 41 % private sector business, Minsk has more firms than any other region in Belarus. The second place takes the Minsk region (15 %).
- There are very few businesses online in Belarus in comparison with the UK, which makes the market more difficult to investigate.

США И СТРАНЫ ПЕРСИДСКОГО ЗАЛИВА: ПРОБЛЕМЫ ВОЕННОЙ И ЭНЕРГЕТИЧЕСКОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ

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Благодаря значительным запасам минеральных ресурсов, зона Персидского залива в настоящее время представляет собой место столкновения различных государств. Можно выделить три основные геополитические силы, действующие в регионе: Совет Сотрудничества Арабских Государств Персидского Залива, Иран, США.

Республика Беларусь, как никто другой, заинтересована в интенсификации связей со странами Персидского залива. Для эффективной реализации политики в рассматриваемом регионе необходимо учитывать расстановку сил, а также цели и задачи основных акторов международных отношений которые имеют там свои интересы и во многом определяют основные направления развития региона.

В опубликованном в марте 2014 г. Четырёхлетнем прогнозе Министерства обороны США Ближневосточный регион в целом и регион Персидского залива в частности назван стратегическим приоритетом внешней политики Соединенных Штатов, равным по значимости Азиатско-Тихоокеанскому региону [1].

Фактически, в Персидском заливе США работают по трем основным направлениям:

1. Региональное сдерживание Ирана;
2. Поддержание внутривосточной стабильности отдельных стран региона;
3. Нефтяная безопасность (устранение угрозы ценового диктата со стороны стран-импортеров нефти).

Иран рассматривается Соединенными Штатами в качестве потенциального источника дестабилизации ситуации, как в регионе, так и в определенной степени в мире в целом. Несмотря на слова Президента США Б. Обамы о необходимости избегать введения новых санкций против Ирана и ориентироваться в отношениях с ним на дипломатический