

HUMAN CAPITAL AS A FACTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INNOVATIVE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY

A. I. Tereshkov

*PhD in economics, associate professor, Belarusian State University, faculty of economics,
Minsk, Republic of Belarus, e-mail: aitereshkov@mail.ru*

In modern conditions, human capital acts as the main factor in the formation of an innovative economy, i. e. the knowledge economy, where scientific and technological progress is becoming more important. The concept of human capital, its importance for the development of an innovative economy, ensuring a high level of well-being of the population and improving the quality of life is considered.

Keywords: innovative economy; human capital; education; quality of life.

ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСКИЙ КАПИТАЛ КАК ФАКТОР РАЗВИТИЯ ИННОВАЦИОННОЙ ЭКОНОМИКИ СТРАНЫ

А. И. Терешков

*кандидат экономических наук, доцент, Белорусский государственный университет,
экономический факультет, г. Минск, Республика Беларусь,
e-mail: aitereshkov@mail.ru*

В современных условиях человеческий капитал выступает в качестве основного фактора формирования инновационной экономики, т. е. экономики знаний, где большую значимость приобретает научно-технический прогресс. Рассмотрено понятие человеческого капитала, значение для развития инновационной экономики, обеспечения высокого уровня благосостояния населения и повышения качества жизни.

Ключевые слова: инновационная экономика; человеческий капитал; образование; качество жизни.

Today, the role of human capital is rapidly growing in the Republic of Belarus. The reason that the development of the economy is increasingly dependent on the level of technological production and innovation, the increasing role of knowledge, skills and abilities of a person, i. e. human capital. Currently, Belarus has a high indicator of human development. Thus, according to the Human Development Report 2021/2022 (Human Development Report 2021/2022), prepared by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP),

Belarus ranks 60th among 191 countries in the Human Development Index (table 1) [1].

Table 1

Top 5 countries with a very high HDI and Belarus, 2022

Countries with a very high level of human development				
HDI rating	A country	HDI		
2021 data (2022 report)		2021 data (2022 report)	2021	Average annual growth (2010-2021)
1st place	Switzerland	0,962	0,894	+ 0,19 %
2st place	Norway	0,961	0,908	+ 0,19 %
3st place	Iceland	0,959	0,915	+ 0,56 %
4th place	Hong Kong China (SAR)	0,952	0,828	+ 0,44 %
5th place	Australia	0,951	0,876	+ 0,27 %
60th place	Belarus	0,808	0,765	+ 0,21 %
The world as a whole		0,732	0,590	

Source: compiled by the author according to [1].

Belarus is part of a system of 66 states with a high level of human development. It consists of 189 UN member states out of 193, as well as Hong Kong and Palestine.

The Human Development Index for Belarus in 2022 was 0,808. All HDI-based states are classified into four categories: countries with a very high HDI level, with a high HDI level, with an average HDI level, with a low HDI level (table 2) [1].

Table 2

Top 5 Low HDI countries, 2022

Countries with a low level of human development			
HDI rating	A country	HDI	
2021 data (2022 report)		2021 data (2022 report)	Average annual growth (2010–2021)
187th place	Burundi	0,426	+ 0,46 %
188th place	Central African Republic	0,404	+ 0,75 %
189th place	Niger	0,400	+ 1,54 %
190th place	Chad	0,384	+ 0,77 %
191 places	South Sudan	0,385	- 1,00 %

Source: compiled by the author according to [1].

Gross per capita income adjusted for purchasing power parity in Belarus in 2021 was \$ 19751, in 2022 it increased to \$ 19942. Life expectancy in 2022 was 74,5 years (69,3 for men and 79,4 for women) [3].

Education level indicator:

- in terms of duration of education, Belarus (15,4 years) is in second place (CIS), and Kazakhstan (15,6 years);

- Belarus is the leader in the CIS in terms of the average length of education (12,3 years). According to the indicator of gender inequality, Belarus ranks 31st (Kazakhstan – 44, Russia – 50).

According to the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2030, Belarus will ensure a further level of a high level of well-being of the population. Such goals can only be achieved through the transition of the economy to an innovative socially oriented development model [1].

The main factor in the formation of an innovative economy – the knowledge economy, in which scientific and technological progress acquires high importance, is human capital.

Human capital is a set of knowledge, professional qualities, experience that make a person «economically productive». Human capital can be created through investments in education, health care, vocational training, and can be acquired in various ways: at home, in educational institutions, at workplaces.

Lifelong learning (LLL) is at the heart of the formation and development of human capital.

January 1, 2023 in Belarus has the following level of education: Thus, 23,1 % (2,159,768 people) have higher education, 2,5 % (233,741 people) have incomplete higher education, 36,1 % (3,375,222 people) have secondary vocational education, 11 classes have 16,1 % (1,505,293 people), Grade 9 – 9,1 % (850,818 people), Grade 5 – 7,8 % (729,272 people), Uneducated – 0,8 % (74,797 people), Illiterate – 0,2 % (18,699 people) human) [2].

The transition to an innovative economy involves further improving the training of specialists capable of meeting modern requirements.

The modern innovative economy is not just getting a quality education, but also the development of personal qualities, such as dedication, mobility, creative attitude to work.

Therefore, special attention in the strategy is paid to preschool education, since it is at this stage that the foundations of skills for critical perception of information, the ability to make non-standard decisions, creativity, ingenuity, and the ability to work in a team are laid.

Belarus is expected to further expand state support for preschool education, increase the proportion of workers in this area, and continue training teachers.

The quality of school education will be ensured new educational standards of teaching with the use of modern information technologies.

The modernization of the system of general and vocational education will be accompanied by a transition to the use of modern teaching methods and technologies aimed at continuous development and further creative thinking, skills and motivation, identifying and posing problems.

The strategy notes the role of the family as one of the main sources of conditions for the formation of human capital, since it is in the family that the components of human capital are formed.

To this end, a system of qualified voluntary pedagogical counseling for parents will be developed, as well as assistance to families in the education, upbringing and development of children.

Belarus has a significant potential for the formation of human capital, in the context of the transition to an innovative economy. Thus, increasing human capital is possible by improving the quality of education at the following levels: preschool, general, secondary, higher, through social support for families and children, financial investments in such areas as healthcare, education, and science. Qualified workers will be able to think creatively and quickly respond to the constantly changing demands of the labor market, which will ensure a high level of well-being and quality of life for the population.

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