

## From programs to concrete projects

The "One District - One Project" program has been in place since 2022, when the Ministry of Economy of Belarus, together with regional executive committees, was tasked to form a list of projects to be implemented in each Belarusian region. Among the tasks set in the implementation of this initiative were job creation, personnel retention in a particular district, and retention of competencies of a given region. The tasks also include the creation of new export-oriented products and the development of related industries. At the same time, any production will contribute to the development of related industries - transportation, logistics, trade, energy, services. In addition, import substitution is an important condition in today's situation. As of the fall of 2024, 208 projects were already in this program. The planned total investment by the end of 2025 for this initiative is almost nine billion Belarusian rubles. Of this program, 38 projects have already been implemented and put into circulation. A total of one and a half billion Belarusian rubles should be invested in 2024. How is this program being implemented today? What are the prospects for the future? This is the subject of the proposed study.



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*Peculiarities of positive trends in the economy  
Belarus*

**Boris Zalesskij**

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## **One District - One Project Programme as a tool to promote local initiative**

The "One District - One Project" programme has been in place since 2022, when the Belarusian head of state instructed the Ministry of Economy of Belarus together with regional executive committees to form a list of projects to be implemented in each Belarusian region. Among the tasks set for the implementation of this initiative are the creation of jobs, retention of personnel in a particular region, as well as preservation of competences of a given region. Also, "the tasks include the creation of new export-oriented products and the development of related industries. Any production contributes to the development of related industries - transport, logistics, trade, energy, services"<sup>1</sup>. In addition, import substitution is an important condition in today's situation.

It should be reminded that the "One District - One Project" programme is designed for the current five-year period. And already in 2026 its results will be summarised. Since the beginning of 2023, the number of projects under this initiative was 129. Then this list was increased to 156, and at the end of the year it expanded to 190 projects, the cost of which is about eight billion Belarusian rubles. And this is not the limit, as "about two dozen more projects should appear on the list. The work is going on constantly"<sup>2</sup>. And as of 1 January 2024, 28 investment projects have already been implemented, and in the first quarter of this year - six more. By the end of the year it was planned to complete 55. "More than 2 thousand jobs have already been created

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<sup>1</sup> Socio-economic development of regions and import substitution: tasks of the initiative "One district - one project" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sotsialno-ekonomicheskoe-razvitiye-regionov-i-importozameschenie-zadachi-initsiativ-odin-rajon-odin-634027-2024>

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Economy: about two dozen more initiatives will be included in the programme "One district - one project" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minekonomiki-v-programmu-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-budet-vklucheno-esche-okolo-dvuh-desiatkov-initsiativ-634147-2024/>



under the realised projects. Overall, more than 9,000 jobs are to be created under the One District - One Project initiative"<sup>3</sup>.

As of autumn 2024, 208 projects were already in the programme. The planned total amount of investments by the end of 2025 for this initiative is almost nine billion Belarusian rubles. Of this programme, 38 projects have already been implemented and put into circulation. "This year, almost Br0.5 billion have been implemented. In total, Br1.5 billion should be invested under this programme in 2024 <...>"<sup>4</sup>.

Among the Belarusian regions we can single out the leaders in terms of the number of implemented initiatives. Gomel and Minsk regions have five projects each, and Vitebsk region - four. More precisely, "in Minsk region it is Barysau, Dziarzhynski, Kopylski, Smolevichi districts. Three or more projects are created there. In general, 2 or more projects are created in each district of the country"<sup>5</sup>. Among the already implemented initiatives, the majority of them are production-oriented projects. If we look by sector, these include wood processing, metallurgical production, production of machinery and equipment, processing of agro-industrial products, production of medical products, pharmaceuticals. Among the most successful projects are the enterprise for creation of technical carbon of Omsk Carbon Mogilev IOOO, furniture production with elements of digital factory of Olsa OJSC. "In the Gomel region a large production facility to create cheese and dairy products was realised, in the Vitebsk region - a broiler

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<sup>3</sup> Under the initiative "One district - one project" 34 projects have already been implemented [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/po-initiative-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-realizovano-uzhe-34-proekta-633766-2024/>

<sup>4</sup> Pushnyakova, A. Golovchenko: the programme "One district - one project" is aimed at liberating local initiatives / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/golovchenko-programma-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-napravlena-na-raskreposchenie-initsiativy-na-mestah-657380-2024/>

<sup>5</sup> Leaders among the regions: where the potential of the initiative "One district - one project" has been realised [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/lidery-sredi-oblastej-gde-realizovan-potentsial-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-633813-2024/>

poultry farm, in the Minsk region - Slutsk cheese factory. A large woodworking complex in Grodno region was also realised this year"<sup>6</sup> .

If we talk about specific projects in the same **Minsk region**, 46 projects included in the "One district - one project" initiative were implemented there in 2023. "Their implementation provides for the creation of more than 2 thousand jobs"<sup>7</sup> . Interestingly, investors in the capital region invest most in the manufacturing industry, as well as in housing construction. They account for more than half of the projects. Projects in agriculture, forestry and fisheries can also be noted. "Both state-owned enterprises and private businesses invest in regional projects. Foreign investors are also attracted. There is an increase in foreign direct investment"<sup>8</sup> . Among the projects completed last year in the capital region we would like to mention a project in Krupsky district - organisation of terrace board production. And also implemented project for the production of milk powder with capillary-porous structure at the Kopyl branch of Slutsk cheese factory. As a result of its implementation, 32 jobs were created. In addition, the enterprise is already supplying products to China, Turkey and Kazakhstan.

And already at the beginning of 2024, three more projects were implemented in the Minsk region, including in the Kopyl district, where a new line for the production of sawn timber was opened, and "its annual capacity is 18 thousand cubic metres of finished sawn timber

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<sup>6</sup> The Ministry of Economy named the most successful initiatives "One district - one project" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minekonomiki-nazvalo-samve-uspeshnye-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-633981-2024/>

<sup>7</sup> In Minsk region in 2023 46 projects were implemented under the programme "One district - one project" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-minskoj-oblasti-v-2023-godu-realizovvvalos-46-proektov-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-635036-2024/>

<sup>8</sup> Investors in Minsk region invest most of all in the processing industry [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/investory-v-minskoj-oblasti-bolshe-vsego-vkladvvajutsja-v-obrabatvvajuschuju-promyshlennost-633940-2024/>

(1.5 thousand cubic metres per month). <...> Thanks to the project, 22 new jobs with decent wages will be created in the region"<sup>9</sup>. In general, in Minsk region this year it was planned to complete about 15 investment projects in the production of vehicles, food, pharmaceutical products and preparations, electrical equipment, plastic products. Also in 2024 under the initiative "One district - one project" "it is planned to continue the implementation of 47 investment projects. The volume of investments is Br1.7 billion. The projects are planned to create more than 2 thousand jobs"<sup>10</sup>.

In mid-autumn 2024, it was noted that a dozen and a half investment projects, which are export-oriented, as well as import-substituting and innovative, will be implemented in the capital region by the end of this year. In 23 districts of the capital region, the programme "One District - One Project" has already included 53 investment projects with a total cost of just under two billion Belarusian rubles, the implementation of which will create more than two and a half thousand jobs. Currently, seven projects have already been implemented, where more than two hundred jobs have been created. "And by the end of 2024 it is planned to complete the implementation of 14 projects, in 2025 - 15"<sup>11</sup>.

In **Vitebsk region**, as mentioned above, four projects of the One District - One Project programme were completed in 2023. In particular, this is the construction of a slaughterhouse for the Vitebsk

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<sup>9</sup> In Kopyl leskhoz opened a new production of sawn timber [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-kopvlskom-leshoze-otkryli-novoe-proizvodstvo-po-vypusku-obreznyh-pilomaterialov-633821-2024/>

<sup>10</sup> In Minsk region it is planned to complete 16 investment projects of the programme "One district - one project" this year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-minskoj-oblasti-v-etom-godu-planiruetsja-zavershit-16-investproektov-programmy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-635314-2024>

<sup>11</sup> In Minsk region 14 investment projects under the programme "One district - one project" will be implemented by the end of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-minskoj-oblasti-k-konsu-goda-budet-realizovano-14-investproektov-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-661592-2024/>

poultry farm. And it has already started a new project - the construction of a feed mill. The production and processing of dairy products in the form of a line of soft cheeses has been organised in Gorodok. Also last year "a complex for advanced processing of worn-out tyres and rubber products was opened in Novopolotsk at the UE "Biomekhhzavod of household secondary resources", where about 60 jobs were created. In Beshenkovichi a project for 20 jobs - production of food flavourings"<sup>12</sup>. In addition, 24 projects of this programme continued to be implemented in this area in 2023. And by the end of this year it is planned to complete the implementation of 12 projects in 10 regions. "These include production of garment products in Dokshitsy, production of perfume products in Dokshitsy district, in Sharkovski district - production of juices"<sup>13</sup>. The modernisation of the Obol ceramics factory in the Shumilinski district will also be completed, and a line of new whole-milk products will be organised on the basis of the Postavy dairy factory.

In **Gomel region** in 2024, nine projects have already been implemented under the programme "One District - One Project", which includes a total of 33 production projects with a total cost of more than one and a half billion Belarusian rubles and provides for the creation of 1,425 new jobs. And work continues on 24 projects. "In the first half of the year Br15 million was allocated for their implementation. This is a little more than the volume planned for this period"<sup>14</sup>. An important

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<sup>12</sup> The Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee told what was implemented under the programme "One district - one project" in 2023 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-vitebskom-oblasti-polikome-rasskazali-chto-realizovano-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-v-2023-godu-633972-2024/>

<sup>13</sup> In Vitebsk region 12 projects of the programme "One district - one project" will be completed by the end of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-vitebskoj-oblasti-do-kontsa-goda-zavershat-12-proektov-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-631195-2024/>

<sup>14</sup> In the Gomel region Br15 million were allocated for projects under the programme "One district -- one project" in the first half of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-gomelskoj-oblasti-na-proektv-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-v-i-polugodii-napravili-br15-mln-653056-2024/>

detail: in Gomel region the list of projects is constantly updated. In particular, "based on the results of additional study in the region, proposals have been made to include eight more initiatives in the target plan"<sup>15</sup>. If we talk about specific examples, we can mention the enterprise "Rechitsa Textile", where an investment project is being implemented to organise the production of blankets and towels, which is part of the programme "One district - one project". "The first stage of the local project has already been successfully realised: in March 2024 the site reached its design capacity"<sup>16</sup>.

A total of 31 investment projects with a total cost of just under Br1.5 billion will be implemented in **Mahiliou voblast** under the programme "One district - one project". "As of 1 September this year, nine projects from this list have been implemented in the region with a total volume of Br447.5 million of investments in fixed assets and the creation of 907 new jobs. Including seven projects launched last year and two - this year"<sup>17</sup>. Five more projects are planned to be completed by the end of this year. Among the already completed projects is the innovative production of confectionery products with the installation of a line at the UE "Krasny esudovik - Slavgorod". This project has already "reached its design capacity, started to pay all financial obligations and is by far the brightest example of the national development programme for the south-east of the Mogilev region"<sup>18</sup>. In

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<sup>15</sup> Nine investment projects under the programme "One district - one project" have already been implemented in Gomel region [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/v-gomelskoj-oblasti-na-proektv-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-v-i-polugodii-napravili-br15-mln-653056-2024/>

<sup>16</sup> Chebotar: the state consistently increases the production potential of the regions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-gosudarstvo-posledovatelno-narashivaet-proizvodstvennyj-potentsial-regionov-654678-2024/>

<sup>17</sup> Five projects under the programme "One district -- one project" will be completed by the end of the year in Mogilev region [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/piat-proektov-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-zavershat-do-kontsa-goda-v-mogilevskoj-oblasti-666749-2024/>

<sup>18</sup> Krutoy told about the priorities of development of the south-east of Mogilev region on the example of Slavgorod district [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

total, over 35 million Belarusian roubles have been invested in the project. The new profitable production of jelly marmalade today produces more than thirty types of products, including more than 60 per cent of innovative products. More than 70 per cent are sold on the domestic market, the rest is supplied abroad. About 130 new jobs have been created at the enterprise.

As for **Brest region**, for example, only in **Brest** itself several projects are being implemented under the programme "One district - one project". "On the basis of scientific technological park it was planned to produce complex 3D casting moulds, robotic complexes, pumps from composite materials. The first part of the project has been fulfilled. The topic of pumps is in the development stage"<sup>19</sup>. In the same year three more projects from this programme were supported. These are the construction of the production building of AgroPischeProm LLC, the expansion of the Novamed medical centre and the spa complex of the Status centre.

Four projects from this programme have been implemented in **Pinsk**. One of them is implemented by Zubr Energy LLC. It is about the reconstruction of production facilities. "The first start-up complex has already been completed, 175 new jobs have been created. For the second start-up complex it was decided to make a production facility instead of a warehouse. Work on the project is underway, equipment has been ordered"<sup>20</sup>. Taking these points into account, it is possible to reach a capacity of about three million batteries per year. Also on the

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<https://belta.by/society/view/krutoj-na-primere-slavgorodskogo-rajona-rasskazal-o-prioritetah-razvitiija-jugo-vostoka-mogilevskoj-666767-2024/>

<sup>19</sup> "Our work is aimed at the future". Lobodinsky told about Brest's investment projects [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/nasha-rabota-natselena-na-perspektivu-lobodinskij-rasskazal-ob-investproektah-bresta-672089-2024/>

<sup>20</sup> Production of accumulators, pumps, furniture. What projects Pinsk's investment portfolio is filled with [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-akkumulyatorov-nasosov-mebeli-kakimi-proektami-napolnen-investitsionnyi-portfel-pinska-672072-2024/>

list is a project to build a facility for the production of plastic components for batteries. CJSC Amkodor-Pinsk is modernising its production capacities. An integration project to set up production of hydraulic pumps is underway.

In **Baranavichy**, the list "One Region - One Project" includes the investment project of Barhim OJSC to expand production with reconstruction of liquid detergents output. The first stage has been completed. By the end of the year it is expected to launch new production of concentrated liquid detergents in . "Within the framework of the second stage of the project implementation, Barkhim, together with Belresurs, is considering the possibility of organising the production of industrial chemicals. Market research is being conducted, market capacity and production possibilities are being determined together with RUE "Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry"<sup>21</sup> .

All these facts suggest that the "One District - One Project" programme, which is being implemented in Belarus, will continue to develop. The Ministry of Economy is already holding a round of consideration of plans for 2025 and at the same time emphasises that "the key thing for us is projects in the field of technological security, localisation. We will literally pencil out what can be made from our raw materials, materials, more in-depth to set tasks for the construction of new enterprises"<sup>22</sup> . Especially since any project of this programme has an import-substituting function. Also. All these examples show that these projects are aimed at liberating local initiative in the regions. This is the most important element of further development of each

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<sup>21</sup> They plan to make aeroplanes and refrigerators. What other investment projects are being implemented in Baranavichy [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/planiujut-delat-samolety-i-holodilniki-kakie-esche-investproekty-realizujut-v-baranovichah-672049-2024/>

<sup>22</sup> Chebotar: the programme "One district - one project" will be supplemented by new initiatives [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-programmu-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-dopolnjat-novye-initsiativy-635398-2024>

Belarusian district, which is involved in the implementation of the initiative "One District - One Project".

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## Efficient driver industrial production

Import substitution is one of the key priorities for the development of the Republic of Belarus in the near future. Back in December 2021, the Belarusian government defined strategic areas of work and developed specific tasks in this direction. These include using the opportunities of such integration entities as the Eurasian Economic Union, "increasing localisation in conjunction with support measures, implementation of sectoral import substitution programmes, development of cooperation both within the country and with friendly countries, use of local raw materials, active involvement of scientific developments in the real sector of the economy"<sup>23</sup>. In 2022, import substitution has become the most important task of every import-related enterprise to work ahead of the curve. In this regard, strenuous tasks have been communicated to all regions of Belarus. The measures that encourage Belarusian enterprises to substitute imports are "increased localisation, development of technological chains, processing of local raw materials, involvement of small and medium-sized businesses"<sup>24</sup>. Interesting experience in this context has already been accumulated in a number of Belarusian regions and departments.

The topic of import substitution is very relevant in **Minsk region**. Manufacturers of Minsk region "only in this [2022] year plan to master the production of import-substituting products in 154 nomenclature items. This is over \$1.5 billion. At the same time, it is

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<sup>23</sup> Golovchenko: import substitution is one of the engines of the economy, designed to resist the sanctions pressure [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-importozameschenie-odin-iz-dvigatelej-ekonomiki-prizvannyi-protivostoiat-sanktsionnomu-542135-2022/>

<sup>24</sup> Zaleskii, B. Result-orientation. Realising the opportunities of international economic relations / B. Zaleskii. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. - C. 6.

planned to export import-substituting products worth \$1 billion"<sup>25</sup> . Thus, "Slutsk Cheese Factory" has implemented a project to produce instant milk powder. This is a product from which whole milk can be obtained at home using drinking water. Taking into account the situation with food shortages in some countries, instant milk may be in demand in Asia and Africa as well. In the Kopyl district, the Dzerzhinsky agro-industrial complex has implemented a large-scale turkey meat production project. The enterprise will produce more than 6 thousand tonnes of turkey meat per year. The Minsk region has already mastered the production of blue mould cheese. In a few years, production of cheese with white mould will be mastered.

Special attention is paid to import substitution issues at OJSC Belakotekhnika, which is located in the village of Svisloch, Pukhovichi district. The company produces more than 100 items of veterinary drugs and more than 60 fodders and feed additives based on unique recipes. At the same time, Belakotekhnika is constantly expanding its assortment. Its own development department registers six to eight new product names every year. "In 2022, a new production site specialising exclusively in veterinary preparations was put into operation. It comprises four production areas: a physico-chemical laboratory, a development department laboratory, raw material warehouses and finished product warehouses"<sup>26</sup> . With the commissioning of the new production site, the production and sales volumes have increased by 30 per cent. The company's products are cheaper than their European counterparts, while their quality is not inferior.

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<sup>25</sup> Kurlenko: this year Minsk region plans to export import-substituting products for \$1 billion [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/kurlenko-v-etom-godu-minskaja-oblast-planiruet-eksportirovat-importozameschajushchiju-produktsiju-na-1-514181-2022>

<sup>26</sup> Voropai, A. How "Belekotekhnika" provides import substitution of veterinary drugs and feed / A. Voropai // [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/amp/regions/view/reportazh-kak-belekotekhnika-obespechivaet-importozameschenie-veterinarnyh-preparatov-i-kormov-514311-2022>

**Brest Oblast** enterprises have also actively engaged in import substitution. In particular, the Zhabinka fodder factory will soon launch a new line for the production of fish and animal feed, which used to be purchased abroad. Kobrin butter and cheese factory together with the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre of Oncology and Medical Radiology is completing the production of food for cancer patients. The Pinsk district is working on the issue of extraction and processing of basalt, a raw material for the glass industry, which was mainly imported. OJSC "Berezastroymaterialy" is thinking about the development of clay deposit in Stolin district in order to replace the part of raw materials purchased abroad. An important detail: "In January-May [2022], 267 new commercial organisations and 1,334 individual entrepreneurs were registered in the region. Private structures have also reoriented themselves to produce import-substituting products and are retooling their production facilities. And the work to ensure import substitution continues"<sup>27</sup>.

In 2022, the Southwest region produced nearly \$900 million worth of such products, while introducing new types of goods. For example, the production of batteries and components was increased. In Kobryn district, capacities for the production of mushroom compost were put into operation. The Brest Radio-Technical Plant mastered the production of temperature indicators for the needs of "Brestgazoapparat". The enterprises that produce equipment for the processing industry also joined this work. Thus, KOMPO mastered the production of a line for sausage making, while AgroPischeProm produced meat processing equipment.

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<sup>27</sup> Vakulchik: Brest region enterprises actively involved in the work on import substitution [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vakulchik-predpriyatija-brestskoj-oblasti-aktivno-vkluchilis-v-rabotu-po-importozamescheniju-514809-2022>

In 2023 Brest region aims to produce more than \$900 million worth of import-substituting products, of which more than \$530 million worth of goods will be exported. At the moment, work is underway on 146 items, including 14 new ones. "In particular, the region's enterprises have taken up the manufacture of radiosurgical instruments, construction parts made of plastics, planters and seedling planters, and zip lock packaging. A farm in Ivanovo district grows bulbs of Dutch varieties of tulips. One of the enterprises in the region has mastered the production of low-protein bakery and confectionery products"<sup>28</sup>. In addition, Kuzlitmash in Pinsk is working on a new line of mechanical presses for precision stamping. Zubr Energy has taken up the production of batteries using AGM technology. "Silicon Materials will produce monocrystalline silicon ingots. Production of hydraulic valves and expansion of the hydraulic cylinder range will be organised at SALEO-Kobrin, and Kobrin Tool Factory SITOMO will set up production of chrome-plated hydraulic cylinder rods.

In the **Mogilev region**, there is an interesting experience in import substitution in BelEmsa LLC, which is located on the territory of the Mogilev district and is an enterprise-resident of a free economic zone with Turkish-Belarusian private capital. Since the beginning of 2022, the share of import substitution at BelEmsa has increased to 80 per cent. "More than 150 products are produced here, including nappies for children and adults, wet toilet paper, wet wipes and wipes with antibacterial effect. The production of medical masks reaches a record high of over 100 million pieces per month, and of baby nappy panties over 20 million pieces per month. These volumes are sufficient to fully cover the needs of the domestic market and the territory of the

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<sup>28</sup> Brest region enterprises plan to produce import-substituting products for more than \$900 million [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriiatija-brestskoj-oblasti-planirujut-proizvesti-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-bolee-chem-na-561252-2023>

neighbouring countries"<sup>29</sup>. Soon a new line will be launched at the company, which will increase the production of adult nappies three times - up to 18 million pieces per month, while the capacity of the existing line is more than six million. In the near future, along with economy and middle class baby nappies, premium products produced by BelEms, the quality of which is not inferior to Japanese and European analogues, will appear on the shelves. Thus, the company will fully cover the entire price range.

In general, in 2022 Mogilev region produced import-substituting products worth more than \$820 million, and "more than 60% of manufactured products worth more than \$500 million were exported. The share of small and medium-sized businesses accounts for more than half of import-substituting products in the region"<sup>30</sup>. For reference, it should be noted that last year 113 economic entities in Mogilev region produced import-substituting products in 191 commodity items. Among them is the branch "Yelizovo" of JSC "Grodno Glass Plant", where the modernisation of the glass container shop has been completed. Now the project on installation of the line of sorting and processing of glass waste is being worked out there. PTUP "Krasny esudovik-Slavgorod" organised an innovative production of confectionery products, where more than 80 new jobs have already been created. OJSC Babushkina Krynka, the managing company of the holding company Dairy Company Babushkina Krynka, is implementing a project to create new lactose-free dairy products using an innovative membrane technology method. The project is included in the State Programme of Innovative Development of the Republic of Belarus for

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<sup>29</sup> The share of import substitution at "BelEmsa" increased from the beginning of the year to 80% [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/dolja-importozameschenija-na-belemsa-vozroslo-s-nachala-goda-do-80-514471-2022/>

<sup>30</sup> This year the enterprises of Mogilev region intend to produce import-substituting products for \$870 million [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatija-mogilevskoj-oblasti-v-etom-godu-amereny-proizvesti-importozameschajuschej-produksii-na-560572-2023/>

2021-2025. UCHNPPP "Technolit" implements a project to organise the production of components for meat processing plants, flax factories, petrochemical enterprises, within the framework of which more than 300 units of spare parts for flax factories and meat processing plants have already been produced. One more thing: the enterprises of Mogilev region plan to produce import-substituting products worth \$870 million in 2023.

As for the enterprises of **Gomel region**, which are actively working to replace imported products, the region produced import-substituting products worth more than \$860 million in 2022. At the same time, more than 70 per cent of such products were exported. Among the most effective import-substituting projects is the Medplast enterprise, where an innovative production of vacuum tubes for venous blood collection was launched in December 2021. Now 55 types of tubes of different sizes, volumes and fillings are produced here. These products are fully compliant with the level of world standards. "Over 14.4 million tubes were produced last year [2022], and plans for 2023 include 20 million tubes. In the long term, this production will make it possible to fully meet the needs of the country's medical institutions with the possibility of refusing imported analogues"<sup>31</sup>. The total demand in Belarus is 20-25 million tubes per year. Another example of work on import substitution in Gomel region is the enterprise "SvetlogorskKhimvolokno", where last year "import-substituting production of nitrile and latex gloves for medical and food spheres was launched. The design capacity of the production - 200 million pieces of gloves per year - completely covers the demand of the republic,

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<sup>31</sup> From tubes to hydraulic blocks: import substitution has been activated in Gomel region [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/ot-probirok-do-gidroblokov-v-gomelskoj-oblasti-aktivirovali-importozameschenie-558557-2023/>

including for surgical purposes"<sup>32</sup>. At the same time, more than 180 new jobs have been created. Another interesting fact is the enterprise "Saleo-Gomel", which provided a significant increase in the supply of new import-substituting hydraulic blocks and hydraulic equipment for the head conveyors of machine-building holdings "MTZ" and "Gomselmash".

Systematic work in this respect is also shown by **Vitebsk region**, where "the volume of import substitution for the half-year [2023] is more than \$500 million, by the end of the year this amount is expected to double"<sup>33</sup>. The region has organised the production and supply of high-pressure hoses, filter hoses and wipes, fasteners to machine-building enterprises, and fusion sealing tape. There are also 147 production projects and 124 infrastructure projects planned in the region. The Orsha Flax Mill was modernising and expanding its production. The Polotsk district mastered the technology of metal structures manufacturing with multi-system integration of processes based on the Industry 4.0 concept. In Vitebsk, a factory of truck cranes with a lifting capacity of up to 100 tonnes was under construction, and in Ushach district, a workshop for processing raw materials and producing protein and vitamin supplements was built. Construction of 6 MW wind turbines is being completed in the Senno district, and a project to produce cross-laminated panels is being implemented in the Tolochinsky district. In addition, the Verkhnedvinsk butter and cheese factory is planning to produce mozzarella, the creation of a multi-profile fruit and vegetable processing centre is underway in

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<sup>32</sup> Krupko: enterprises of Gomel region are actively working on the replacement of imported products [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/krupko-predpriyatija-gomelskoi-oblasti-aktivno-rabotajut-nad-zamescheniem-importnoj-produksii-557802-2023/>

<sup>33</sup> Subbotin: the volume of import substitution in Vitebsk region for the half-year totalled more than \$500 million [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/subbotin-obiem-importozameschenija-v-vitebskoi-oblasti-za-polugodie-sostavil-bolee-500-mln-589817-2023/>

Sharkovshchina, and the construction of a delayed coking unit for oil residues at Naftan OJSC has been completed. Finally, we should mention several more import-substituting projects in Vitebshchina: a vaccine plant with reconstruction of the existing production in Dolzha village - BelVitunifarm OJSC; a plant of innovative veterinary drugs - Belkarolin LLC; production of universal cable for laying in the ground, water and air - in Energokomplekt LLC; production of metal-cutting and auxiliary tools with the introduction of innovative technological processes - in Orsha Tool Plant OJSC. So, in 2024, Vitebsk region, apparently, should significantly update the indicators on the volume of products that will replace imported supplies.

Speaking about the sectoral tasks in terms of import substitution, the enterprises of **Belgospisheprom Concern**, which ensure the substitution of similar products with their own production, look good against the background of the reduction in imports of consumer goods. In particular, within the framework of the state programme of innovative development of Belarus for 2021-2025, the implementation of the project "Organisation of innovative production of confectionery products with the installation of a line at the enterprise "Krasny Ispizhovich - Slavgorod" has been completed. "The company specialises in the production of various types of chewy marmalade, sunflower, rapeseed, flower and whipped cream honey, as well as innovative types of healthy candies. Such a wide range of products will provide Belarusians with tasty and healthy confectionery products"<sup>34</sup>. About 100 new jobs have been created at the enterprise. And in general, "for the first nine months of 2023 the concern produced import-substituting assortment of products worth \$425 million. All these goods are now on

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<sup>34</sup> Enterprises of "Belgospisheprom" supply products to 36 countries of the world [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-belgospisheproma-postavljajut-produktsiju-v-36-stran-mira-513896-2022/>



the shelves of Belarusian shops"<sup>35</sup>. The main part in the production of these products fell on the enterprises of confectionery and canning industry, in particular, those engaged in the production of tinned fruit and vegetable products, including those for infants and school meals.

One more fact concerning this topic. For 2023, organisations of the **Ministry of Industry** system will produce import-substituting products worth almost six billion dollars, and in 2024 this volume should increase by another 200 million dollars. "The increase will occur in such groups as trucks, buses, minibuses, trailers for trucks, grain and forage harvesting machinery, diesel engines, rolled metal products, TV sets"<sup>36</sup>. In addition, the positive dynamics of import-substituting products output will be largely ensured by developing and organising the production of innovative products. In this respect, the experience of the Belarusian Automobile Plant, which at its holding site in Orsha is creating a high-tech production facility to manufacture heavy-duty dump trucks and mastering new types of products, is interesting. "The introduced rolling technology will make it possible to produce high-quality blanks of solid rolled and profiled rings from steels of various grades with an outer diameter of up to 3 m and weight of up to 3 tonnes with high quality and minimum allowance for subsequent processing. They will be used to produce bearings, crown gears of planetary gears, flanges and other types of products. Currently such blanks are not produced in Belarus"<sup>37</sup>. These high-tech products are used in machine

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<sup>35</sup> Head of Belgospishcheprom: the concern has produced \$425 million worth of import-substituting products for nine months [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/glava-belgospishcheproma-za-devyat-mesiatsev-kontsern-proizvel-importozameshajuschej-produktsii-na-425-599446-2023/>

<sup>36</sup> Enterprises of the Ministry of Industry in 2024 plan to increase the output of import-substituting products [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-minprom-a-v-2024-godu-planirujut-uvlechit-obiem-vypuska-importozameshajuschej-produktsii-606535-2023/>

<sup>37</sup> BELAZ's investments in the creation of a modern ring rolling complex will amount to almost Br200 million [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/investitsii-belaza-v-sozdanie-sovremennogo-kompleksa-koltseraskatki-sostavjat-pochti-br200-mln-605545-2023/>

building, aircraft and engine building, nuclear power engineering, shipbuilding. For this reason, the implementation of this investment project with high export potential will not only lead to the creation of our own high-tech production of rolling rings, but will also ensure their full import substitution both for the needs of the Belarusian Automobile Plant and other enterprises of our country.

In the **energy sector**, Belenergoremnaladka has accumulated extensive experience in the production of import-substituting products. This is the largest organisation in Belarus specialising in repair, installation, adjustment, diagnostics and maintenance of power equipment - from small CHPPs to the Belarusian NPP, as well as production of spare parts and units, including unique technologies. In 2022, this enterprise produced "import-substituting products worth \$2 million, or 53% more than in 2021, and this year - already worth \$3.5 million, with the annual plan of \$2.8 million"<sup>38</sup>. In addition, Belenergoremnaladka commissioned a mobile workstation based on a high-precision 3D scanner with computer equipment and licensed software. The company's own design and engineering bureau and an accredited metal and welding control laboratory allow it to provide services for the development of a full set of design documentation for the production of a product based on a sample. In 2024, the company will perform maintenance and repair of equipment of both power units, including controlled access zones, at the Belarusian NPP. In the future, a branch office will be opened here so that the work can be performed with the least involvement of third-party organisations.

Recall that in late December 2022 at the meeting of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, it was

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<sup>38</sup> Belenergoremnaladka OJSC produced import-substituting products for \$3.5 million [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/oaobelenergoremnaladka-vypustilo-importozameschajuschej-produktsii-na-35-mln-606481-2023/>

noted that in 2023 import substitution will become an even more effective driver of Belarusian industrial production, where special attention will be paid to increasing localisation. For reference, it should be noted that two years ago the amount of these products in Belarus was about \$27 billion, and already "in the current [2023] year the volume of import-substituting products will amount to about \$29 billion"<sup>39</sup>. This indicates that a large number of enterprises in the whole country - in sectors and regions - are already involved in the implementation of import-substitution programmes in all areas, from trucks and buses to TV sets, furniture and the simplest consumer goods. And in 2024, import substitution, cooperation between enterprises and increasing the level of localisation of production will be effective ways of increasing industrial output and strengthening cooperation between the business sector and large state holdings.

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<sup>39</sup> Golovchenko: we expect that this year the output of import-substituting products will amount to \$29 billion [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-ozhidaem-chto-v-etom-godu-objem-vypuska-importozameshajuschej-produktsii-sostavit-29-mlrd-605441-2023/>

## Tool for innovative perspectives

One of the important mechanisms for implementing the innovation development strategy in Belarus is the system of industrial parks on unused and inefficiently used production areas of state-owned enterprises. "The main areas of activity of residents of Belarusian technoparks today are such as instrumentation and mechanical engineering, electronics, information technology and software development, medicine, pharmaceuticals and production of medical equipment..."<sup>40</sup>. The State Programme for Innovative Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2021-2025 provides support for small innovative entrepreneurship on the basis of science and technology parks or technoparks as one of the priority tasks for the accelerated development of infrastructure in the spheres of scientific, scientific-technical and innovative activities.<sup>41</sup> The mechanisms for solving this task include: creation and organization of technoparks in large district centres; formation and development of technological infrastructure in technoparks to provide relevant services to residents - centres for prototyping and industrial design, centres for collective use of equipment, engineering centres, laboratory complexes, co-working centres; "organization of implementation of educational programmes of additional adult education in technoparks on the issues of innovation activity".

It should be noted that in 2023 in Belarus there were "more than 20 subjects of innovation infrastructure - these are 16 technoparks, 6 technology transfer centres, the Belarusian Innovation Fund and the

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<sup>40</sup> Zalessky, B. Looking ahead. Features of multi-vector partnership in modern conditions / B. Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. - C. 117.

<sup>41</sup> State Programme of Innovative Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2021-2025 / edited by S.V. Shlychkov. - Minsk: GU "BelISA", 2022. - C. 13.

National Centre for Intellectual Property"<sup>42</sup>, where there are more than 250 residents of technoparks and more than 5,300 employees. "The volume of output (goods and services) by residents of technoparks has almost doubled compared to 2022 and amounted to about Br830 million. Technopark residents shipped products (goods and services) worth over Br350 million for export, which is 43% of the total volume of output, compared to 2022, this indicator increased 2.5 times"<sup>43</sup>.

Among the actively developing Belarusian innovation structures is the **Minsk City Technopark** LLC, established in November 2011 and currently uniting 54 resident enterprises, which are located at three sites in the Belarusian capital. The largest number - 43 - is located on Soltys Street. There is one resident at the site on Central Street. Another ten residents are located on Partizanski Avenue - on the territory of the motorbike factory, where a complex reconstruction is underway. Besides, "the new site on Partizansky Prospekt has a special management procedure: during 5 years from the moment of registration as a technopark resident, companies are exempt from profit tax and during the same period they can import equipment duty-free"<sup>44</sup>. In general, the technopark helps residents to find foreign partners, financial, technological and human resources. And the profit tax is only 10 per cent. So for this reason, even today the most relevant and diverse areas of activity are being developed here - "creation of components for aerospace systems, electric transport and electrically driven vehicles, production of hardware and software and complexes for electronic

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<sup>42</sup> Innovation and science. SCST has set technoparks tasks for 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/innovatsii-i-nauka-gknt-postavil-tehnoparkam-zadachi-na-2024-god-617472-2024/>

<sup>43</sup> Residents of the Belarusian technoparks in 2023 increased the volume of production almost twice [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rezidenty-belorusskih-tehnoparkov-v-2023-godu-uvlechili-objemy-vypuska-produktsii-pochti-vdvoe-619889-2024/>

<sup>44</sup> New technologies for different industries. Golovchenko visited Minsk City Technopark [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/novye-tehnologii-dlja-raznyh-otraslej-golovchenko-poseschaet-minskij-gorodskoj-tehnopark-598916-2023/>

queue management, feed additives, medical products for ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, exoprosthesis, commercial and warehouse equipment"<sup>45</sup>. An important detail: about 60 per cent of the technopark residents' products are exported to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, Central Asia and Europe. The technopark plans to further expand and develop, as well as to increase the number of residents.

Speaking about other innovative structures of the Belarusian capital, which are actively developing their activities and showing high results, we can name the scientific and technological park **"Unitechprom BSU"**, established in 1999 and dealing with medicines and pharmaceutical substances, chemical-analytical and special technologies, measuring equipment, medical devices, ingredients of the food industry. In 2023, the first series of Temodex for local chemotherapy of malignant brain tumours was produced here, for which patents were obtained from the United States of America, India and the European Union. Also in the past year, "new unique medicines were launched. For example, the drug "Prospidelong" has no analogues in the world and is intended for patients with gastric cancer, "Antispik" is used for healing various wounds after surgical interventions, "Foscelantan" is used to enhance tissue regeneration in the treatment of trophic ulcers and abscesses of various kinds"<sup>46</sup>. For this purpose, in March 2023 in "Unitechprom" of the Belarusian State University opened a modernised workshop for the production of unique drugs, which is equipped with modern equipment and fully complies with international standards. Indeed, "this project implements all stages

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<sup>45</sup> Golovchenko: it is necessary to increase the effect of funds invested in scientific research [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-nuzhno-uvlechivat-effekt-ot-vlozheniy-v-nauchnye-razrabotki-sredstv-598984-2023/>

<sup>46</sup> Shlychkov: dozens of innovative products are developed in Belarus every year [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shlychkov-v-belarusi-ezhгодno-razrabatvayutsia-desyatki-vidov-innovatsionnoy-produktsii-568140-2023/>

of the innovation cycle, from the stage of fundamental research, through applied development and commercialisation. The project of the fifth technological mode, so it belongs to the high-tech sphere"<sup>47</sup> . It remains to add that the modernisation of this site was carried out under the project "Organisation of production of original bioresorbable polyfunctional medicines", which is part of the state programme for innovative development and is scheduled to run until 2025.

And in 2024, the science and technology park "UP Unitechprom BSU" plans to launch the production of haemostatic napkins for hospitals and personal use, which are intended to be used as an additional tool during surgical interventions to stop capillary, venous and small arterial bleeding, as well as for household bleeding. The fact is that these napkins "are made of sterile absorbable tissue of white or yellowish-white colour, made by controlled oxidation of cellulose. In contact with blood, the napkin absorbs and swells it, gradually transforming into a gel-like substance and reliably clogging capillaries, activating a multi-stage blood clotting process that stops bleeding"<sup>48</sup> . The development is a Belarusian analogue of expensive imported haemostatic wipes, which are widely used around the world. It is planned that in 2024 their production will be launched, and the products will be available in health care institutions of our country, as well as in pharmacies. In addition, exports to the Eurasian Economic Union market, where there is currently a shortage of haemostatic materials, will be established in the future.

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<sup>47</sup> Unique antibacterial and antitumour drugs will start producing "Unitechprom BSU". [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/unikalnye-antibakterialnye-i-protivoopuholevye-preparaty-nachnet-proizvodit-unitechprom-bgu-558361-2023/>

<sup>48</sup> Belarus plans to launch the production of haemostatic napkins for hospitals and personal use [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-belarusi-planiruyut-zapustit-proizvodstvo-gemostaticheskikh-salfetok-dlja-bolnits-i-lichnogo-610519-2024/>

Another interesting example of Belarusian innovative entrepreneurship is the **Brest Science and Technology Park**, established in June 2012, where 55 residents were registered by the end of 2022, and today there are already more than 70 residents. They are engaged in the spheres of IT, design, mechanical engineering, waste processing, education, and medicine. In mid-December 2022, the park welcomed four new entrants. One of them specialises in the production of sports boats made of composites, the second specialises in the design and production of orthopaedic products. The third resident is engaged in the production of pneumatic units, the fourth - in the development of neurocorrection programme in speech therapy. At the beginning of 2023, the park increased its area by seven thousand square metres. "The technopark received the former workshop of the Brest Electromechanical Plant for its needs. Its reconstruction began in November 2020. Thanks to the implementation of the project, the usable area of the building will double - up to 22.5 thousand square metres. The whole point is that the ceiling height in the former production premises reaches 7.2 metres. Each of the four floors will be divided in two and the distance from floor to ceiling will be reduced to 3.6 metres. The first phase of the renovation is nearing its completion"<sup>49</sup>. And in 2023, the first phase of reconstruction has already been completed here. And the term of the whole reconstruction is 2025-2026. Since the beginning of 2023, five floors have been delivered: two technical, one and a half production and one and a half office floors. For the second stage a small scope of work has been defined: a car park will be arranged. During the third stage the builders will erect five more floors in the building. They will be commissioned gradually over three years. The new areas of the technopark will house production and

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<sup>49</sup> Brest Technopark will increase its area by the beginning of 2023 [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/tech/view/brestskij-tehnopark-k-nachalu-2023-goda-uvlechit-svoi-ploschadi-540149-2022>



service facilities, offices, co-working space, conference halls and common areas. The technopark has already created a shared-use centre, which is based on Industry 4.0 technology. It has been equipped with advanced equipment for the production of a full cycle of metal and polymer products for small-scale and pilot production. In particular, it includes "laser cutting machine, hydraulic sheet bending machine, robot manipulator, additive machine for printing one-off sand moulds for the production of shaped castings, hydraulic profile bending machine, injection moulding machine, tool sharpening machine. The equipment has been assembled and commissioning works have been carried out"<sup>50</sup>. Conditions have also been created for residents and their partners to organise joint work and provide services. Besides, Brest Technopark is a participant of the programme "One Region - One Project", within the framework of which it acts in three directions. The first is the production of complex 3D moulds for mechanical engineering. The second is the production of robotic complexes for processing industry enterprises and enterprises with serial production. "The third direction is the production of pumps from composite materials for use in housing and utilities, food production, petrochemicals"<sup>51</sup>.

It should be noted that several more technoparks are being created in Brest region. In 2023, the construction of a branch of the park in **Baranavichy** started. In particular, "a plot of 13.7 hectares has been reserved near the factory of automatic lines. It is planned to build an industrial park on this territory, whose production facilities will be transferred for use to residents. The project envisages the construction of three workshops of the industrial hotel type. The area of one

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<sup>50</sup> Khokhlov, A. Brest Technopark: an important platform for union projects / A. Khokhlov // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://mostrkomcr.pb/science/235728/>

<sup>51</sup> Reconstruction of Brest Technopark is planned to be completed in 2025-2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rekonstruktsiju-brestskogo-tehnoparka-planirujut-zavershit-v-2025-2026-godah-575770-2023/>

workshop is 6.9 thousand square metres."<sup>52</sup> . A logistics centre, a small administrative building with laboratories and offices will also be built here. Now the preparatory works for the construction of the production building and engineering networks are already underway. "Currently, on the premises of the first production building, five entities are interested in organising the production of universal tractor semi-trailers, industrial film greenhouses, polymer composites, and recycling of secondary material resources"<sup>53</sup> . Other economic entities are also interested in this innovative platform. The first building of the technopark is planned to be put into operation in 2025.

As for **Pinsk**, the decision to create a similar site there was made at the end of 2022, as the industrial park should become a growth point in the development of the city. The experience of Brest science and technology park will be used in its creation. The local authorities are already searching for residents. In particular, the interest is shown by enterprises manufacturing roofing materials and fertilisers. At the beginning of March 2024, at the meeting on the implementation of the programme of accelerated socio-economic development of Pinsk at the level of the Government of Belarus, a specific task was set: the work on the creation of the industrial park should be accelerated. After all, "the issue of effective functioning of the industrial park depends not only on the walls, general construction and other works, but also on the equipment and those who will be residents"<sup>54</sup> , to create a comfortable environment for business and produce in-demand products with an

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<sup>52</sup> Industrial park will be built in Baranovichi [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/industrialnyi-park-postroiat-v-baranovichah-540068-2022/>

<sup>53</sup> Five companies are interested in working on the territory of the industrial park under construction in Baranovichi [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/pjat-kompanij-zainteresovany-v-rabote-na-territorii-stroiaschegosia-v-baranovichah-industrialnogo-parka-614591-2024/>

<sup>54</sup> It is necessary to create a comfortable environment for business. Igor Petrishenko on the construction of an industrial park in Pinsk [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.government.by/ru/content/10798>

innovative component. The implementation of this project was started on the basis of LLC "Technopark "Polesie". It is about providing ready industrial areas for organisations interested in producing innovative products. The proposed specialisation of the industrial park is machine building, metalworking, logistics services, chemical industry. Three land plots with a total area of 50 hectares have been selected for construction in the industrial and warehouse zone on Kozubovsky Street. Two of them are included in the free economic zone (FEZ) "Brest". It should be noted that "the industrial park will consist of four production buildings of about 6 thousand square metres each and engineering infrastructure. The starting point of the park will be a plot of 11.5 hectares, which is located within the boundaries of FEZ "Brest". In the neighbourhood there are OJSC "Kuzlitmash", CJSC "Pinskdiv", CJSC "Amkodori-Pinsk", OJSC "PINEMA", Pinsk plant of small mechanization means"<sup>55</sup>. The industrial potential of these enterprises can be used to attract residents of the park and create production cooperation chains with them. This project is being implemented in several stages: the start of construction of the first stage - in September 2023; completion and launch of the first production facilities - in early 2025.

Another interesting example is **Zhabinka**. This satellite town of Brest aims to increase investment attractiveness and create comfortable conditions for business. Special attention in Zhabinka will be paid to producers of innovative products. "First of all, we are talking about science and technology parks and their residents, technology transfer centres. There is a need to modernise existing production facilities and

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<sup>55</sup> Industrial park will start building in autumn in Pinsk [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/industrialnyj-park-nachnut-stroit-osenju-v-pinske-545904-2023/>

create new, high-tech ones"<sup>56</sup> . So far, one resident of the Brest Technopark has been registered in Zhabinka. It is a private enterprise that deals with digital technologies and robotics in agriculture. Having become a resident of the Brest Science and Technology Park, the company has retained its business in Zhabinka district, got an opportunity to acquire a complex of capital buildings for the production of innovative and high-tech products, and even signed a contract for the production of a line for the production of fuel pellets for a peat briquette plant. All this shows that Zhabinka as a satellite town has a high potential for attracting investments and is open for fruitful co-operation. The measures taken will ensure the progressive development of small and medium business, increase its share in the economy of the region and contribute to the creation of new enterprises and jobs. For reference: more than 500 individual entrepreneurs, about 150 micro and small enterprises, as well as 13 medium-sized businesses are registered in Zhabinka district. In the region in 2022, 8 new commercial organisations were created, 5 of them - in the satellite town. Small and medium-sized businesses provide more than 35 per cent of total revenues to the consolidated budget of Zhabinka district. So the innovation prospects in this region are not bad either.

And another interesting point in the context of this topic can be seen in the **Gomel region**, where the **technopark "Coral"** is functioning. As of the end of 2023, there were already about 20 residents operating here. In 2024-2025 it is planned to expand this innovation site. "It is planned to build production facilities so that residents can more effectively develop exactly innovative production,

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<sup>56</sup> Technopark residents will be given preferences in the satellite city of Brest [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidentam-tehnoparkov-predostavjat-preferentsii-v-gorode-sputnike-bresta-544234-2023/>

production of innovative products"<sup>57</sup>. That such creative participants of the technopark will determine the future, this is no longer in question. For example, like the company IdeiRobotics, which developed an automated pharmacy in Gomel. This resident of the Coral Technopark specialises in software for robotisation of production and technological processes and creation of artificial systems intelligence for production. "Gomel programmers and engineers have become pioneers in this segment not only in Belarus but also abroad. Among the unconditional bonuses of an automated pharmacy are round-the-clock availability of medicines, online consultation with a pharmacist, reduction of the selling price of medicines"<sup>58</sup>. And such developments, it should be assumed, will be introduced on a mass scale in the real sector of the economy and social sphere in the near future.

To summarise. Technoparks in Belarus, including Minsk City Technopark, Science and Technology Park "Unitehprom", Brest Science and Technology Park, Technopark "Coral", are very effective tools for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, which play a significant role in the development of the country's regions. And in the future in our republic they plan to create new technoparks and their branches in order to "develop technological infrastructure to provide services to residents, to attract extra-budgetary sources of financing for subjects of innovation infrastructure and to ensure their work"<sup>59</sup>. All this suggests that technoparks are becoming a

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<sup>57</sup> For innovative production: in Gomel Regional Executive Committee announced the expansion of technopark "Coral" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/dlja-innovatsionnogo-proizvodstva-v-gomelskom-oblispolkome-anonsirovali-rasshirenie-tehnoparka-korall-611043-2024/>

<sup>58</sup> Gomel Technopark residents have developed an automated pharmacy [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-gomelskogo-tehnoparka-razrabotali-avtomatizirovannuju-apteku-584974-2023/>

<sup>59</sup> Shlychov, S. How innovations are supported in Belarus / S. Shlychov // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/interview/view/kak-v-belarusi-podderzhivajut-innovatsii-8554/>

promising platform for the development of the innovation economy in Belarus.

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## Trends in future transport development

In June 2023, the fourth exhibition "Day of Electric Transport" was held in Minsk. More than 30 organisations - industrial enterprises, scientific organisations and companies-importers of electric vehicles - took part in the exhibition. This exhibition forum presented passenger and cargo electric transport, the latest models of Belarusian electric buses, components of the element base for electric vehicles. "Among the novelties were the MAZ electric bus, the first Volat electric bus of the Minsk Wheeled Tractor Plant, a multifunctional city electric truck of the National Academy of Sciences, a new model of the AMKODOR electric loader"<sup>60</sup>.

It should be noted that this exhibition overlaps very organically with the global trends and development trends of the Belarusian market. After all, according to the International Energy Agency, more than ten million electric cars will be sold in the world in 2022, which is 55 per cent more than in 2021. "This was facilitated by the global trend towards decarbonisation, the refusal of major car companies to produce cars with internal combustion engines. <...> As a result, the total number of electric vehicles in the world exceeded 26 million units"<sup>61</sup>. In 2023, the positive dynamics continued. At the same time, the share of new electric vehicles in the market reached 18 per cent (in 2020 there were only 4 per cent).

As for the Republic of Belarus, our country also has all the conditions for the development of the electric car market. And in 2023,

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<sup>60</sup> More than 30 organisations will take part in the exhibition "Day of electric transport" in Minsk on June 9 [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bole-30-organizatsij-pri-mut-uchastie-v-vystavke-den-elektrotransporta-v-minske-9-ijunja-569850-2023/>

<sup>61</sup> Electricity consumption by charging stations for electric transport in Belarus has increased by more than a third [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/elektropotreblenie-zaryadnymi-stantsijami-dlja-elektrotransporta-v-belarusi-vyroslo-bolee-chem-na-tret-569857-2023/>

this trend will already be felt much more strongly on Belarusian roads. "First of all, it is most noticeable for commercial vehicles. A lot of electric cars are appearing in taxis, carsharing and commercial transport. <...> One of the trends is the growth of deliveries from the leading country of electric vehicle technologies - China"<sup>62</sup>. Recall that the first Chinese electric cars Geely Geometry C were imported to BELJI three years ago to gain experience of use in Belarus and to show new cars to buyers. "As for the domestic electric car, the work is now being done together with the Academy of Sciences. We [BELJI CJSC] gave the NAS a sample of one of the most popular Coolray models to work out the possibility of creating an electric car on the basis of another car"<sup>63</sup>.

By the way, the capacity of the passenger car market in Belarus is estimated at 50 thousand cars per year. Electric cars could occupy a fourth part of this volume, if their price was below ten thousand dollars. So far, the Geometry C model costs more than 90 thousand Belarusian rubles. So, it seems that the key directions in electric transport for BELJI will be to provide the market with more budget models and to develop the service. In particular, in 2023, a new Geely model - Geometry E - is a car of a more budget segment. On the topic of the domestic electric car in June 2023, the Ministry of Industry of Belarus also spoke out, emphasising that it will be ready to present and show its own development very soon, so that "the model of the domestic electric car will be ready this year"<sup>64</sup>.

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<sup>62</sup> By the end of the year about 200 filling stations of Belorusneft will be modified for charging Chinese electric cars [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/do-kontsa-goda-okolo-200-ezs-belorusnefti-modifitsiruiut-dlja-zariadki-kitajskih-elektromobilei-569935-2023/>

<sup>63</sup> Sviderski: Belarus has all the conditions for the development of the electric car market [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sviderskij-v-belarusi-est-vse-uslovija-dlja-razvitija-rynka-elektromobilei-569868-2023/>

<sup>64</sup> Ministry of Industry: soon we will present a prototype of domestic electric car [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minprom-skoropredstavim-opytnyi-obrazets-otechestvennogo-elektromobilija-571013-2023/>



Continuing the topic of electric cars of Chinese manufacturers in Belarus, we note another interesting fact: by the end of 2023, it was planned to modify about 200 charging stations of PA Belorusneft for these cars, or almost 30 per cent of all charging station capacities in the country. Speaking in general, electricity consumption by charging stations for electric vehicles in Belarus in 2022 increased by more than a third. A network of charging stations has already been "formed, there are about 700 of them in total. By this indicator Belarus is a leader in the CIS"<sup>65</sup>.

By the way, in May 2023, the charging infrastructure of our country was recognised as a leader at the international environmental competition "Green Eurasia" among the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, where it was noted that the Belarusian superfast charging complex implemented "all modern trends in electric vehicle technology. This is a system of electric energy storage, a pantograph for electric buses, and there is also a possibility for an electric car to charge in 10 minutes for 300 kilometres"<sup>66</sup>. By 2025 these super-fast complexes will appear in Belarusian regional cities and on the M1 - Brest - Russian border highway, and by the end of 2030 they will be installed 86 all over Belarus. Meanwhile, in 2024, "15 modern superfast charging centres will be built"<sup>67</sup>.

Another interesting issue in the context of this topic concerns the creation of components for electric transport. After all, Belarus is

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<sup>65</sup> Electricity consumption by charging stations for electric transport in Belarus has increased by more than a third [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/elektropotreblenie-zariadnvmi-stantsijami-dlja-elektrotransporta-v-belarusi-vvroslo-bolee-chem-na-tret-569857-2023/>

<sup>66</sup> 85 superfast charging complexes for electric cars will be installed in Belarus by the end of 2030 [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-belarusi-do-kontsa-2030-goda-ustanovjat-85-superbystrykh-zariadnyh-kompleksov-dlja-elektrokarov-569933-2023/>

<sup>67</sup> There will be more than 700 electric charging stations in Belarus by the end of the year, 105 more will be added in 2024 [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-belarusi-k-kontsu-goda-budet-bolee-700-elektrozariadnyh-stantsij-v-2024-m-dobavitsja-esche-105-571025-2023/>

already ready to localise these components. These are power motors, which are produced in sufficient quantities as needed by Mogilevliftmash. These are also control electronics, which are produced by the Izmeritel plant in Vitebsk. As for the batteries, "the Academy of Sciences has three enterprises that compose battery systems. <...> Now we see a more promising direction - sodium ion batteries"<sup>68</sup>. Belarus was already making prototypes in laboratory conditions. And in China they expected to produce an electric car with sodium-ion batteries before the end of 2023. All these facts show that the implementation of the comprehensive programme for the development of electric transport last year has already contributed to the creation of a new sector of machine building in Belarus - electric vehicle construction, as well as the formation of a system of scientific support for the whole range of economic, environmental and social issues in this innovative area.

In March 2024, the Belarusian government updated the comprehensive programme for the development of electric transport. In particular, the document includes the chapter "Creation of electric passenger car production". Recall that in January 2023, at a meeting on the implementation of the comprehensive programme for the development of electric transport until 2025, the government set the task - to determine the real terms for the creation of a domestic electric passenger car. At that time it was noted that "a lot of research and development work has been carried out, a significant number of powertrain elements, electrical equipment, traction devices have been created"<sup>69</sup>. And the March (2024) resolution of the Council of

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<sup>68</sup> Chizhik: Belarus creates components for electric transport and is ready for their localisation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chizhik-v-belarusi-sozdajut-komponenty-dlja-elektrotransporta-i-gotovv-k-ih-lokalizatsii-569937-2023/>

<sup>69</sup> Golovchenko: it is necessary to determine the real terms of creation of domestic electric passenger car [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL:

Ministers already says that in 2017-2022 the United Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus has formed a scientific and engineering school, mastered the methods of designing electric power plants of vehicles and their basic components, taking into account the technological capabilities of domestic enterprises, as well as developed design documentation, manufactured and tested components of these plants. And now, for the serial production of Belarusian electric vehicles, "it is expedient to evaluate two potential directions of automotive development - the electric car and the serial hybrid. The most promising of them is the organisation of production on the basis of serially produced passenger cars"<sup>70</sup> . And in the second half of 2023, an experimental sample of a passenger electric car BELGEE eX50 with an electric powertrain base component was produced. And at the end of January this year, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus "began work on certification testing of the experimental sample of the Belarusian electric car and finalisation of design documentation for the conditions of serial production. A roadmap for organising the production of a pilot batch of BELGEE eX50 electric passenger cars this year has also been approved"<sup>71</sup> . It is planned to complete the production of five electric cars in August-September. Further - trial operation and testing, in order to approach the mass production of these cars by the end of this year. There are also plans to "produce all the component base for domestic electric cars at the enterprises of the Ministry of Industry. Specific

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<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/golovchenko-neobhodimo-opredelit-realnye-sroki-sozdaniya-otechestvennogo-legkovogo-elektromobilija-546358-2023/>

<sup>70</sup> The government updated the comprehensive programme for the development of electric transport [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/pravitelstvo-obnovilo-kompleksnuju-programmu-razvitiia-elektrotransporta-621197-2024/>

<sup>71</sup> Gorbunov, A. "Power reserve 400 km, spare parts are cheaper". How Belarusian electric car will be more profitable than foreign ones / A. Gorbunov // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/zapas-hoda-400-km-zapchasti-desheвле-chem-belorusskij-elektromobil-budet-vygodnee-inostrannyh-624192-2024>

factories have been identified and are preparing to produce the necessary components."<sup>72</sup> . So there are reasons to believe that in 2025 the Belarusian electric passenger car may be put into mass production.

As for Belarusian electric **buses**, at the end of March 2024, two electric transport pilot projects involving two domestic manufacturers of electric passenger transport have already been implemented in two regions of Belarus - the Mogilev and Minsk regions. Firstly, 15 modern electric buses produced by BKM Holding (formerly Belkommunmash) have started operating in Shklou district. They will operate on three urban and 19 suburban routes. "Electric buses are designed for 31 passenger seats, another 36 people will be able to travel in them standing. There is space for a wheelchair and a baby pram. Also in the cabin you can find connectors for charging gadgets, a 'warm' button for demanding a stop, installed both inside and outside"<sup>73</sup> . In addition, eight charging stations were set up in Shklov to service the new public transport. Secondly, 14 new electric passenger buses manufactured at the Minsk Automobile Plant were put into service in Zhodino. This pilot project involves the complete replacement of diesel buses on city routes. "The electric buses have 285 kWh batteries located on the roof, which provides the maximum number of seats. The autonomous driving range is 250 kilometres and the total passenger capacity is 66 people."<sup>74</sup> . In addition, the vehicles are equipped with air conditioning and microclimate system of the driver's cabin. In the cabin there are video

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<sup>72</sup> Belarus is preparing for serial production of domestic electric cars [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-belarusi-gotovjatsja-k-serijnomu-proizvodstvu-otechestvennyh-legkovyh-elektromobilej-624868-2024>

<sup>73</sup> Convenience and environmental friendliness. New electric buses will go on the routes in Shklou district [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/udobstvo-i-ekologichnost-novye-elektrobusy-v-vidut-na-marshrutv-v-shklovskom-raione-623982-2024>

<sup>74</sup> Parkhomchik: Zhodzina is provided with the necessary infrastructure for the operation of urban electric transport [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/parhomchik-zhodino-obespechen-neobhodimoi-infrastrukturaj-dlja-raboty-gorodskogo-elektrotransporta-624337-2024/>

cameras, information system with a scoreboard and USB-ports for charging various types of devices. And in general, it seems that the pilot project to provide electric transport will continue throughout the country - "the Vitebsk region is next in line, most likely the industrial city of Novopolotsk"<sup>75</sup>.

Now let's see how the work on the creation of electric trucks at a number of Belarusian enterprises is developing. Back in early 2022, BKM Holding (formerly Belkommunmash) presented its first electric truck Vitovt Truck Electro Prime, which started delivering goods to one of Minsk retail chains in February last year. The novelty is able to "carry a load of up to 7.8 tonnes at a speed of 90 km/h without recharging. Power reserve up to 200 kilometres. <...> Full charging in this mode is 90 minutes"<sup>76</sup>. For several months the electric truck, delivering goods from the logistics centre to hypermarkets, "rolled" more than 12 thousand kilometres. And on the whole, the tests were successful. But the creators of the novelty must still solve several related issues. For example, "the electric truck must be redesigned, as some of the components were from European countries, but now they are unavailable for the Belarusian company. They need to be replaced"<sup>77</sup>. The second issue is that while the electric truck is more expensive than a conventional one, so it's very expensive to take such a vehicle. Now the creators of the novelty are in the process of its

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<sup>75</sup> Parkhomchik: the pilot project to provide cities with electric transport will continue [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/parhomchik-pilotnyi-proekt-po-obespecheniju-gorodov-elektrotransportom-budet-prodolzhatsja-623973-2024/>

<sup>76</sup> The first Belarusian electric truck of "BKM Holding" undergoes experimental operation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/pervyj-belorusskij-elektricheskij-gruzovik-bkm-holdinga-prohodit-opytuju-ekspluatatsiju-555820-2023/>

<sup>77</sup> "The market is not ready yet, but there is interest". Is there a future for Belarusian electric trucks? [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/rvnok-poka-ne-gotov-no-interes-imeetsja-est-li-budushee-u-belorusskikh-elektrogruzovikov-599641-2023/>

finalisation. But in the current year the results obtained can be very interesting.

The Minsk Automobile Plant is also engaged in this topic, where there is a separate division that develops electric transmission and adaptive control systems, telematics and mechatronics. This variant of the electric truck "is designed to transport goods up to 4.5 tonnes for a distance of up to 200 km without recharging (urban and suburban routes). At the same time, an almost one hundred per cent level of localisation of development and production has been achieved, which ensures import-independence of the component base and intellectual component used in it"<sup>78</sup>. The development of this promising new product shows that it has a future and even plans to increase capacity for such production.

Another important element of the Comprehensive Programme for the Development of Electric Transport for 2021-2025 is the provision of electric charging stations (ECS). For reference, we note that "Belarus has a deployed network of charging stations for electric vehicles, the total number of which exceeds 1,000"<sup>79</sup>. Among them, as of 1 January 2024, the network of charging stations of RUE "Production Association "Belarusneft" consisted of 690 stations. Of them 432 are located in Minsk region and the capital, 55 in Brest region, 48 in Vitebsk region, 62 in Gomel region, 62 in Grodno region and 35 in Mogilev region. And "Belarusneft" plans to develop this network. In addition, "new super-fast charging complexes are being actively designed, which combine the most modern that is available in the charging infrastructure. By 2030, the number of such complexes in the country

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<sup>78</sup> MAZ told how the work on the domestic electric truck is progressing [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/na-maze-rasskazali-kak-prodvigaetsja-rabota-nad-otechestvennym-elektrogruzovikom-602395-2023/>

<sup>79</sup> Karankevich: Belarus has a deployed network of charging stations, their number exceeds one thousand [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/karankevich-v-belarusi-sformirovana-razvernutaia-set-zarjadnyh-stantsij-ih-chislo-prevyshaet-tyisjachu-624347-2024>

will reach 86 units, and the charging speed of an electric car will be comparable to the speed of filling a car with petrol at a traditional petrol station"<sup>80</sup>.

Another participant of this market is JSC Vityaz, which mastered the production of stations in 2018. And "today, the company's assets include more than 20 models of electric charging stations of various modifications. The production of EV charging stations is developing in four directions: so-called ground-mounted and wall-mounted stations, fast and super-fast charging complexes"<sup>81</sup>. The annual output of such equipment in 2023 was about 300 units, which is almost one and a half times more than in 2022. However, the priority for Vityaz JSC remains the production of superfast charging complexes for charging both electric cars and electric buses, as well as electric trucks.

And a new participant of this market in Belarus in October 2023 became a network of electric charging stations SKAT, which is being created by the enterprise Belsellectrosetstroy. "The new charging stations are equipped with connectors for Chinese GB/T electric cars. They will provide both fast charging of electric cars - in 15-40 minutes, and slow charging - within 6-8 hours, depending on the capacity and equipment of the stations"<sup>82</sup>. Last year 15 such stations were produced, and in the future about 100 will be produced annually.

Finally, Belarus plans to start testing a domestic battery for electric transport by the end of 2024. "In August, the National

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<sup>80</sup> In Belarus by 2030 the network of superfast charging complexes for electric cars will reach 86 units [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-belarusi-k-2030-godu-set-superbvstryh-zariadnyh-kompleksov-dlja-elektrokarov-dostignet-86-edinit-579668-2023/>

<sup>81</sup> "Vityaz" at the end of the year plans to increase the output of electric charging stations by 1.5 times [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/vityaz-po-itogam-goda-planiruet-v-15-raza-uvelichit-vypusk-elektrozariadnyh-stantsij-594575-2023/>

<sup>82</sup> A new network of electric charging stations will appear in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-belarusi-pojavitsja-novaja-set-elektrozariadnyh-stantsij-593411-2023/>

Academy of Sciences should report on the first Belarusian battery, which by the end of the year <...> should start testing"<sup>83</sup>. And it will be a very important factor in the development of the Comprehensive Electric Transport Development Programme for 2021-2025.

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<sup>83</sup> Tests of the Belarusian battery for electric transport are planned to start before the end of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ispvtanija-belorusskoj-batarei-dlja-elektrotransporta-planirujut-nachat-do-konsa-goda-624870-2024/>



## **International Economic Forums as a route to investment projects and promising proposals**

Annual international regional economic forums in Belarus have already become an obvious necessity so that representatives of state bodies, business circles and foreign partners could find common ground, get acquainted, communicate and come to the conclusion of mutually beneficial agreements. Last autumn, such forums were held in several Belarusian regional centres, which showed a high level of interest in international cooperation, in establishing and expanding trade, economic and investment interaction.

In September 2024, the annual **Gomel Economic Forum** was held for the 18th time, which has become a recognised and authoritative platform for discussing topical issues of international trade and economic, investment interaction, establishing reliable long-term interregional and cooperation ties. During its history this forum has turned into the main business event of Gomel region, "which has 107 signed documents worth \$2 billion 600 million, creation of thousands of jobs. And <...> not only in big cities such as Gomel, Zhlobin, Mozyr, Rechitsa and Svetlogorsk, but also in distant from the centre districts of Lelchitsy, Zhitkovichy"<sup>84</sup>, as well as in the districts affected by the Chernobyl accident. In general, pursuing a consistent policy of strengthening mutual contacts and friendly relations with foreign partners, the Belarusian south-eastern region at the level of the region, towns and district centres has already concluded more than 250 international cooperation agreements with two dozen countries. "Behind this figure is the creation of joint ventures, performance of

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<sup>84</sup> Krupko about Gomel forum: a solid basis for the creation of a smart economy [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/krupko-o-gomelskom-forume-prochnaja-osnova-dlja-sozdaniya-umnoj-ekonomiki-662391-2024/>

research and development work..."<sup>85</sup>. And since the beginning of 2024, Gomel region has already received 18 official delegations from seven countries.

This time, the economic forum in the city above Sozh brought together more than 400 participants from 16 countries, where, along with regular partners, representatives of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Vietnam, India, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, and Zimbabwe took part. The business programme was devoted to the key issues of the Belarusian region in the sphere of industry, exports, innovations and investments, as well as the work of small and medium-sized businesses. The plenary part of the forum was devoted to the prospects and possible areas of cooperation between Gomel region and foreign partners. Important aspects of business relations were also discussed at the thematic sections, which were devoted to production and construction potential, tourism and social sphere, small and medium business. The theme of investments became a particularly rich section of the forum. Suffice it to say that "there are more than 80 objects for investment, mostly in the real sector of the economy. This is no coincidence: it is the industrial complex that is the locomotive of the region's economy"<sup>86</sup>.

For example, in Lelchitsky district they offer a project to develop a deposit of ultra-presh water. This is a real opportunity to compete with world-famous brands. Such production facilities have not yet been created either in Belarus or in neighbouring countries. The water has extremely low mineralisation and can be used in dietary and children's nutrition. There is an explored deposit of gypsum in Petrikov district,

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<sup>85</sup> Krupko: more than 250 international agreements have been concluded at the level of Gomel region and district centres [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/krupko-na-urovne-gomelskoj-oblasti-i-rajsentrov-zakliucheno-bolee-250-mezhdunarodnyh-dogovorov-662333-2024/>

<sup>86</sup> More than 80 objects for investment are offered at the Gomel Economic Forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bolee-80-obiektov-dlja-investirovaniya-predlagajut-na-gomelskom-ekonomicheskom-forume-662389-2024/>

which has already been prepared for industrial development. According to the results of preliminary exploration in the western and eastern sections of the mineral reserves are 120 and 125 million tonnes respectively. Also noted is the objectively favourable position of the deposit - 11 kilometres from the railway station and close to the Pripyat River. Organising the production of primary aluminium and its alloys on the basis of the Zaozerne bauxite-dawsonite ore deposit is an actual proposal for investors in the Yelsky district. "The deposit is forecast to contain over 182 million tonnes of ore. Two mining options are available to potential investors: the shaft method and through a borehole."<sup>87</sup> . Especially since the demand for aluminium is constantly growing. The spectrum of aluminium applications ranges from aviation and space to construction and chemical industries.

Returning to the prospects and possible areas of co-operation of Gomel region with foreign countries, it should be noted that among the active participants of the forum from the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States was Kazakhstan, whose potential for co-operation with the Belarusian south-eastern region is simply enormous. This, first of all, concerns issues of industrial co-operation and agriculture. For example, "in Kazakhstan, within the framework of co-operation, an assembly production of machinery has been set up jointly with Gomselmash, which is successfully developing"<sup>88</sup> . Within the framework of the economic forum, the parties agreed that the number of joint projects will increase.

The partners from Uzbekistan informed the forum about the development of a new project with Belarus. The prerequisite for active

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<sup>87</sup> "Transparent gold", gypsum, aluminium. What subsoil riches are offered in the Gomel region to investors [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/prozrachnoe-zoloto-gips-aluminij-kakie-bogatstva-nedr-predlagajut-v-gomelskoj-oblasti-investoram-662828-2024/>

<sup>88</sup> Gomel region intends to expand cooperation with partners from Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaja-oblast-namerena-rasshirjat-sotrudnichestvo-s-partnerami-iz-kazahstana-662369-2024/>

interaction was the memorandum on cooperation and creation of investment projects signed about six months ago between the free economic zones (FEZ) Kokand and Gomel-Raton. The Uzbek FEZ was established in 2017. And now it is interested in the experience of Gomel producers in the mechanical engineering industry, as well as milk processing. Currently, negotiations on the creation of a joint project with the Belarusian company are ongoing. Apparently, "a Belarusian-Uzbek investment project on milk processing, production of milk powder, cheese, kefir..." will soon be implemented...<sup>89</sup>

If we talk about partners of Homiel region in Asian countries, we should first of all mention China. Within the framework of the economic forum, in particular, the representatives of the Chinese province of Hebei identified benchmarks for new directions of strengthening co-operation with Homiel region. "There is interest in development of co-operation in the field of woodworking. In one of the cities of the province there is a large furniture production, accordingly, <...> there are great needs in purchasing wood..."<sup>90</sup>. In addition, there is a bearing manufacturing plant in the Chinese region. And in this respect, there could be another area for potential co-operation with Belarusian partners.

The intention to strengthen cooperation on various positions with prospective partners from Mongolia was outlined by the Homiel side at the forum, stressing that 2024 was a starting point for intensifying cooperation and raising it to a qualitatively new level, and this year also opened a new page in the history of Belarusian-Mongolian partnership

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<sup>89</sup> It will turn out to be a superproduct. The representative of FEZ "Kokand" announced a new Belarusian-Uzbek project [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/poluchitsja-superprodukt-predstavitel-sez-kokand-anonsiroval-novij-belorussko-uzbetskij-proekt-662558-2024/>

<sup>90</sup> Promsector and woodworking. Gomelshchina and the Chinese province of Hebei outlined the sphere for integration [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/promsektor-i-derevoobrabotka-gomelschina-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-hebei-nametili-sfery-dlja-integratsii-662539-2024/>

ties. Interesting prospects are seen "in agriculture, industry, and food production"<sup>91</sup>. We are talking about specific agreements: from supplies of Gomselmash mowers to studying the maintenance and feeding of farm animals in the best farms of Mozyr district.

As for the United Arab Emirates (UAE), it is the main trade partner of the Belarusian south-eastern region among the Arab states of the Persian Gulf. Suffice it to say that "only exports of dairy products produced in the Gomel region increased almost nine times by the end of last [2023] year"<sup>92</sup>. Homiel enterprises and organisations also supply the UAE with flour confectionery and carpentry products, as well as computer and construction services. Speaking about the most promising areas of partnership with Homiel, the Emirati side mentioned such areas of cooperation as agricultural technologies, food products, food security, "green technologies", clean energy, as well as interregional cooperation, as the parties are planning to adopt an important document in the nearest future - "a memorandum on the establishment of twinning relations between Homiel and the Emirate of Fujairah"<sup>93</sup>.

Another vector of strengthening international ties with African countries was also outlined at the 18th Gomel Economic Forum. In particular, it was about Zimbabwe. The fact is that in 2023 Gomel agricultural machinery proved itself perfectly on the fields of this South African country. After all, with the help of this machinery "last year farmers in Zimbabwe gathered a record harvest of wheat. The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water Resources and Rural

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<sup>91</sup> From machinery to sweets. What are the points of contact between Gomel region and Mongolia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/ot-tehniki-dosladoj-kakovy-tochki-soprikozenija-gomelskoj-oblasti-i-mongolii-662425-2024/>

<sup>92</sup> Export of dairy products of Homiel producers in the UAE increased almost nine times by the end of 2023 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/eksport-molochnoj-produktsii-gomelskih-proizvoditelej-v-oae-vyros-pochti-v-devjat-raz-po-itogam-2023-662349-2024/>

<sup>93</sup> Homiel and Fujairah plan to establish twinning relations [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomel-i-fudzheira-planirujut-ustanovit-pobratimskie-otnosheniia-662476-2024/>

Development of Zimbabwe gave such a high assessment of the joint government programme on mechanisation of the agricultural sector with Belarus"<sup>94</sup> . And by the end of this year, another 80 units of Gomselmash machinery will be delivered to this African country from Belarus .

Summing up the results of the 18th Gomel Economic Forum, we would like to emphasise that this annual event gives both the region and each enterprise of the region an opportunity to "develop, produce more products and increase exports, so that enterprises strengthen, grow and be financially stable in this difficult period"<sup>95</sup> , as well as to find new cooperation partners and establish joint production projects, giving an additional impetus to strengthening international economic and socio-cultural ties of the Gomel region.

Also in September 2024, **the Grodno International Economic Forum** was held under the motto "Modern Realities and New Opportunities", which brought together more than forty heads of enterprises, business owners, specialists of foreign economic and legal services, sales and marketing departments, as well as representatives of the diplomatic corps of Kazakhstan, Russia, Pakistan, India, Iran, Zimbabwe, Palestine, guests from sister cities, representatives of business circles of China, Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkey. This forum has become a platform for open dialogue to provide an opportunity to discuss mechanisms of cooperation in various spheres. In particular, the thematic sections "Free economic zones as a driver of regional economic development", "E-commerce as a tool for export promotion",

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<sup>94</sup> "Gomselmash" intends to supply a large batch of machinery to Zimbabwe by the end of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-nameren-postavit-v-zimbabwe-krupnuju-partiju-tehniki-do-kontsa-goda-662341-2024/>

<sup>95</sup> Krupko: Gomel Economic Forum gives an additional impetus to the development of international relations [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/krupko-gomelskij-ekonomicheskij-forum-daet-dopolnitelnyj-impuls-v-razvitii-mezhdunarodnyh-svyezj-662566-2024/>

"Industrial and health tourism" spoke about expanding the vectors along which mutually beneficial ties will move forward.

Speaking about Grodno Region as a whole, it has achieved the highest growth of gross regional product in 2024 among other Belarusian regions - more than 108 per cent. In Grodno region, much attention is paid to the development of cities. In particular, Lida district has become one of the three leaders in Belarus in the development of cities with a population exceeding 80 thousand people. Besides, the programme "One District - One Project" is being successfully implemented in the region. In fact, it has already gone beyond its name. Practically every second district has two or three modern projects"<sup>96</sup> . And in terms of exports, the region has already increased supplies abroad by three per cent in 2024. Today Grodno region's products are present in the markets of more than a hundred countries of the world and are actively entering the states of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Suffice it to say that this year "exports to the countries of the far arc have increased significantly: twice - to China, three times - to India"<sup>97</sup> .

Speaking in particular about Grodno itself - the place of the international forum, this city with an open economy maintains trade and economic relations with 109 countries of the world. Its enterprises annually export products worth more than one billion dollars. Grodno is actively strengthening international relations. An important fact: over the last four years signed co-operation agreements with three Chinese cities (Lanzhou, Haikou and Lohe), two Russian cities (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Krasnodar), one Azerbaijani city (Gabala). In Grodno itself, major investment projects to create new enterprises and

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<sup>96</sup> Chebotar at the international forum in Hrodna: we have a quality economy, and it attracts investors [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/chebotar-na-mezhdunarodnom-forume-v-grodno-u-nas-kachestvennaja-ekonomika-i-ona-privlekaet-investorov-659331-2024/>

<sup>97</sup> Grodno region in the current year has doubled exports to China, three times - to India [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/grodnenskaja-oblast-v-tekuschem-godu-v-dva-raza-narastila-eksport-v-kitaj-v-tri-raza-v-indiju-659407-2024/>

production facilities have been implemented and continue, social facilities are being built, new infrastructure is being created and existing infrastructure is being improved. "The realities of today give an incentive to rebuild, to find new approaches to development, to reboot, to lay a new foundation for successful growth. Grodno presented at the forum proposals for potential investors on vacant land plots, real estate objects..."<sup>98</sup>. The effectiveness of the trade and economic policy of the regional centre is also evidenced by several cooperation agreements signed, for example, with the Azerbaijani city of Gabala and the Chinese city of Lunan in September 2024.

Within the thematic section of the forum - "Free Economic Zones as a Driver of Regional Economic Development" - examples of successful implementation of investment projects by residents of FEZ "Grodnoinvest" were discussed. "The priority in the work of this FEZ is the development of investment sites in the districts"<sup>99</sup>. It is expected that by the end of the current five-year period FEZ residents will provide a significant increase in investments, exports and wages of the enterprises' employees. And during the Regional universal exhibition of Grodno's achievements organised at the forum, where about forty leading enterprises and organisations of the city showed their products, services and innovative developments to the residents of the region and foreign guests, 16 of them were residents of the FEZ "Grodnoinvest". In particular, "the residents presented their trade and economic potential: JSC "Grodortorgmash", LLC "PCC Consumer Products Navigator", LLC "Biocom", LLC "Cosy Eurohome Premium", LLC

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<sup>98</sup> Six agreements with foreign partners concluded at the economic forum in Hrodna [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/shest-soglashenij-s-zarubezhnyimi-partnerami-zakliucheny-na-ekonomicheskom-forume-v-grodno-659365-2024/>

<sup>99</sup> Ministry of Economy: the priority in the work of FEZ "Grodnoinvest" is the development of investment sites in the districts [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-prioritet-v-rabote-sez-grodnoinvest-razvitie-investitsionnyh-ploschadok-v-rajonah-672104-2024/>



"TechnoKhimReagentBel", PT LLC "Tayfun", CJSC "NPO "Vektor", LLC "Terrazit Plus", JV CJSC "Bigan", LLC "ServicePromPak", LLC "Medlen", OJSC "Belkard", JLLC "Conte Spa", OJSC "Gronitex", JLLC "ZOV-LENEVROMEBEL" and LLC "EUEcoPak"<sup>100</sup>. It remains to add that at the plenary session of the forum, co-operation agreements were signed between the Administration of FEZ Grodnoinvest and the Municipal People's Government of Lunan, the Representation of Nizhny Novgorod Region in Belarus and the Turkish company Vin Logistic.

The experience of the Grodno branch of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) was presented at the thematic section of the forum - "Electronic Trade as a Tool for Export Promotion". It should be noted that at the end of eight months of 2024 the amount of export transactions made by economic entities of Grodno region on the BUTB "exceeded \$155 million, which is 13.4 times more than in January-August 2023"<sup>101</sup>. The bulk of sales came from agricultural and woodworking products. The specific weight of these commodity groups in the structure of exchange exports of Grodno enterprises amounted to almost 90 and 10 per cent, respectively. This year companies from 19 countries purchased goods of Grodno producers at the exchange trading. Dairy products, sugar, meat products, rapeseed oil and softwood sawn timber were in the greatest demand among foreign importers. Thus, participation in the Grodno International Economic Forum gave an additional opportunity to inform not only Grodno enterprises, but also non-residents of the Republic of Belarus about the possibilities of exchange trading.

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<sup>100</sup> Grodno International Economic Forum was held with the participation of FEZ "Grodnoinvest". [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/grodnenskiy-mezhdunarodnyj-forum-sostovalsya-pri-uchastii-sez-grodnoinvest/>

<sup>101</sup> Exchange export of enterprises of Grodno region increased 13 times [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoj-eksport-predpriyatij-grodnenskoj-oblasti-vyros-v-13-raz-659464-2024/>

Returning to the motto of this economic forum in Grodno - "Modern realities and new opportunities", we emphasise that Grodno region is a dynamically developing territory with huge opportunities and comfortable business climate. "The key task of exporting enterprises is new geography and new logistic relations"<sup>102</sup>. So this forum was another concrete step to build long-lasting relationships with prospective international partners in terms of mutually beneficial co-operation.

Finally, in October 2024, **Mogilev** hosted two international forums at once: the **15th economic forum - "Mill of Success"**; the **2nd cooperation forum - on import substitution of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states**. In the first case this forum is a traditional presentation platform for production and investment projects of Mogilev region and the most promising proposals in the sphere of trade and economic, investment and industrial cooperation. The second one is aimed at finding alternative suppliers of products - raw materials, equipment, components - for exporting companies, establishing strong co-operation ties between producers and consumers of SCO enterprises. The participants of these international events included government officials, diplomats and businessmen from such countries as China, Tajikistan, India, Iran, Pakistan and Russia. The sections of the forum discussed "issues of sectoral problems, import substitution, support for exporters, new logistics routes and transport corridors, financial market instruments, topical tasks of the process of integration of regional business into the global economic space"<sup>103</sup>.

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<sup>102</sup> Sidorkevich, D. Plenary session opened a series of events of the Grodno International Economic Forum / D. Sidorkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: [https://grodnonews.by/news/vlast/plenarnoe\\_zasedanie\\_otkrvlo\\_cheredu\\_meropriyatiy\\_gro\\_dnenskogo\\_mezhdunarodnogo\\_ekonomicheskogo\\_foruma.html](https://grodnonews.by/news/vlast/plenarnoe_zasedanie_otkrvlo_cheredu_meropriyatiy_gro_dnenskogo_mezhdunarodnogo_ekonomicheskogo_foruma.html)

<sup>103</sup> New markets, import substitution. Two major economic forums will be held in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novye-rynki-sbyta->

It should be noted that the holding of these authoritative forums of economic and co-operative orientation testifies to the fact that every year and constantly growing interest in the economy of Mogilev region, which has managed to restructure its work in the new conditions and has entered the trajectory of sustainable growth. Suffice it to say that "2023 the region finished the year with the growth rate of gross regional product 101.6%, in the current year to this base it is growing at the rate of 105.8%"<sup>104</sup>. Today, the Mogilev region specialises in agricultural machinery, chemical products and fabrics, wood products and food production. Two out of three Belarusian cement plants are located in the region. All Belarusian tyres and lifts are also produced there.

Within the framework of the 15th economic forum "Mill of Success" new specific business ideas were announced, which may soon be realised with international participation. It is about the implementation of "projects for the production of fodder additives, organic soils and fertilisers, the creation of new complexes of meat production for the purpose of further processing of beef and its export, as well as the creation of advanced wood processing and tourism development"<sup>105</sup>. Moreover, for an open dialogue in this Belarusian region there are all the necessary tools for business support: free economic zone "Mogilev", Mogilev Regional Development Agency, Mogilev branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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[importozameschenie-dva-krupnyh-ekonomicheskikh-foruma-projduit-v-mogileve-667334-2024/](https://belta.by/economics/view/importozameschenie-dva-krupnyh-ekonomicheskikh-foruma-projduit-v-mogileve-667334-2024/)

<sup>104</sup> "Presenting Mogilev region and Belarus". Two major economic forums opened in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/prezentuem-mogilevskuju-oblast-i-belarus-dva-krupnyh-ekonomicheskikh-foruma-otkrilis-v-mogileve-668921-2024/>

<sup>105</sup> Isachenko about "Mill of Success": the forum became a platform for meetings with reliable friends and new partners [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/isachenko-o-melnitse-uspeha-forum-stal-ploschadkoi-dlja-vstrech-s-nadezhnymi-druzijami-i-novymi-668855-2024/>

They create favourable conditions and promote the development of business relations with foreign partners and investors.

Another unique advantage of Mogilev region is the south-eastern region, which includes seven districts where exclusive favourable conditions have been created. These include a guaranteed return to the investor of 35 per cent of the costs incurred in implementing the project, reduced payroll deductions for both organisations and employees, and a simplified procedure for granting land plots and real estate. Finally, the construction of all necessary infrastructure - electricity, gas, water, roads - will be done entirely at the expense of the budget.

As for the 2nd Cooperation Forum on Import Substitution of SCO Member States, several key areas were formulated in Mogilev, which will contribute to a more effective joint use of the emerging opportunities of this international organisation. Firstly, it is industrial cooperation and investment co-operation. After all, the division of production into stages and components according to the principle of relative advantages will not only optimise production processes, but also increase the competitiveness of goods on international markets. Secondly, it is the development of transport and logistics infrastructure, as the modernisation of transport corridors and the creation of logistics hubs will significantly reduce the time and costs of goods delivery. Thirdly, it is personnel co-operation, exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of training specialists. And "Belarus, as a new full-fledged member of the SCO, is ready to make every effort to improve the organisation's efficiency in the areas of economy and security, using its transit, industrial and scientific potential, as well as its experience in peacekeeping and multilateral diplomacy"<sup>106</sup>.

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<sup>106</sup> "External restrictions open a window of opportunity". Naumovich at the economic forum in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

Let us recall that our country has a number of preferences: six free economic zones, the High Technology Park, attractive operating regimes in small and medium-sized cities, rural areas, the Bremino-Orsha Special Economic Zone, and the China-Belarus Great Stone Industrial Park. So today a window of opportunity is opening for both Belarus and other SCO countries in terms of industrial cooperation and active development of import-substituting projects to explore new horizons for interaction and strive for constructive dialogue and knowledge sharing. For reference, we note that "the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, with almost 40% of the world's population and about 30% of the world's GDP, offers huge opportunities for trade and investment"<sup>107</sup>. And this forum in Mogilev offered a wide range of support for joint initiatives and quality conditions for investment to eventually achieve significant joint results.

To summarise. All these facts show that international economic forums in Belarus, and some of them have already existed for more than 15 years, give new impulses to the development of regions, strengthening of the innovation economy, as well as stimulate regional initiatives with international participation to ensure sustainable development of territories.

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<https://belta.by/economics/view/vneshnie-ogranichenija-otkryvajut-okno-vozmozhnostej-naumovich-na-ekonomicheskom-forume-v-mogileve-668949-2024/>

<sup>107</sup> "When there is economic interest, everything else develops". Participant of the economic forum in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kogda-est-ekonomicheskij-interes-razvivaetsja-vse-ostalnoe-uchastnik-ekonomicheskogo-foruma-v-mogileve-668917-2024/>

## In order to promote trade and economic interests

Every year, Belarus approves the Plan of National Exhibitions in Foreign Countries. Its distinctive feature is the Belarusian side's focus on promoting its trade and economic interests in the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America - Vietnam, Mongolia, South Korea, India, China, Turkey, Qatar, Iran, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Brazil. In this regard, the Asian continent is particularly important, where "there are still many opportunities in this direction <...>. In order to successfully use them, it is necessary to continue systematic and consistent work, developing mutual interest and initiating new formats of contacts, as is actually happening in the development of partnership relations with a number of Asian countries"<sup>108</sup>, including **Vietnam, Iran, Mongolia, Turkey, Pakistan, China**, where Belarusian exporters actively participate in specialised exhibition events.

It is characteristic that Belarus' representatives are not participating in a number of exhibition events for the first time, but are already using their previous experience in promoting their interests. **This** includes, in particular, the **Vietnam Expo** trade fair, which has been held annually since 1990 and is one of the largest in Southeast Asia, regularly attracting hundreds of exhibitors and tens of thousands of professional visitors. In December 2018, this business event was held in Ho Chi Minh City for the 16th time. Belarus was represented at the event with a national exposition, with more than 50 large enterprises participating, focusing "on knowledge-intensive, complex technical products, as well as agricultural and food products"<sup>109</sup>.

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<sup>108</sup> Zalesky, B. Horizons of the far arc. The potential of interaction between the Republic of Belarus and the countries of Asia and Africa / B. Zalesky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2022. - C. 25.

<sup>109</sup> Grishkevich, A. The national exposition of Belarus is presented at the trade exhibition in Ho Chi Minh City / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL:

In particular, only Belarusian State University (BSU) presented then about 30 scientific and technical developments in agriculture, instrumentation, chemistry, healthcare, information technologies. "In particular, the exposition included a complex microbial preparation "Zhytsen". Its use has proven its effectiveness in increasing the yield of grain crops, it improves soil quality and accelerates the decomposition of stubble and straw"<sup>110</sup>. Here were also presented BSU biopesticides for integrated plant protection "Aurin", "Stimul", which are used to stimulate the growth and development of plants, their protection from bacterial and fungal infections. The visitors of the exhibition were also very interested in ultrasonic gas metering devices, remote monitoring device for mobile objects "Agent B-602", medical unit of general hyperthermia "Ptich-M", anticancer drugs, disinfectants, edible packaging films.

In Ho Chi Minh City, such enterprises as OJSC Krinitza, OJSC Belsolod, JV OJSC Spartak, OJSC Minsk Kristall - Managing Company of Minsk Kristall Group Holding, OJSC Minsk Sparkling Wine Factory, OJSC Slodych Confectionery Factory, SOAO Kommunarka, OJSC Krasny Foodshedivik, OJSC Krasny Mozyryanin, OJSC Lidapischekoncentraty demonstrated the possibilities of Belarusian food exports. Their interest in this business forum can be explained by the fact that "Vietnam is not only a favourable consumer market with more than 92 million people, but also a kind of trade gateway to the whole region of South-East Asia, the population of which exceeds 600 million people"<sup>111</sup>.

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<https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-predstavlena-na-torgovoi-vystavke-v-hoshimine-328209-2018/>

<sup>110</sup> BSU will present scientific and technical developments at the trade fair in Vietnam [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-predstavit-nauchno-tehnicheskie-razrabotki-na-torgovoi-iarmarke-vo-vietname-327981-2018/>

<sup>111</sup> Enterprises of Belgospischeprom will present their products at an exhibition in Vietnam [Electronic resource]. - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriyatija-belgospischeproma-predstavjat-produksiju-na-vystavke-vo-vietname-327182-2018/>

In 2022, more than 350 companies from 16 countries, including China, the USA, Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Cuba, took part in this forum. Belarus presented more than 100 scientific, technical and innovative developments in the field of high-tech equipment at this forum. The event is held under the auspices of Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade. "The themes of the exhibition are IT and telecommunications, science and education, engineering and industrial equipment, agriculture, food, pharmaceutical and medical products, construction materials, chemical products, light industry, consumer goods"<sup>112</sup>.

As for **Iran**, the International Exhibition of Agriculture and Food Industry Iran Agrofood was held in June 2022. The National Exposition of the Republic of Belarus was organised at the Tehran International Exhibition Centre. This forum is a key sectoral event in the field of food production and agriculture in Iran. The main sections of the exhibition are: agricultural machinery, food and beverages, equipment for their production, catering, storage and packaging, ingredients. The exhibition is held annually. In 2021, 311 organisations and enterprises became its participants. This time Belarus, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Germany, Turkey, the Netherlands and others presented their products. Belarusian manufacturers showed a wide variety of products. Thus, the range of goods of the confectionery factory "Vitba" included more than 100 items, including breakfast cereals, waffles and biscuits.

The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus showed innovative developments in several areas. For example, the Scientific and Practical Centre for Animal Husbandry of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus offered a number of veterinary drugs and bio-additives based on nanoparticles for farm animals. The Belarusian State

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<sup>112</sup> More than 100 projects will be presented by Belarus at the Vietnam Expo [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bolce-100-proektov-predstavit-belarus-na-vystavke-vietnam-expo-495765-2022/>



Technological University presented to the guests of the exhibition "new types of mineral fertilisers, technologies of processing agricultural waste to produce construction and composite materials, technologies of processing plant raw materials and medicinal herbs to produce biologically active additives, new methods of quality analysis of flax and flax products"<sup>113</sup>. Belarusian State University presented 15 scientific and technical developments at the international exhibition Iran Agrofood. Among BSU's innovations are edible films and coatings based on polysaccharides and plant antimicrobial and antioxidant additives. "They are the only type of biodegradable polymer packaging that does not need sorting and special disposal conditions, preserves the taste, flavour, aesthetic appearance and sterility of products. The new type of wrapping is non-toxic, fully degradable in the human and animal body, able to reduce the use of plastic by times"<sup>114</sup>.

And in **Mongolia**, in September 2022, the National Exposition of Belarus was presented at the 47th International Multidisciplinary Exhibition Ulaanbaatar Partnership in Ulaanbaatar. The exposition was attended by major export-oriented Belarusian companies - producers of food products, pharmaceutical products, machine-building enterprises, scientific and technical organisations and others. "The Ulaanbaatar Partnership exhibition has a universal character and covers a wide range of thematic sections: food and beverages, agriculture, engineering, construction, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, light industry, consumer electronics. The event is one of the largest multi-sectoral exhibitions in Mongolia: in 2021 it gathered 110 companies and 12

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<sup>113</sup> A wide range of Belarusian goods will be presented at the exhibition Iran Agrofood [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shirokij-spektr-belorusskikh-tovarov-budet-predstavlen-na-vystavke-iran-agrofood-507944-2022/>

<sup>114</sup> Edible films, vitamins, veterinary preparations: BSU presents 15 developments at exhibitions in Iran [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sjedobnye-plenki-vitaminy-vetpreparaty-bgu-predstavljajet-15-razrabotok-na-vystavke-v-irane-508439-2022/>

thousand visitors"<sup>115</sup>. Belarus took part in the exhibition in Ulaanbaatar in the format of a national exposition in 2019. At that time, the exposition presented the products and services of 15 companies: organisations of mechanical engineering, food industry, science and education. The business programme included a Belarusian-Mongolian business forum with the participation of representatives of 60 Mongolian enterprises.

In **Turkey**, the national exposition of Belarus was presented in early November 2022 in Istanbul as part of the international multidisciplinary exhibition MUSIAD Expo. The participation of domestic enterprises and organisations in the national exposition at this exhibition helped establish new business contacts with potential partners, increase Belarusian exports and diversify the product mix. Turkey is an important partner of Belarus. "Last year, trade turnover between the two countries totalled \$1081.6 million (146% by 2020), including exports of \$360.5 million (270%) and imports of \$721.1 million (119%). In 2021, the turnover of services between Belarus and Turkey totalled \$94.8 million (162%), exports - \$52.8 million (134%), imports - \$42 million (220%)"<sup>116</sup>. As for the Istanbul Expo, MUSIAD Expo is Turkey's largest biennial multi-disciplinary event. In 2020, it was attended by more than 500 companies and over 100 thousand visitors from 125 countries. The main sections of the exhibition are food industry, agriculture, construction, mechanical and automotive engineering, machine tools, metallurgy, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, services, tourism, real estate, consumer

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<sup>115</sup> Belarus will present its exposition at the exhibition in Mongolia in September [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-v-sentjabre-predstavit-ekspozitsiju-na-vystavke-v-mongolii-511811-2022/>

<sup>116</sup> The national exposition of Belarus will be presented at the multi-sectoral exhibition in Turkey [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/amp/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-budet-predstavlena-na-mnogootraslevoj-vystavke-v-turtsii-514624-2022>

goods, furniture, energy, logistics, information technology, textile, clothing and footwear industries, leather goods.

In 2023, national exhibitions of Belarus will be organised in a number of other Asian countries. In particular, in **Pakistan**. Recall that at the International Trade and Industry Fair, which took place in the Pakistani city of Karachi in November 2021, the Belarusian collective stand of the State Committee for Science and Technology presented about 60 scientific, technical and innovative developments. Institutions of the Ministry of Education, as well as organisations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus showed their exhibits in the field of surface treatment and modification, chemical technologies and materials, physical materials science and new materials. "Among the most interesting developments are the technology of obtaining optically selective composite absorbing coatings for solar collectors, smart windows on bistable effect, multifunctional complex for preparation and automatic pouring of filled and unfilled multi-component hybrid-composite mixtures, technology of manufacturing energy-saving flat and flexible aluminium heaters with carbon fibre resistive element"<sup>117</sup>. This year there will be even more Belarusian participants.

Speaking about the **China** International Import Expo, which is held annually in Shanghai, in November 2022 it already became the fifth one. 27 organisations from the food industry, logistics, science and education took part in the Belarusian exposition. The Belarusian pavilion at the import fair included "two main sections: 'Food and Agricultural Products' and 'High-Tech Equipment and Information

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<sup>117</sup> About 60 Belarusian scientific and technical developments will be presented at the international exhibition in Pakistan [Electronic resource]. - 2021. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/tech/view/okolo-60-belorusskih-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-razrabotok-predstavjat-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-v-pakistane-469010-2021/>

Technologies"<sup>118</sup> . The total area of the Belarusian exposition was about 100 square metres. In 2023, it will be even larger.

It should be noted that in recent years, Belarusian expositions have also been presented on the African continent. For example, in **Kenya**, Belarus' interest in the Kenya International Trade Exhibition (KITE) business forum is explained by the fact that it is the largest exhibition event in East Africa. In 2019, our country was represented there for the first time with a national exposition at the 22nd FoodAgro International Food, Hospitality and Agriculture Exhibition in Nairobi, which is a part of KITE. At that time, the enterprises of Belgospischeprom Concern, Lidselmash Holding Management Company, Gomselmash, MTZ, MAZ, Bobruiskagromash, Lidakhleboproduct, Smorgon Bread Products Plant demonstrated their products in the capital of Kenya. Participation in the exhibition opened up "new opportunities for them to promote Belarusian agricultural machinery and equipment, fertilisers, foodstuffs, and agricultural products to the Kenyan market"<sup>119</sup> , and also pointed the way to the markets of other East and Southern African countries. In particular, a memorandum of understanding was adopted there between the official representative of Belarusian enterprises MTZ, Lidagroprommash, Bobruiskagromash, Gomselmash, Lidselmash, MAZ and Pewin Motors and an agreement was reached on the supply of Belarusian agricultural machinery - tractors, agricultural machinery and equipment, accessories. For example, only the "Managing Company of Bobruiskagromash Holding" signed an agreement to supply its machinery worth about \$500,000. "The visitors [to the exhibition] were

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<sup>118</sup> China International Import Expo opened in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/world/view/v-shanhae-otkrilas-kitajskaja-mezhdunarodnaja-vystavka-importa-533320-2022/>

<sup>119</sup> The national exposition of Belarus opened at the FoodAgro exhibition in Kenya [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-otkrilas-na-vystavke-foodagro-v-kenii-356942-2019/>

most interested in tillage equipment, tractor trailers and semi-trailers, as well as forage harvesting equipment (mowers, rakes, balers)"<sup>120</sup> . Besides, "Lidselmash OJSC and Peter Wanjohi Company have established co-operation for the construction of grain harvesting and grain processing complexes in Kenya, Uganda and other countries of the region"<sup>121</sup> . Belgospischeprom agreed to supply the first batches of sunflower oil and light canned beer to this African country. Finally, at the same time, "agreements were signed on the construction of a plant of reinforced concrete structures on Kenyan land and the creation of a fish farm worth over a hundred million dollars"<sup>122</sup> .

In **Zimbabwe** in April 2022, the national exposition of Belarus was presented at the 61st Zimbabwe International Trade Fair, the largest multi-disciplinary exhibition event in South Africa. More than 400 companies from 15 countries, including Kenya, Mozambique, the Republic of South Africa, Japan, the United States of America, showed their products. The Belarusian stand in Bulawayo displayed "a wide range of machinery and equipment, scientific and technical developments, and medicines"<sup>123</sup> . The total exhibition area of the pavilion was about 170 square metres.

Foreign importers were particularly interested in the pharmaceutical products presented at the Belarusian pavilion. In particular, representatives of Belmedpreparaty RUE, part of the

<sup>120</sup> "Bobruiskagromash" will supply Kenya with machinery and spare parts for \$500 thousand. [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-postavit-v-keniju-tehniku-i-zapchasti-na-500-tys-358196-2019/>

<sup>121</sup> Belarusian enterprises at FoodAgro agreed on the supply of agricultural machinery to Kenya [Electronic resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriiatija-na-foodagro-dogovorilis-o-postavkah-selhoztehniki-v-keniju-357705-2019/>

<sup>122</sup> Zaleskii, B.L. Belarus - Kenya: outlined promising points of growth / B.L. Zaleskii // Proceedings of the XV International Scientific Conference, Novini na nauchna progress - 2019, 15 - 22 August 2019: Sofia. "Byal GRAD-BG". - C. 3.

<sup>123</sup> The national exposition of Belarus is presented at the largest exhibition in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/natsionalnaja-ekspozitsija-belarusi-predstavlena-na-krupnejshej-vystavke-v-zimbabwe-499129-2022/>

Belpharmprom holding company, held effective negotiations. "This is expected to expand the presence of Belarusian medicines in the African market"<sup>124</sup>. The Zimbabwean side voiced its intention to develop co-operation in this area, as well as to act as representatives of Belarusian companies in the regional market. The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus signed a number of agreements on cooperation with educational institutions and scientific organisations in Zimbabwe, while BELAZ signed agreements on the supply of auto parts.

The interest of the Belarusian side to this forum is also explained by the fact that "today Zimbabwe is actively expanding mining, has significant reserves of coal, diamonds, gold, lithium, copper and is one of the promising export destinations for BELAZ machinery"<sup>125</sup>. For reference, it should be noted that Belarusian dump trucks with payloads of 55 and 130 tonnes, bulldozers, loaders, tow trucks and irrigation trucks are used in Zimbabwe. At the exhibition in Bulawayo the manufacturer from Belarus held negotiations with the National Diamond Mining Company ZCDC, "which operates more than 20 dump trucks with payload capacity of 55 tonnes and other BELAZ special equipment, as well as with the coal mining company HWANGE Colliery"<sup>126</sup>. As a result, agreements were reached on the development of already existing partnerships.

In 2023, Belarusian expositions will also be presented in other African countries - **Algeria** and **Egypt**. In particular, **Algeria** will host

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<sup>124</sup> Belarusian manufacturers of medicines will present their products at the exhibition in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-proizvoditeli-lekarstv-predstavjat-svoju-produktsiju-na-vystavke-v-zimbabve-498300-2022/>

<sup>125</sup> BELAZ will take part in the largest exhibitions on three continents [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaz-primet-uchastie-v-krupnejshih-vystavkah-na-treh-kontinentah-497525-2022/>

<sup>126</sup> BELAZ intends to develop co-operation and strengthen ties with companies in Zimbabwe [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaz-nameren-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-i-ukrepiat-delovye-svjazi-s-kompanijami-zimbabve-499547-2022/>

the FIA international exhibition. The Belarusian exposition at this exhibition forum was organised for the first time back in 2017. Back then, Belarus was represented by the products of the enterprises of the Ministry of Industry, including OJSC MAZ, OJSC Gomselmash and OJSC Minsk Electrotechnical Plant, as well as the developments of the State Committee for Science and Technology, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, and the Ministry of Education. "The exposition of Belarus at FIA 2017 aroused keen interest of representatives of Algerian state bodies, large private companies and enterprises, as well as the diplomatic corps. As a result of the negotiations held during the exhibition, memoranda of co-operation were signed between JSC MTZ and Belarus Motor Algeria, as well as between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and potential partners"<sup>127</sup>. In general, about one thousand companies from 40 countries took part in the FIA-2017 exhibition in Algeria. In 2023, apparently, the number of participants will be even higher.

As for the international exhibition of food and beverages Food Africa Cairo, which is held annually in **Cairo**, this year the Belarusian exposition will be organised at this venue for the fifth time. In December 2022, the exhibition Belarus. The Taste of Nature was presented at the **Egyptian** International Exhibition Centre. Within the framework of the exposition, 14 Belarusian companies presented a wide range of dairy, meat, starch products, as well as baked goods. Their products were demonstrated to the foreign visitors of the exhibition by "the enterprises of Grodnyasomolprom holding (OJSC Bellakt, OJSC Molochny Mir, Lida Dairy Canning Plant and its branch Smorgon Dairy Products, Rogoznitsky Starch Plant, Volkovysk and Slonim meat processing plants), as well as Agrokombinat Skidelsky,

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<sup>127</sup> Belarus and Algeria have all prerequisites for expanding co-operation - Rachkov [Electronic resource]. - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-alzhir-imejut-vse-predposylki-dlja-rasshirenija-sotrudnichestva-rachkov-247000-2017/>

Smorgon Bread Products Plant, Primilk Ltd, Lidakhleboprodukt, Slutsk Cheese Factory and Minsk Milk Plant No. 1<sup>128</sup>.

All these facts speak for one thing: participation in major exhibition events in African countries can open up new export opportunities for Belarusian enterprises, the potential of which is truly enormous. .

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<sup>128</sup> Belarusian exposition is presented at the food exhibition in Egypt [Electronic resource]. - 2022. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/beloruskaja-ekspozitsija-predstavlena-na-prodovolstvennoj-vystavke-v-egipte-538642-2022/>



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