

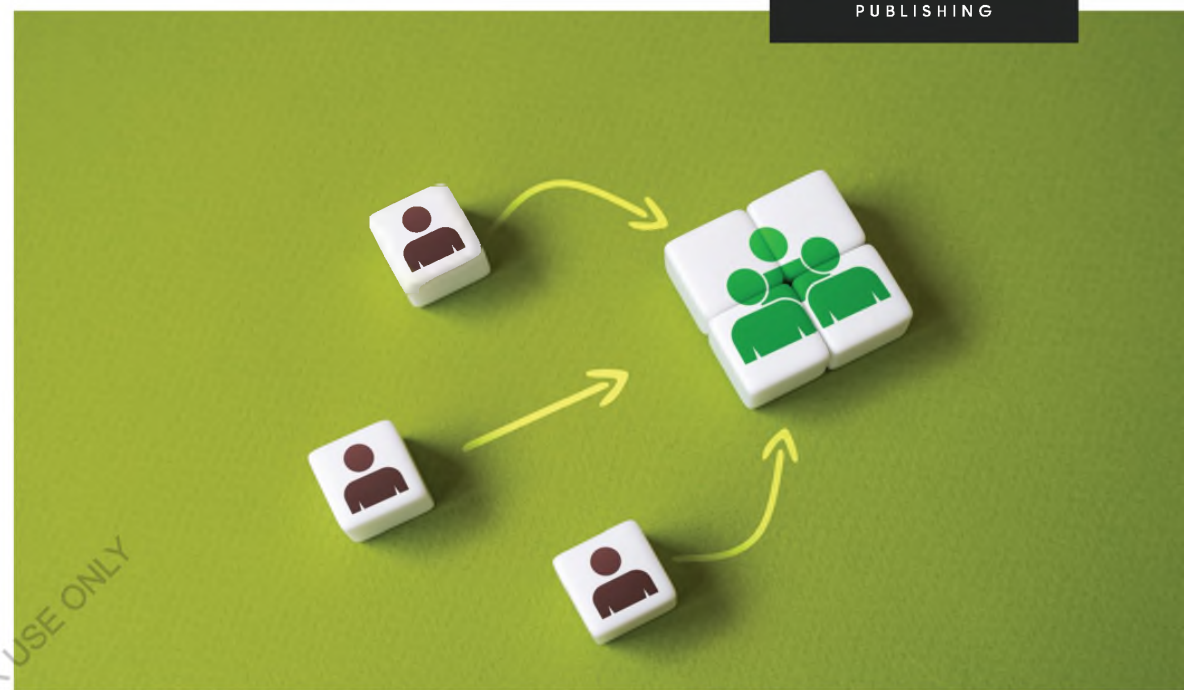
Range of cooperation

The Republic of Belarus continues to actively build up international ties and looks forward to intensifying cooperation in trade and economic, production and cooperation, science and technology, transport and logistics, investment and finance, information and communication with the states of the post-Soviet space, the "far arc", advocating the creation of a large Eurasian partnership and the implementation of joint initiatives. Especially since our republic is characterized by highly productive agriculture, developed agricultural engineering, food industry, possesses good experience, competencies in the sphere of high technologies, industry, energy. This paper analyzes the trends of cooperation between Belarus and some countries of the former Soviet Union - Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Asian continent - China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Mongolia, South Korea, Vietnam, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Turkey. How does the Belarusian side build a mechanism of joint economic sustainability in the conditions when the situation in the world is becoming more and more unpredictable? This is the subject of the proposed study.



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Priorities for deepening Belarus' economic ties with partner countries

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CHAPTER 1

Belarus - Asia:

systematic work brings results

Expanding contacts with Asian countries is an urgent task for the Republic of Belarus, as this continent is a very capacious and rapidly expanding market. For this reason, Asian partners are important for Belarus in terms of prospective interaction in trade and economic, industrial and co-operative, and scientific and technological . It should be recalled that back in 2021, the Belarusian-Asian Forum noted that "there are still many opportunities to promote Belarusian trade and economic interests in the Asian direction"¹ . But for this purpose, it is necessary to continue systematic work, initiating new formats of contacts in co-operation with a number of Asian countries. **Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Oman** are among the interesting partners of Belarus on this continent.

As for **Iran**, in October 2023, Tehran hosted the 16th meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Iranian Commission on Economic Cooperation, during which the parties discussed trade and economic, industrial, investment, banking, petrochemical cooperation, as well as healthcare and pharmaceuticals, transport and air services. Belarus and Iran agreed on a plan for further cooperation in promising areas of partnership, which "includes the implementation by the parties in the near future of activities in the areas of industrial cooperation, agriculture and veterinary medicine, health care and pharmaceuticals, transport and cooperation through chambers of commerce and industry"² . In addition, the Iranian capital hosted meetings of a mixed working group on oil cooperation, a joint Belarusian-Iranian committee on international road transport, as well as the Iran-Belarus business forum, during which "a cooperation agreement was signed between the Minsk branch of the BelCCI and the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, which will give an additional impetus to the development of Belarusian-Iranian business relations"³ .

Recall that at the 15th meeting of the mixed commission in July 2022, discussing successful bilateral projects and joint promising activities, the participants expressed interest in increasing the volume of trade turnover

¹ Zalessky, B. Vector of co-operation - Asia. Collection of articles / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. - C. 3.

² Belarus and Iran have agreed on a plan of co-operation in promising areas of interaction [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-iran-soglasovali-plan-sotrudnichestva-po-perspektivnym-napravlenij-am-vzaimodejstvija-a-592926-2023/>

³ Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Minsk and Tehran signed an agreement on co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/torgovo-promyshlennye-palaty-minska-i-tegerana-podpisali-soglasenie-o-sotrudnichestve-594460-2023/>

between the two countries. After all, "in the best years, the sides reached \$250-300 million. Therefore <...> intend to reach a trade turnover within \$500 million in a short period of time"⁴. In March 2023, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, Minsk and Tehran signed a roadmap for comprehensive co-operation for 2023-2026, which envisaged co-operation on a wide range of issues - from politics and economy to media and tourism. This systematic document allowed the parties to work through a list of specific practical measures, many of which are already being successfully implemented. "Intensive work at various levels has led to a significant increase in trade turnover.

In 2022, trade turnover tripled to the level of 2021. In the current [2023] year, it added another 25 per cent to the same period last year"⁵.

Among Belarusian exporters that are successfully developing the Iranian market, the enterprises of **Bellesbumprom Concern** stand out. In the first eight months of 2023, they increased their exports to Iran by more than 1.6 times. Belarus supplies "cellulose, plywood, wood boards" to this country⁶. At the same time, the concern plans to increase exports and expand co-operation with Iranian partners. In particular, **Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paperboard Mill** supplies bleached pulp to Iran. In October 2023, specialists of the enterprise visited the Islamic Republic to "reach a qualitatively new level of co-operation. We plan to increase the volume of exports, as well as to expand co-operation ties on the supply of chemistry from Iran necessary for the production of pulp"⁷.

When it comes to Belarusian regions interested in actively developing trade and economic relations with Iran, **Vitebsk Region** can be mentioned. The fact is that since 2022, Vitebsk Region's trade turnover with this country has multiplied, which is due to the need to build new logistics options for export cargoes. At the same time, "among the new types of products that have not been supplied to Iran before are fibreglass fabrics, wood boards, various types of acids and reagents. Vitebsk region continues to supply lumber to Iran - 49% of the trade turnover.

⁴ Zalessky, B. The Route of Interaction - Asia. Intensification of Belarus' multifaceted ties with the main economic partners on the continent / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. - C. 65.

⁵ Industrial co-operation and education. Roman Golovchenko outlined promising areas of co-operation with Iran [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10714>

⁶ Enterprises of Bellesbumprom increased export of products to Iran by more than 1.6 times [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriiatiia-bellesbumproma-uvlechili-eksport-produktsii-v-iran-bolee-chem-v-16-raza-594471-2023/>

⁷ "Bellesbumprom" plans to increase export volumes and expand co-operation ties with Iran [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bellesbumprom-planiruet-uvlechit-obiemy-eksporta-i-rasshirit-kooperatsionnye-svazi-s-iranom-594315-2023/>

The region buys fresh fruit and vegetables, which account for 98% of all purchases from this country, and medical equipment"⁸.

In November 2023, the Belarusian region offered Iranian partners to create co-operation chains in the pharmaceutical sector. After all, a pharmaceutical cluster has already been created in Vitebsk. In addition, Vitebsk specialists are ready to offer Iran petrochemical products, which occupy almost half of the industrial output of the region, ranging from glass fibre to additives for oils. Vitebsk region can also offer food products, carpets, footwear, linen products. The Iranian side also made interesting proposals for co-operation. In particular, "there are many deposits in Iran and the mining industry is developing, so we would like to co-operate with Vitebsk region in this sphere"⁹. So the parties hope not only to continue old ties, but also to find new opportunities for increasing economic partnership.

Minsk and Tehran, which signed a memorandum of co-operation back in 1995 and an agreement on establishing twinning ties in 2006, also intend to intensify their partnership in the near future. At the end of 2023, while discussing the interaction between the two capitals, the chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee V. Kukharev stressed that "Minsk is open for dialogue on a wide range of issues - from mutually beneficial trade, supplies of equipment, exchange of delegations to projects in culture and sports"¹⁰. Cooperation in tourism, health care, and the creation of joint ventures is also promising. One of the proposals is to open a trade house of Iran in the Belarusian capital.

A separate conversation is about co-operation in education. In July 2024 in Iran, Belarusian State University (BSU) signed memoranda of understanding with two higher education institutions of this country: the first with Amir Kabir University of Technology and the second with Malek Ashtar University of Technology to develop mutually beneficial international cooperation in a number of areas in education, science and technology. "In particular, it is envisaged to exchange students in study programmes at all levels, teachers and scientists, develop and implement joint educational programmes, carry out research and educational projects, exchange information, teaching materials,

⁸ Vitebsk region offered Iran to work in co-operation in pharmaceuticals [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskaja-oblast-predlozila-iranu-rabotat-v-kooperatsii-v-farmatsevtike-600855-2023/>.

⁹ Machine building, petrochemistry. Ambassador of Iran on the possibilities of cooperation with Vitebsk region [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/mashinostroenie-neftehimija-posol-irana-o-vozmozhnostiah-sotrudnichestva-s-vitebskoi-oblastju-600832-2023/>.

¹⁰ Minsk is interested in developing co-operation with Iran at the regional level [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/minsk-i-iran-aktivizirui-ut-sotrudnichestvo-na-regionalnom-urovne-602411-2023/>.

organise conferences, seminars, workshops and courses and prepare joint publications"¹¹. In addition, Malek Ashtar University of Technology is interested in developing scientific co-operation in the fields of optics, materials science and metallurgy, electrophysics, physics of polymers and composite materials. For reference, BSU cooperates with Iranian institutions within the framework of four open-ended agreements and memoranda. To promote Iranian culture and language within the specialities of the Faculty of International Relations "international relations" and "linguo-country studies" with Persian language has been studied since 2008, and the Centre of Iranian Studies has been functioning since 2010. Currently, the Department of Oriental Languages employs three teachers of Farsi, and ten citizens from Iran study at BSU.

Speaking about **Saudi Arabia**, it should be recalled that in May 2024, Riyadh hosted the third meeting of the Belarusian-Saudi Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), during which its participants identified practical steps to expand the contractual and legal framework, to develop cooperation in the areas of industry, investment, standardisation and certification, agriculture, science and technology, education, sports and tourism, medicine, and security. In addition, the parties noted "significant progress in reactivating the whole range of bilateral political, trade, economic and humanitarian relations between Belarus and Saudi Arabia and agreed to promote the maintenance of high dynamics of bilateral contacts"¹².

The first two meetings of the BCC were held in 2015 and 2016. At the first one - in Riyadh - the parties established the Belarusian-Saudi Business Council to "become a platform for fruitful interaction between representatives of business circles of the two countries. At the same time, a contract was concluded for the supply of soil mixtures from the Belarusian company EridGrow Production"¹³.

¹⁴The second - in Minsk - was the Belarusian-Saudi Business Forum and the contact and cooperation exchange under the patronage of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, where representatives of 63 enterprises and organisations from Belarus and 11 companies from Saudi Arabia took part and

¹¹ BSU signed memoranda of understanding with two universities of Iran [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/memorandumy-o-vzaimoponimanii-podpisal-bgu-s-dyumja-vuzami-irana-645726-2024/>

¹² On the third meeting of the Joint Committee for Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfaZe_dc89296_bef_ae242.html

¹³ Zalessky, B. Horizons of the far arc. The potential of interaction between the Republic of Belarus and the countries of Asia and Africa / Boris Zalessky. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2022. - C. 33.

¹⁴ Business forum "Belarus - Saudi Arabia". [Electronic resource]. - 2016. - URL: <https://www.cci.by/o-palate/novosti/biznes-forum-belarus-saudovskaya-araviva/#>

considered the prospects for expanding cooperation "in the fields of construction, chemical industry, heavy industry, energy, telecommunications, information technology, real estate, trade and investment, food production, pharmaceuticals, tourism" xml-ph-0000@deepl.in.

It should be noted that the decisions of the third meeting of the SCS focused on the expansion of the legal framework of the Belarusian-Saudi relations. For reference: since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1997, Minsk and Riyadh have adopted about ten documents that have formed the legal framework for bilateral contacts. Among them is the General Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, signed in 2003 and "regulating bilateral cooperation in trade and economic, investment, educational, scientific and technical, cultural, information, tourism, youth and sports fields"¹⁵, as well as agreements on avoidance of double taxation and mutual protection of investments signed in 2009.

In January 2024, when a Belarusian delegation led by Foreign Minister S. Aleinik visited Saudi Arabia, the parties worked out the industrial, scientific and business clusters of cooperation between the two countries, focusing on "ways to intensify scientific cooperation, identify new promising research projects and develop contacts between scientists"¹⁶. In particular, agreements were reached to resume joint work on a number of fundamental and applied projects, as well as to exchange visits of scientists and researchers from the two countries. The sides also discussed Belarus' involvement in Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, a large-scale economic diversification programme, opportunities for industrial cooperation, supplies of Belarusian machinery, and prospects for joint projects in third countries.

Following the January talks, the sides reached a number of practical agreements that will be implemented this year. For example, Minsk and Riyadh will create a coordinating structure to promote mutual trade. For this purpose, in January this year, "a memorandum of understanding was signed between the National Centre for Marketing [NCM] and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry [of Saudi Arabia]"¹⁷. And recently, the next very important step was

¹⁵ Saudi Arabia [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://export.by/saudi-arabia>

¹⁶ Prospects for new projects in science and economy. Aleynik's visit to Saudi Arabia is completed [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/perspektivy-dlja-novyh-proektov-v-nauke-i-ekonomike-zavershen-vizit-alejnika-v-saudovskuju-araviju-608909-2024/>

¹⁷ Belarus and Saudi Arabia will set up a coordinating structure to promote mutual trade [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-saudovskaja-aravija-sozdatut-koordiniruiuschuju-strukturu-po-sodejstviju-vzaimnoi-torgovle-609070-2024/>

taken: in May, a Belarusian-Saudi business forum was held in Riyadh. business forum was held in Riyadh in May, co-organised by NCM and the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which signed a memorandum of cooperation. At this forum, the attention of Saudi companies was "drawn to the prospects of cooperation in the industrial (BELAZ, Mogilevkhimvolokno, Polotsk-Steklovolokno) and agricultural (Servolux, Vitebsk broiler poultry farm) sectors"¹⁸. In the same May 2024, Belarus and Saudi Arabia supplemented the contractual legal framework and signed a draft agreement on air traffic, and a memorandum of understanding was adopted between the aviation administrations of the two countries.

Another relevant topic of interaction between the parties is the role of exhibitions in the development of trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Saudi Arabia. Even during the first round of political consultations between the foreign ministries in the history of the bilateral relations, held in December 2023 in the Saudi capital, it was noted that by resuming the whole range of bilateral contacts on the basis of the development of economic partnership, the parties would "promote the intensification of direct interaction between the business circles of the two countries, exchange information, encourage participation in exhibitions in the territory of their countries"¹⁹. In March of this year, the Belarusian side invited Saudi partners to participate in the Belagro agricultural exhibition.

As for the participation of Belarusian exporters in Saudi exhibition forums, back in September 2023, Belarus presented a collective national exposition at the Foodex Saudi International Food Industry Exhibition in Riyadh, where 40 countries and more than 600 brands participated. "The Belarusian stand featured the flagships of dairy products: Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1, Slutsk Cheese Plant, Gluboka Dairy Canning Plant, Kalinkovichi Dairy Plant, a branch of Rogachev MCC"²⁰.

And in May of this year, the Saudi capital hosted the 2nd International Food Industry Exhibition Saudi Food Show 2024, which brought together on one exposition platform more than a thousand major food companies from 97

¹⁸ Belarus and Saudi Arabia intensify co-operation between trade institutions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-saudovskaja-aravija-aktivizirujut-vzaimodejstvije-mezhdu-institutami-torgovli-633452-2024/>

¹⁹ From tourism to investments. The Belarusian delegation held rich negotiations in Saudi Arabia [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/ot-turizma-do-investitsij-belorusskaja-delegatsija-provela-nasvychennye-peregovory-v-saudovskoj-aravii-605885-2023/>

²⁰ Belarus presented its national exposition at the International Food Exhibition Foodex Saudi in Riyadh [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-natsionalnuju-ekspozitsiju-na-mezhdunarodnoj-pischevoj-vystavke-foodex-saudi-v-er-589285-2023/>

countries. The Belarusian stand Belarus. The Taste of Nature was presented for the first time at this exhibition forum, where domestic exporters demonstrated a wide range of dairy products, including those made of milk powder, assorted cheeses and desserts. In particular, Slutsk Cheese Factory presented a line of lactose-free dairy products, elite cheeses with ginger, chia seeds, safflower petals, black and white truffle, frozen cheeses of the trade mark "Kletskaya Krynachka" and "Yas Belous", as well as an innovative product - A2 milk, which contains milk protein type A2 and lacks beta-casein A1. A wide range of products was shown by one of the leaders of the Belarusian dairy industry - the company "Molochny Mir", including elite hard cheeses "Parmesan", "Maasdam",

"Goroden", cheese with black truffle, natural milk, natural cream and whipping cream, frozen cheese "Goroden", dry and innovative products. "The share of export supplies of the enterprise to the international market is more than 65% with the volume of raw material processing of about 660 thousand tonnes per year"²¹. Milkavita, a leading industry enterprise with a product portfolio of more than 150 items, presented at the exhibition packaged liquid milk and cream with long shelf life, butter, dry dairy products with improved solubility and temperature processing characteristics. And in this respect, Saudi Arabia is one of the main partners of the enterprise.

Returning to the subject of the Belarusian-Saudi Joint Committee on Co-operation, we would like to emphasise that its third meeting clearly demonstrated the parties' focus on achieving concrete results in updating the entire range of trade and economic co-operation. Let us hope that these decisions of the Committee will give a significant impetus to co-operation in other areas of the bilateral relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Finally, another interesting country in the Persian Gulf region is **Oman**. In August 2024, the first Belarusian-Omani business forum took place in Muscat, the capital of this Middle Eastern state, where representatives of government agencies, specialised departments and over 70 companies from both countries discussed topical issues of cooperation in the fields of mechanical engineering, agriculture, food security, food industry, high technology, logistics, and tourism. During the meeting, the parties stated that they "bet on intensifying Belarusian-Omani cooperation in the whole range of areas"²² and will try to find effective

²¹ Belarusian enterprises present their potential at the exhibition of food industry in Saudi Arabia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/predpriiatija-belarusi-prezentuiut-potentsial-na-vvstavke-nischevoi-promyshlennosti-v-saudovskoi-aravii-635857-2024/>

²² Belarus is working on expanding exports to Oman [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

tools for conducting bilateral trade, establish partnerships in information technologies, and realise the export potential of Belarusian enterprises in the dairy and machine-building industries.

It should be noted that diplomatic relations with this sultanate on the Arabian Peninsula were established in July 1992. During these thirty-odd years, the parties signed several agreements - on trade and economic cooperation, mutual protection of investments, avoidance of double taxation, as well as on the establishment of friendly ties between Minsk and Muscat. "In July 2023, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman on air communication was signed"²³. Memoranda of Understanding between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Education, Culture, and Chambers of Commerce and Industry also supplemented the legal framework.

Trade turnover between the countries is formed mainly by Belarusian exports. For example, in 2020, Belarus exported to Oman "dairy products (skimmed and whole milk powder worth USD 347.6 thousand, milk whey worth USD 18.8 thousand), potash fertilizers (USD 328.5 thousand), collectibles and antiques (USD 57.7 thousand)"²⁴. However, over the last three years Belarusian exports have slightly decreased. Despite the low level of mutual trade turnover, Belarus calls the Sultanate of Oman the most important partner in the Middle East and focuses "its attention on the development of trade and economic relations and investment cooperation"²⁵.

It should be noted that Oman, home to just over five million people, is recognised as the 66th largest economy in the world by the end of 2023. And today the Vision 2040 development strategy is being implemented here - "a 20-year nationwide multi-sectoral document that represents a key reference point for the development of the state. Its goal is to diversify the economy on the basis of innovations, develop the private sector, and integrate into the global economy"²⁶, in order to double the gross domestic product per capita by 2040.

<https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-prorabatvvaet-rasshirenie-eksporta-v-oman-657416-2024/>

²³ Co-operation in the political sphere [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

https://egypt.mfa.gov.by/ru/blr_oman/political/

²⁴ MARCH activities [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://www.mart.gov.by/activity/mezhdunarodnoe-sotrudnichestvo/sotrudnichestvo-s-zakreplennymi-stranami-i-i-regionami/sotrudnichestvo-s-sultanatom-oman/>

²⁵ Rachkov: Oman is the most important partner of Belarus in the Middle East [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/rachkov-oman-vazhneishij-partner-belarusi-nablizhnem-vostoke-569090-2023/>

²⁶ Barysevich, N. Belarus has a serious potential for increasing food exports to Oman / N. Barysevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://produkt.by/news/novosti-belarusi/u-belarusi-est-sereznyv-potencial-dlva-naraschivaniva-eksporta>

Especially since its geographical location provides Oman with significant opportunities to expand trade and economic ties with other nations of the world. And in the next few years, the Gulf state will be actively expanding its free economic zones.

Belarusian interests in this country are now linked to trade interests in a number of items. "Today Belarus mainly supplies Oman with dairy products (milk and condensed cream, milk whey), lift equipment, flat rolled products made of iron or non-alloy steel, polymer threads, paper and cardboard products, jams, fruit puree, radiators, fittings for pipelines, measuring and control devices, and grooming cosmetics"²⁷. However, the first Belarusian-Omani Business Forum noted serious potential for other export items as well.

For example, the two countries plan to develop mutual trade through an exchange. The sale of agro-industrial products is seen as a priority. In particular, "it is planned to use the platform of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange [BUTB] to supply milk products produced in Belarus to the Omani market. For this purpose, the first Omani company has already been accredited at the BUTB and intends to take part in exchange trading in the near future."²⁸. And for the Omani side the greatest interest is in milk powder, which is widely used in the food industry of the country. Therefore, it is advisable to start exchange trade with Oman with this commodity position. In the future, in addition to dairy products, the range of Belarusian goods supplied to Oman through the BUTB can be expanded to include such items as rapeseed oil, beet pulp and molasses, sugar, amino acids, and feed additives.

The Belarusian High Technology Park (HTP) is also engaging with Oman and has outlined areas of mutual interest to develop joint initiatives with the ITHCA Group. This Omani group of companies was established in 2019. It comprises Oman Broadband, Oman Technology Fund, Oman Towers and Space Communications Technology. ITHCA Group's main functions are to actively work on building Oman's IT infrastructure, expanding the sultanate's networks and digital capabilities. It "scales data centres/cloud storage, builds cybersecurity infrastructure, engages with national and international organisations and foreign partners to implement strategic ICT initiatives"²⁹. In

²⁷ Barysevich, N. Promising Middle East. We review the horizons of co-operation between Belarus and Oman / N. Borisevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/mnogoobeschaiuschii-blizhnii-vostok-obozrevaem-gorizonty-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-s-omanom-9338//>.

²⁸ Belarus and Oman plan to develop mutual trade through the stock exchange [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-oman-planiruiut-razvivat-vzaimnui-u-torgovliu-cherez-birzhu-657057-2024>

²⁹ Hi-Tech Park establishes cooperation with Oman in IT [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/tech/view/park-vysokih-tehnologii-nalazhivaet-vzaimodejstvie-s-omanom-v-sfere-it->

addition, HTP signed a memorandum of understanding with the Oman National Engineering and Investment Company, which provides services to the country's utilities and engineering sector. This document expresses practical interest in co-operation with HTP residents on projects related to the development of foodtech and VR technologies.

As for other outcomes of the first Belarusian-Omani Business Forum, the National Centre for Marketing and Price Study of Belarus signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The intention to co-operate between Minsk and Omani dairy plants was also outlined. In addition, the Belarusian delegation visited the free economic zone and the port of Sohar in the province of North Al Batinah, where they discussed possible ways of cooperation and areas for its expansion, stressing the prospects for cooperation in transport and logistics and the creation of joint production enterprises both in the province and in Oman.

In general, these August meetings in Muscat and Sohar showed that "the parties have considerable potential for the development of business cooperation, which now needs to be capitalised into concrete projects"³⁰. Both in terms of trade and economic and investment co-operation, and in terms of expanding partnerships in the scientific, technical and educational spheres.

CHAPTER 2

Belarus-China:

co-operation in science, technology and innovation is reaching a new level

cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovation reaches a new level

In August 2024, during the official visit of Premier Li Qiang of the State Council of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to Belarus, the two governments decided to declare 2024-2025 the Years of Cooperation between Belarus and China in Science, Technology and Innovation. On this occasion, a plan of events was signed in Minsk that covers a wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation and provides for joint scientific and technical events, the creation and development of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation platforms, and the implementation of joint scientific and scientific-technical projects, which will make it possible to strengthen sectoral ties in the field of industrial cooperation and become an additional incentive for innovative development.

The plan contains 89 activities that will involve 140 organisations - 59 Belarusian and 81 Chinese. These include leading scientific centres of the two countries, sectoral agencies and their subordinate organisations, and large technology corporations. In particular, in the field of information and communication technologies, the plan envisages the development of cooperation between the Ministry of Communications and Informatisation of Belarus and the Chinese corporations Huawei Technologies, ZTE and PhotonSpeak on the development of software, expansion of cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies, including the application of 5G/6G technologies. On the Belarusian side, the High Technology Park, the Velikiy Kamen industrial park, Beltelecom and Promsvyaz will be involved in this work. In addition, in August 2024, a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies was signed by the Ministry of Communications and Informatisation of Belarus and the Ministry of Industry and Informatisation of China, which "provides for the promotion of cooperation in digital transformation, cloud technologies, artificial intelligence, digital medicine, and ICT training"³¹. There are also plans to cooperate on the development of smart cities, the creation of joint production

³¹ Belarus and China signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of ICT [Electronic resource].

- 2024. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj_-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii-v-oblasti-ikt-656109-2024/

facilities for high-tech products, as well as a Chinese-Belarusian cooperation platform in the field of information and communication technologies.

The Ministry of Industry of Belarus together with the Centre for International Economic and Technical Cooperation of the Ministry of Industry and Informatisation of the People's Republic of China envisages the creation of a joint platform for the implementation of Sino-Belarusian industrial cooperation to find partners, transfer technologies, and develop cooperation with Chinese companies on the supply of technological equipment. Recall that "in March 2023, Belarus and China signed a comprehensive strategy of joint industrial development, and in November 2023 - a detailed plan to interface the industrial policies of the two countries"³² to develop industrial cooperation, including through joint production facilities in Belarus and China, attracting high-tech competencies for investment projects at Belarusian enterprises and establishing direct interaction between the parties. This programme already consists of 30 specific projects in machine-tool construction, automotive, petrochemicals and wood processing. In particular, already "the entire cluster of domestic machine-tool enterprises - from the Gomel Machine-Tool Plant to Krasnyi Borets in Orsha - is involved in the implementation of joint industrial development projects with China"³³. Also, the decisions taken will help to reformat the textile industry, as viscose together with flax and chemical fibres will create a fabric for Belarusians that will become the foundation of the country's textile and clothing industry.

In general, "15 new strategic-level investment projects worth up to three billion dollars are under active consideration with Chinese partners"³⁴. Among the most important are: the third stage of the project on deep grain processing of the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation, the construction of plants for the production of bleached kraft pulp and chipboard, the organisation of modern automated automated moulding, engine production, polypropylene, carbide, sodium chlorate, hydrogen peroxide, soda ash.

As for existing Belarusian enterprises, for example, Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ) is interested in setting up joint production facilities in China. In September

³² Ministries of Industry of Belarus and China: the plan for cooperation can be updated, detailed and expanded [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minpromy-belarusi-i-kitaia-plan-po-sotrudnichestvu-mozhet-byt-aktualizirovan-detalizirovan-i-rasshiren-644949-2024/>

³³ Machine tools, pulp, car. What significant projects Belarus and China are implementing [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/stanki-tselljuloza-avtomobil-kakie-znakovye-proekty-realizujut-belarus-i-kitaj-671355-2024/>

³⁴ Snopkov: strategic projects with China for \$3bn are designed for the medium-term perspective [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/snopkov-strategicheskie-proekty-s-kitaem-na-3-mlrd-rasschitany-na-srednesrochnuju-perspektivu-655954-2024/>

2024, a roadmap was signed to develop a 350-horsepower tractor with permanent magnet electric drive. MTZ is ready to implement this project with the China-Belarus High-Tech Aerospace Research and Development Centre. Another joint production facility may also be set up in China - for the assembly of BELARUS caterpillar tractors³⁵. In addition, the Belarusian company will buy equipment in China for more than 840 million Belarusian rubles to modernise the melting system for the first foundry shop, an automatic continuous sandblasting chamber with rotary tables. "MTZ's workshops will be replenished with 15 lathes, 7 horizontal, 4 milling centre and 3 horizontal CNC milling machining centres. Over the past year and a half, the company has received eight CNC machines [from China]."³⁶

Other machine-building enterprises of the republic are also open to production co-operation with Chinese companies. In particular, to organise "joint production of engines for trucks and cars in Belarus"³⁷. In this respect, mutually beneficial cooperation options are already being worked out with Guangxi Yuchai Machinery Group Co., Ltd. in order to reach a strategic bilateral project providing for deep localisation.

Another interesting example is Belshina, which together with Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU) is strengthening its partnership with leading Chinese tyre companies and scientific organisations in that country. Back in April this year, Belshina and BSTU signed a memorandum of co-operation with Qingdao University of Science and Technology and the Chinese company MESNAC, a leading manufacturer of rubber equipment in the Celestial Empire with a global geography of supply. In this document, the parties envisage cooperation in education, as well as research and development on improving the properties of elastomeric composites for tyres and rubber products. It means that the Belarusian tyre manufacturer and one of the best universities in Belarus for training engineering personnel, including for the chemical industry, are working together to improve the quality of rubber compounds, produce new sizes of agricultural tyres, as well as improve the performance characteristics of oversized tyres for effective import substitution. By signing the memorandum,

³⁵ MTZ is interested in the creation of joint production facilities in China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zainteresovan-v-sozdanii-sovmestnyh-proizvodstv-v-kitaie-662915-2024/>

³⁶ MTZ will purchase more than 30 units of equipment from China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-zakupit-boleedinitis-oborudovaniia-iz-kitaia-662946-2024/>

³⁷ Naumovich: Belarusian machine-building enterprises are open to co-operation with Chinese companies [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/naumovich-belorusskie-predpriiia-mashinostroeniia-otkrtyv-k-kooperatsii-s-kitaiskimi-kompaniiami-665797-2024/>

the parties plan to carry out joint projects related to "improving the performance of all-metal cord extra-large tyres of 57-inch diameter radial design, using original technologies and equipment of the leading Chinese manufacturer"³⁸. The memorandum is expected to bring the parties to a new level of co-operation. Given the prospective participation of Qingdao University of Science and Technology and Belarusian State Technological University in the projects, emphasis will also be placed on scientific research in the tyre industry and the training of highly qualified personnel for production.

The adopted plans also "provide for the establishment in Minsk of a project office of the China Technology Transfer Centre of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states, the activities of which are supervised by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China"³⁹. This will facilitate both the attraction of advanced foreign technologies to Belarus and the commercialisation of the results of Belarusian scientific and innovation organisations' activities abroad. In the field of medicine, the Ministry of Health of Belarus will cooperate with the Centre for International Exchange and Cooperation of the State Health Committee of China to exchange innovations and technologies. And the Belneftekhim Concern together with the Oil and Gas Resources Research Centre of the Chinese Geological Survey will cooperate in exchanging technologies for geological research, exploration and development of oil and gas resources.

In addition, the parties will continue to develop the Great Stone Park as an international industrial and logistics cluster with a focus on investment, technology, and the development of traditional and innovative Chinese medicine. "Today, the park has 134 residents from 13 countries with an investment volume of \$1.5bn. More than half of the residents are companies with Chinese capital"⁴⁰. In the first seven months of 2024, 18 new companies have already come to the park. It should be noted that in July of this year a meeting of the working group on the industrial park was held, which outlined the priority areas for the further growth of Velikiy Kamen. Among the main prospects is the attraction of new residents from China with their advanced

³⁸ "Belshina" together with BSTU strengthens partnership with leading Chinese tyre companies [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/belshina-sovmestno-s-bgtu-ukrepliaet-partnerstvo-s-veduschimi-kitajskimi-shinnymi-kompanijami-627709-2024/>

³⁹ Start of the Years of Cooperation between Belarus and China in Science, Technology and Innovation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/dan-start-godam-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-kinr-v-oblasti-nauki-tehnologii-i-innovatsij-656188-2024/>.

⁴⁰ Roman Golovenko: In the conditions of instability in the world Belarus and China continue to build mutually beneficial cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <http://pda.government.gov.by/ru/content/10994>

experience and anchor projects that will be able to gather their partners around them. The second direction is to continue building the Great Stone infrastructure to prepare sites for new production facilities. Especially since "the construction of the infrastructure of the first stage of the central part of the park is to begin, as well as the creation of a multimodal railway terminal"⁴¹. Thirdly, it is the development of a medical cluster in the industrial park. Suffice it to say that in the first half of 2024, five companies have already joined the medical cluster of Veliky Kamen, and new Chinese companies are on their way.

Finally, in order to increase the economic efficiency of joint activities, the Belarusian State Committee for Science and Technology and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China will hold a competition of flagship scientific and technological projects. For this purpose, they have approved "20 projects for joint implementation in 2024-2026 in the fields of ICT, biotechnology and medicine, mechanical engineering, new materials"⁴². As a result of this competition, it is planned to select three large-scale joint projects, the results of which should be the creation of advanced technologies and the establishment of joint ventures or industrial technology centres. Based on the results of joint research and development, Belarus and China will "work on the creation of joint legal entities, which will be used to manufacture products to enter the Belarusian, Chinese, and maybe even third markets"⁴³.

In line with this theme, a branch of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS) will be established in China, which will become a Sino-Belarusian co-operation platform to promote interaction between universities, research institutes and enterprises of the two countries in education, research and implementation of achievements. "The main areas of co-operation within the branch are aerospace engineering and space sciences, materials science and composite materials, optics and optoelectronics, manufacturing high-tech equipment and advanced devices, microelectronics and digital intelligence, biotechnology and pharmacology"⁴⁴. In this regard, such

⁴¹ Chebotar: "Great Stone" is one of the key priorities in the development of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-velikij-kamen-odin-iz-kli-uchevnyh-prioritetov-razvitiia-belorussko-kitajskogo-sotrudnichestva-649217-2024/>

⁴² Belarus and China approved 20 joint scientific and technical projects for 2024-2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-utverdili-20-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-na-2024-2026-godv-656073-2024/>

⁴³ Belarus and China will create legal entities for the production of goods on the basis of joint developments [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-budut-sozdavat-juriditsa-dlja-proizvodstva-produktsii-na-osnove-sovmestnyh-razrabotok-656197-2024/>

⁴⁴ A branch of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus will be created in China [Electronic

cooperation mechanisms as exchange of highly qualified Chinese and Belarusian experts, training of highly qualified researchers, joint training of master's and doctoral students, internships and training, initiation of joint research and development by the parties' organisations, promotion of mutual introduction of technologies and achievements, establishment of joint laboratories within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative will be envisaged. For this purpose, in August this year a framework agreement on strategic cooperation was signed between NAS of Belarus and the State Administration of the People's Republic of China for Foreign Experts, which is aimed at attracting exports by organising technical internships for Chinese researchers in the Great Stone Industrial Park and relevant research organisations of NAS of Belarus on a contractual basis. The main areas for internships include space utilisation and exploration, new energy sources and advanced power engineering, optoelectronics and high-tech equipment, intelligent manufacturing, new materials, digitalisation and artificial intelligence.

All these documents and the launch of several new industrial projects show that the parties see the integration of Belarusian competences and Chinese technologies as a key element in building a joint future. It is clear that "the implementation of a comprehensive strategy for joint industrial development and the preparation of detailed plans for industrial policy interface <...> will give concrete practical content to the new status of the relationship between the two countries - an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership"⁴⁵. For this reason, cooperation with China will allow Belarus to implement its ambitious modernisation and technical re-equipment plans.

Returning to the results of the official visit of Premier Li Qiang of the State Council of the People's Republic of China to Belarus, we would like to point out that in addition to the documents revealing the potential for the development and deepening of industrial cooperation, scientific, technical and innovation interaction, agreements, memorandums and plans were signed in Minsk in other areas as well.

For example, it is an intergovernmental agreement on trade in services and investment, which provides for the establishment of a free trade in services zone between the two countries, a transparent, liberal and favourable investment regime to attract investment. Also, the Belarusian Ministry of Economy and the Chinese State Committee for Development and Reform signed a "practice-

resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/filial-nan-belarusi-sozhdadut-v-kitae-656108-2024/>

⁴⁵ Roman Golovchenko: Trade turnover between Belarus and China has grown 140 times in 30 years [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/10993>

oriented cooperation plan to strengthen the interface between the Belt and Road Initiative and the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Belarus". The document contains about 60 measures and projects to be implemented between the competent departments of the two countries.,"⁴⁶.

As for the Belarusian-Chinese regional dimension, "in-depth plans for the joint development of the provinces of China and the regions of Belarus" were signed in Minsk⁴⁷. Firstly, between Minsk Region and the city of Chongqing, where the following projects will be implemented: production of reagents and equipment for diagnostics, unmanned aerial vehicles, car seats, preparations of traditional Chinese medicine, and assembly of industrial robots. Secondly, between Mogilev region and Shaanxi province, where the main directions of development in trade and economic and investment spheres, education and culture are defined. Seven more similar in-depth plans for the joint development of Belarusian and Chinese regions were also supported in this context.

So Belarus and China, continuing to build mutually beneficial co-operation, in these August days of 2024, identified further specific tasks, plans and future directions, showing the exemplary nature of an all-weather and all-round strategic partnership in the new era despite the overall unstable situation in the global economy.

⁴⁶ BNBK and "Great Stone": Belarus and China agreed on new major investment projects [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bnbk-i-velikii-kamen-belarus-i-kitai-dogovorilis-o-novvyh-krupnyh-investproektah-656105-2024/>

⁴⁷ Zalessky, B. Dynamics of successful partnership. Internal and external reserves of progressive movement of the Belarusian economy / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C/ 43.

CHAPTER 3

Belarus-China: from in-depth plans to project implementation

In August 2024, Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China (PRC), paid an official visit to Belarus, during which a number of documents were signed, revealing the potential of Sino-Belarusian cooperation in trade, investment, development and deepening of industrial cooperation, scientific and technical cooperation, as well as in-depth plans for the joint development of the provinces of China and the regions of Belarus.

Among the participants in this interregional co-operation are, first of all, **Minsk Oblast** and the **city of Chongqing**. This city is one of the four largest Chinese centralised cities with more than thirty million people. The in-depth plan includes such projects as "production of reagents and diagnostic equipment, unmanned aerial vehicles, car seats, traditional Chinese medicine products, assembly of industrial robots, and integrated logistics"⁴⁸.

It should be recalled that the capital region of Belarus signed a co-operation agreement with this Chinese city back in 2002. In March 2017, twinning relations were established between the regions. In June last year, during the opening of the exhibition of Chinese goods and services at the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone", where the thematic exposition of the Exhibition Pavilion of Export Pavilion was shown.

Chongqing's goods and where "more than 20 city enterprises in an area of about 300 square metres displayed machinery products including automobiles, motorbikes and components"⁴⁹, the parties reached an agreement to intensify co-operation in various areas.

A month later, Minsk Region and the city of Chongqing signed a roadmap for 2023-2024 to develop cooperation in the production of reagents, education, tourism, and logistics. "Another promising direction is the creation of a JV for the production of electric cars with any degree of localisation"⁵⁰. Especially since Chongqing's powerful industrial base in the field of mechanical

⁴⁸ From trade and investment to science and cinema. Belarus and China signed a weighty package of documents on co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/ot-torgovli-i-investitsij-do-nauki-i-kino-belarus-i-kitaj-podpisali-vesomyj-paket-dokumentov-o-656104-2024>

⁴⁹ Zalesky, B. Potential for realising the agreements reached / Boris Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. - C. 36.

⁵⁰ From medicine to economy and twinning ties. Minsk region and Chongqing signed a road map of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/ot-meditsiny-do-ekonomiki-i-pobratimskih-svyezai-minskaia-oblast-i-chuntsin-podpisali-dorozhnyj-u-kartu-581301-2023/>

engineering is of interest to Belarusian companies in the context of modernisation of production facilities using modern Chinese technologies, creation of new joint automotive assembly plants, import of components and auto parts. "As an equally promising direction, the parties identified cooperation in the field of healthcare development, including the elaboration of the establishment of a research and development centre and production facilities in the field of traditional Chinese medicine on the site of the Great Stone Industrial Park"⁵¹, interaction at the level of medical institutions.

The development of twinning contacts between the Belarusian capital region and the Chinese city continued in May 2024 in Chongqing, where several important events took place:

- 1) VI International Trade and Investment Fair of Western China;
- 2) Chongqing Twin Cities Economic Co-operation Forum;
- 3) Belarus-Chongqing Business Forum.

As for the trade and investment fair, the central platform was given to the guests of honour - Minsk Region and the China-Belarus Industrial Park "Great Stone", which is located in the Belarusian capital region. Minsk Region enterprises producing meat and dairy products, bakery, confectionery, alcoholic beverages and cosmetics were invited to participate in the fair. In addition, this pavilion was set up to reveal the multifaceted tourist potential and modern educational opportunities of Minsk region and the Republic of Belarus as a whole.

Speaking about the Chongqing Sister Cities Economic Cooperation Forum, it was attended by representatives of 48 cities from 31 countries with which this Chinese city has established sister city relations. The motto of this year's forum was "Deepening regional co-operation and promoting common development". Its participants discussed investment opportunities and new points of contact for economic and technological interregional co-operation, as well as green policy. Finally, at the business forum "Belarus - Chongqing" 13 agreements on cooperation and commercial contracts for the supply of meat and dairy products, confectionery products totalling about \$31 million were "signed"⁵², and mutual projects on investment cooperation in the spheres of production of robotics, auto components and medical equipment were outlined.

If we talk more specifically about these investment projects, we can name, for

⁵¹ Brantsevich stated about positive dynamics in trade and economic co-operation between Belarus and Chongqing [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/economics/view/brantsevich-zaiavila-o-pozitivnoi-dinamike-v-torgovo-ekonomicheskoy-sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-581186-2023/>

⁵² Belarus and Chongqing signed contracts for the delivery of meat and dairy products worth about \$31 million [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-chungsin-podpisali-kontrakty-na-postavku-mjasno-molochnoj-produktsii-na-summu-okolo-31-mln-637082-2024/>

example, the company Chongqing Qiteng Robot, which produces wheeled and suspended inspection robots, machines for working in extreme conditions - at high temperatures, in toxic and flammable industries, and in underground mining. It was founded in 2010 by students from Chongqing Engineering University, and now it has become a leader in emergency safety in China. And today the company "is ready to invest in opening its own subsidiary in Belarus in Velikiy Kamen with local assembly and creation of an electronic data storage server for specific projects. The company is also ready to establish a joint production with a Belarusian partner"⁵³.

Another example: Chengju Chenghua Seating, which produces car seats. This Chinese factory "is considering the establishment of a joint production in Belarus to meet the requirements of our country [Belarus]"⁵⁴. It is possible that this manufacturer will enter into co-operation with the BELJI plant. In May 2024, in Chongqing, the Belarusian side got acquainted with medical equipment from another Chinese manufacturer, Zybion, which "specialises in research and development of reagents and equipment for in vitro diagnostics, immunoanalysis and molecular diagnostics, haematology and microbiology"⁵⁵. As a result, the Minsk region will send specialists to Chongqing to thoroughly study the Zybion technique and its operation in hospital conditions. And if the results are positive, the new Chinese medical equipment will appear in the hospitals of Minsk region.

Returning to the plan of in-depth cooperation between Minsk Region and Chongqing, it should be noted that the Belarusian region has been actively increasing trade turnover with the PRC in recent years. In particular, at the end of the first half of 2023, the parties' trade turnover exceeded \$1.25 billion. "Minsk region exports to China poultry meat, dairy products, frozen beef, wood products, flax fibre <...>. Automatic information processing machines and their units, auto parts, telephone sets, television receivers"⁵⁶. With the emergence of the new plan, it seems that interregional cooperation between Minsk Region and

⁵³ In "Velikiy Kamen" may appear the enterprise for the production of robots [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-mozhet-pojavitsja-predpriyatie-po-proizvodstvu-robotov-636330-2024/>

⁵⁴ Turchin familiarised himself with the production of automotive components in Chongqing [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/society/view/turchin-poznakomilsja-s-proizvodstvom-avtokomponentov-v-chuntsine-636362-2024/>

⁵⁵ Minsk region medics are planned to be sent to Chongqing to study new equipment [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/medikov-minskoj-oblasti-planirujut-napravit-v-chuntsin-dlia-izuchenija-novogo-oborudovanija-636079-2024/>

⁵⁶ Minsk region and Chinese Chongqing will determine the road map of cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/minskaia-oblast-i-kitajskij-chuntsin-opredeliat-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-580980-2023/>

Chongqing will soon be filled with new concrete projects to develop production cooperation and attract high-tech competences for the implementation of investment projects at the enterprises of Minsk Region, establishing direct interaction with Chinese partners.

This summer, Minsk Region took a new step in co-operation with another region of China - **Guangdong Province** - by signing a roadmap of co-operation, which marks a new period in the relations between the two regions. The parties, which have been closely co-operating for more than ten years, believe that "the signing of the roadmap is an important signal for the business of our two countries"⁵⁷. After all, today it is necessary to look for new points of contact. In particular, in the fields of agriculture, car manufacturing, and medicine.

For example, interesting projects in this regard can be implemented in the Belarusian capital region with the Chinese agricultural holding Guangdong Agribusiness Group Corporation, which is engaged in large-scale trade, rubber and sugar cane production. The holding's enterprises also specialise in meat and dairy cattle breeding, grain cultivation, and oil production. "The corporation has a vocational college where students are trained in construction specialties and technology. Also, the agricultural holding has 38 hospitals, where, among others, the company's employees are served"⁵⁸. So, all these areas can become promising in terms of co-operation with Belarusian partners.

Among the possible partners of Minshchina enterprises from Guangdong Province are also the GAC Aion electric car manufacturing plant and Guangzhou Baiyunshan Zhongyi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. In the first case, production is carried out on a full cycle and includes research and development, as well as the sale of products and after-sales service. In the second case, this manufacturer produces drugs to improve eyesight, diabetes drugs, and recovery pills for brain ischaemia and the consequences of this disease. Representatives of Minsk region have already discussed the prospects and options of co-operation with these Chinese partners. So let's hope that these negotiations will soon be followed by concrete actions.

The People's Republic of China is a strategic partner of another Belarusian region - **Mogilev**, with which the development of cooperation, thanks to systematic work, continues to only deepen, reaching a new level of interaction. Suffice it to say that over the past ten years, exports of goods from this

⁵⁷ Turchin and the governor of the Chinese province of Guangdong signed a road map [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/turchin-i-gubernator-kitaj-skoj-provintsii-guandun-podpisali-dorozhnuj-u-kartu-651136-2024/>.

⁵⁸ From electric cars to endocrine raw materials: the delegation of Minsk region visits Guangdong province [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/societv/view/ot-elektrokarov-do-endokrinnogo-svriia-delegatsiia-minskoi-oblasti-poseschaet-provintsiiu-guandun-651244-2024/>.

Belarusian region to China have grown 18 times. "Beef and poultry meat, dairy products, woodworking products, carbon black, flax, chocolate, various waters, strong alcoholic beverages remain the main export items from Mogilev region to China"⁵⁹. In addition, today three enterprises of Mogilev region have permission to supply products to the Celestial Empire: open joint-stock companies "Babushkina Krynka", Mogilev and Bobruisk meat processing plants. The basis of Chinese imports this year are acrylic polymers, complex synthetic yarns, glue and adhesives, opoks and pallets for metal foundry production, electrical transformers, household electrical appliances, passenger cars. "In January - April 2024, trade turnover between the Mogilev region and China totalled \$57.4 million - a growth rate of 102.2% compared to the same period of 2023. Export of services in January - April 2024 amounted to \$867.5 thousand (growth rate of over 193%) The basis of export was education services, the specific weight of which is almost 81%"⁶⁰.

At the interregional level, the Belarusian eastern region is currently actively co-operating with such Chinese provinces as Henan, Jiangsu, Hunan, Shaanxi and the city of Tianjin. Besides, at the level of cities and districts of the Mogilev region more than ten documents of international character have been concluded with the regions of China. The youngest partner of Mogilev region in the Celestial Empire was **Tianjin** - one of the four cities of central subordination in 2019. It is a major port hub in the north of China, which has established communication and transport routes with more than 500 ports of other countries. It is a city with an integrated production chain in many industries and extensive educational and scientific resources, with more than 50 universities.

In March 2023, the parties signed an Action Plan for the development of co-operation for 2023-2025. And in May last year Tianjin hosted the Mogilev Region Week. Then, participating in the forum "Tianjin - Gateway to China", more than twenty enterprises of Mogilev region showed their export potential. As a result of these negotiations, agreements were reached for the supply of dairy and meat products, commercial offers were received for the export of Belarusian sawn timber, and contacts were established for further co-operation in importing goods from China to the trade networks of Mogilev region. At the same time the documents on co-operation between Mogilev and the new Binhai

⁵⁹ Export of goods from Mogilev region to China has grown 18 times in the last ten years [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/eksport-tovarov-iz-mogilevskoj-oblasti-v-kitaj-za-poslednie-desiat-let-vvros-v-18-raz-575841-2023>

⁶⁰ A platform for entering the implementation of common projects: Belarusian-Chinese business forum was held in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/ploschadka-dlia-vvhoda-na-realizatsiiu-obschih-proektov-belorussko-kitajskij-biznes-forum-proshel-v-643622-2024/>

district of Tianjin, FEZ "Mogilev" and TEDA economic zone, the Mogilev branch of the BelCCI and the Chinese Council for the Promotion of International Trade of Tianjin were signed. Agreements were also reached on the establishment of a joint production facility for milk powder processing in Tianjin"⁶¹.

A year and a bit later, in June 2024, a response action - Tianjin City Week in the Mogilev region - took place:

- 1) an exhibition of Chinese products from organisations in this city;
- 2) regional Belarusian-Chinese business forum
"Mogilev region and the city of Tianjin: 5 years of co-operation";
- 3) Mogilev-Tianjin Education Cooperation Forum.

In addition, the parties signed a "roadmap for the development of cooperation between Mogilev and the new Binhai district in the fields of economy, trade, culture, education, tourism for 2024-2025; an agreement between the administrative committee of the port free trade zone Tianjin PRC and the administration of the free economic zone "Mogilev"; an agreement on cooperation between the Tianjin Museum and the Mogilev Regional Art Museum named after P.V. Maslennikov. P.V. Maslennikov"⁶².

During these events, the parties outlined their proposals for joint co-operation in various sectors. For example, Mogilev Region believes that at this stage of relations it is advisable to move from simple trade to deeper co-operation and the creation of joint projects. If we take livestock breeding, Chinese partners can create new complexes of meat direction in Mogilev region for further processing of beef and supply to the Chinese market. "The second direction is minerals: The [Mogilev] region is rich in deposits of peat, sapropel, and trepel, the use of which in combination with mineral and organic fertilisers is an effective means of stimulating plant development and increasing crop yields"⁶³. After all, this natural mineral supplement is used to enrich the ration of cattle to replenish the missing macro- and microelements in feed. Given this potential, Mogilev residents are ready to propose a project for the production of fodder additives,

⁶¹ Mogilev region will present construction and industrial investment projects at the exhibition in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/mogilevskaja-oblast-predstavit-stroitelnye-i-promyshlennye-investproektv-na-vystavke-v-shanhae-595292-2023/>

⁶² Business forum, exhibitions and competitions. Tianjin City Week starts in Mogilev region [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/biznes-forum-vystavki-i-sorevnovanija-nedelia-goroda-tiantszin-startuet-v-mogilevskoj-oblasti-643224-2024/>

⁶³ "To find ways of interaction". Tianjin City Week takes place in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/najti-puti-vzaimodejstviya-v-mogileve-prohodit-nedelia-goroda-tiantszin-643563-2024/>

organic soils and fertilisers.

Another interesting proposal was voiced at the business forum "Mogilev Region and the City of Tianjin: 5 Years of Co-operation". The Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) will assist the enterprises of the parties in organising interregional trade in industrial and agricultural goods. "To this end, it is planned to use the relevant elements of the electronic ecosystem of the BUTB, which will allow Belarusian and Chinese companies, taking into account the peculiarities of their sales and procurement policies, to conclude transactions either in the course of classical in-session trading or to use the exchange's B2B platform operating on the principle of a marketplace with an integrated exchange mechanism"⁶⁴. Based on the profile of Chinese partners, priority will be given to the export of Belarusian meat and dairy products and vegetable oils to Tianjin and, in the future, to other cities the Bohai Economic Zone. The Belarusian market will be supplied with polymer packaging materials, diesel generators, industrial paints, sheet metal, veterinary drugs and other products in demand in the industrial and agricultural sectors of the country. To all appearances, co-operation in these areas will be very fruitful.

Another of the main regions of Belarus in terms of developing co-operation with China, both in the economic and social spheres, is **Gomel Region**. Suffice it to say that over the past five years, the trade turnover of this south-eastern Belarusian region with China has almost quadrupled. "The basis of exports to the Celestial Empire is wood pulp, timber, meat, dairy and confectionery products. Transport, educational and tourist services are developing. According to the results of the past [2023] year, 44 enterprises of Gomel region supplied their products to China"⁶⁵. In the future there are good prospects for cooperation in industrial production, transport and logistics, agriculture. For example, twenty enterprises of Gomel region have already been accredited to supply food products to the Chinese market, "including 9 milk processing, 7 meat processing enterprises and 4 food processing enterprises"⁶⁶. And they are ready to increase supplies of beef, meat and edible by-products of poultry, whole-milk products, condensed milk and cream, whey powder.

⁶⁴ BUTB will help to simplify trade between Mogilev region and Chinese Tianjin [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-pomozhet-uprostit-torgovlju-mezhdu-mogilevskoi-oblasti-i-kitajskim-tjantszinem-643724-2024/>.

⁶⁵ For five years the trade turnover of the Gomel region with China has grown four times [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/za-pjat-let-tovarooborot-gomelskoi-oblasti-s-kitaem-vvros-v-chetvye-raza-640488-2024/>.

⁶⁶ 20 enterprises are accredited to supply food products to China Gomel region [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/akkreditatsiiu-na-postavki-pischevoi-produktsii-v-kitaj-imej-ut-20-predprii-atij-gomelskoi-oblasti-640508-2024/>.

In addition, Homiel enterprises are ready to supply lumber and finished woodworking products to China. Other areas of co-operation are also opening up. In particular, on complex mineral fertilisers, as well as on other projects for possible joint implementation. They include a logistics hub on the basis of Gomel airport, production of plywood furniture and other products on the basis of Gomeldrev, creation of new production facilities on the premises of the free economic zone (FEZ) Gomel-Raton. Moreover, there is an interesting example in the FEZ - the Alkopak production unitary enterprise, which produces medical products and which "has been co-operating with Chinese manufacturers of equipment, equipment and other products for more than 20 years".

equipment, spare parts, technological tooling. At the moment 80-90% of injection moulding machines are made in China. <...> The number of contacts, orders, purchased equipment is increasing. We have built friendly relations with Chinese manufacturing companies"⁶⁷. So it is time for the first residents from the Celestial Empire to appear in the FEZ, for whom attractive conditions have already been created.

The south-eastern region of Belarus is actively building relations with Chinese partners in the humanitarian sphere. For example, "more than 500 Chinese students study at universities in Homiel Region. They choose different specialities for themselves here and have already gained a lot"⁶⁸. Gomel State University named after F. Skaryna (GSU) co-operates with 17 Chinese universities. In addition, the Confucius Institute has been established and is successfully functioning at GSU and joint educational programmes are being implemented. In general, 332 students from China are currently studying at Gomel State University. An experimental project has also been implemented - students from China study in English in four specialities"⁶⁹.

As for the cooperation of Gomel region with specific partners from the Celestial Empire, at the beginning of 2024 it "signed documents on bilateral cooperation with four Chinese regions - the autonomous regions of Inner Mongolia (2011) and Xinjiang Uygur (2016), Sichuan (2015) and Jiangsu (2016) provinces"⁷⁰,

⁶⁷ Xie Xiaoyun: FEZ "Gomel-Raton" has created attractive conditions for residents [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/se-siaojun-v-sez-gomel-raton-sozdanv-privlekateInve-uslovijia-dlia-rezidentov-640651-2024/>.

⁶⁸ Trade, education, tourism. Xie Xiaoyun on the potential of cooperation between Gomel region and regions of China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/torgovlia-obrazovanie-turizm-se-siaojun-o-potentsiale-sotrudnichestva-gomelskoi-oblasti-i-i-regionov-640506-2024/>.

⁶⁹ Xie Xiaoyun on cooperation between Belarus and China in education: it is an intellectual base for all spheres [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/se-siaojun-o-sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-i-knr-v-obrazovanii-eto-intellektualnaia-baza-dlia-vseh-sfer-640698-2024/>.

⁷⁰ Zalesky, B. Belarus - China: New Opportunities. Strategic interaction in the era of exemplary partnership relations / Boris Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. - C. 12.

and ten agreements were adopted - at the level of cities.

In June 2024, another new partner of the Belarusian **southeastern** region was identified - **Hebei Province**. During the visit of the official delegation of Gomel Region to this province, contracts, memoranda and agreements with Chinese partners were signed, including the plan of events and exchanges for 2024-2025 between the region and the province. The Belarusian side, interested in the development of this interaction, outlined three steps towards increasing trade, economic and investment co-operation. "These are deliveries to Hebei of quality food products of Homel producers, implementation of joint industrial projects with the preferences of the free economic zone "Homel-Raton", as well as joint investment projects in agriculture"⁷¹. In turn, the Chinese region is interested to cooperate in machine building, logistics, supply of raw materials of traditional Chinese medicine, as well as to purchase Homiel agricultural products, chemical fertilisers, goods of meat and dairy industry.

Within the framework of the Langfang International Trade and Economic Fair, which was held in Hebei Province in these June days, a number of enterprises of Homiel Region were represented at the Belarusian stand. As a result of meetings and negotiations at this forum in Langfang, domestic exporters - Comintern, Gomel Chemical Plant, Rogachev Milk Canning Plant (MKK) - added to their portfolios of deals. In particular, Rogachev MCC signed a memorandum for product supplies worth about RM1m and an agreement for more than RM7m. Gomel Chemical Plant's memorandum was concluded for almost 12.5 million yuan and Comintern's deal for 14.7 million yuan"⁷². In addition, the headquarters of Great Wall Haval, a factory producing Haval cars, discussed the possibility of assembling these cars on the premises of FEZ Homel-Raton.

Continuing the theme of participation of Gomel region representatives at exhibitions in the Celestial Empire, we would like to remind that in November 2023 at the 6th China International Import Expo in Shanghai during the Day of Gomel region, documents on export supplies worth \$85 million were signed. In addition, an agreement on cooperation to attract investments between the FEZ "Homiel-Raton" and the Sichuan Association for Promotion of Economic and Trade Cooperation "One Belt - One Road" was adopted at that time, as well as "a document of intent was signed to establish twinning ties between Zhlobin

⁷¹ Trade, joint industrial projects, agro-industrial complex. Krupko on co-operation between Gomel region and Hebei province [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/torgovlja-sovmestnye-promproekty-apk-krupko-o-sotrudnichestve-gomelskoj-oblasti-i-provintsii-hebei-641393-2024/>

⁷² Gomel enterprises signed new contracts and agreements with Chinese partners [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskie-predpriyatija-podpisali-novye-dogovory-i-soglashenija-s-kitajskimi-partnersami-641709-2024/>

District of Homiel Region and Baotou City of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region"⁷³.

All these facts show that the variety of partnership and twinning ties of Minsk, Mogilev and Gomel regions in China is only gaining momentum, developing intensively and fruitfully, emphasising huge prospects for the whole Belarusian-Chinese interregional all-weather strategic partnership.

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⁷³ Documents for \$85 million signed by representatives of Gomel region at the import exhibition in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/dokumenty-na-85-mln-podpisali-predstaviteli-gomelskoj-oblasti-na-vystavke-importa-v-shanhae-598283-2023/>

CHAPTER 4

Belarus - Uzbekistan: co-operation is developing on an upward trajectory

In August 2024, the second Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum was held in Tashkent, where about one hundred representatives of the business community and government agencies took part from the Belarusian side alone. We recall that the first similar forum was held in September 2023 in Minsk and was dedicated to the theme "Women in Business - Potential for the Development of Business Cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan", where "14 memorandums and agreements on cooperation were signed, including an agreement on the establishment of a joint leather and footwear production facility, and 15 contracts worth over Br90 million, or 350 billion Uzbek soums were concluded"⁷⁴.

This time the theme of the Women's Forum was "From Traditional Business to Green Business". In the context of this theme, it was noted that Belarus and Uzbekistan approach the issue of building a green economy responsibly, backing it up with real actions. For example, they annually increase trade turnover, mutually ensuring the output of competitive products and developing production cooperation, localisation of Belarusian and Uzbek industries in each other's territories, and increasing the share of investments. The parties consider joint activities on the development, introduction and use of nature-saving technologies, development of environmental services, ecotourism and agro-ecotourism to be among the priorities of green economic growth. Also, "it would be advisable to work on the creation of a farm-laboratory of biodesign, where the selection of new types of crops, including agricultural crops, climate-adaptive technologies and approaches to improving the resilience of territories to the negative impact of anthropogenic and natural factors"⁷⁵. This was discussed at six thematic sections of the forum, based on the main areas of co-operation between the two countries: mechanical engineering, light industry, agriculture, chemistry and woodworking, medical and educational services, tourism. Here too, interesting results of bilateral co-operation were noted, following the results of which it was planned to "sign more than 60 agreements

⁷⁴ Kochanova: Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum fully meets the spirit of the time [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-uzbeksko-belorusskij-zhenskij-biznes-forum-polnostiju-otvechaet-duhu-vremeni-656964-2024/>.

⁷⁵ Kochanova: Belarus and Uzbekistan approach the construction of green economy in good faith [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/kochanova-belarus-i-uzbekistan-podhodiat-k-stroitelstvu-ekonomiki-zelenogo-tipa-dobrosovestno-656993-2024/>

and memoranda worth about \$50 million"⁷⁶.

In particular, within the framework of this forum such sphere of joint interest as education was considered. At the plenary session, the parties voiced the task to expand the practice of mutual exchanges and internships of students, teachers, and specialists from various services and agencies, and to intensify cooperation within the framework of joint educational programmes. Moreover, Belarus is interested in increasing the number of Uzbek students in Belarusian universities, as well as in "attracting personnel from Uzbekistan to Belarusian enterprises, for example, in the light industry and mechanical engineering, with the possibility of their prompt training and retraining for the green economy in a wide range of specialities"⁷⁷. In particular, Minsk Automobile Plant already employs 300 specialists from Uzbekistan.

Speaking specifically about interaction between institutions of higher education, it was noted at the Second Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan, which took place in February 2024, that a few years ago, only a few dozen Uzbek citizens studied in our republic, while "today, about 5,000 students are educated at joint faculties. We are talking about expanding the areas of training and maximising the potential of Belarusian universities"⁷⁸. To date, more than 400 contracts and agreements have been signed. A forum of rectors was held, and "the opening of a branch of Vitebsk State University, one of the leading universities of the country, in Uzbekistan is on the agenda"⁷⁹.

Another telling example can be cited in this context. Last summer, Grodno State University (GrSU) hosted the first graduation of students studying under the joint programme of GrSU and Tashkent Law University. For reference, it should be noted that these students were recruited to study under the 2+1+1+1 scheme back in 2020. "The guys studied in Grodno for the first two years, then one year in Tashkent and completed their studies also in GrSU. Thus, they mastered all disciplines under the Belarusian programme and the necessary subjects under the Uzbek one. As a result, they received two diplomas in international law,

⁷⁶ Narbayeva: more than 60 agreements are planned to be signed as a result of the II Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://belta.by/society/view/narbaeva-po-itogam-ii-uzbeksko-belorusskogo-zhenskogo-biznes-foruma-planiruetsia-podpisat-bolee-60-657064-2024/>

⁷⁷ Belarus is ready to assist in the training of specialists in demand in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-gotova-okazat-pomosch-v-obuchenii-vostrebovannyh-v-uzbekistane-spetsialistov-656992-2024/>

⁷⁸ Belarus is ready to create enterprises in Uzbekistan for commercialisation of scientific developments [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-gotova-sozdavat-v-uzbekistane-predpriyatija-dlja-kommertsializatsii-nauchnyh-razrabotok-616330-2024/>

⁷⁹ "Everything is in our power". Snopkov assessed the possibility of increasing trade turnover with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vse-v-nashih-silakh-snopkov-otsenil-vozmozhnost-uvlicheniya-tovarooborota-s-uzbekistanom-657036-2024/>

which gives them the opportunity to work in their home country, Uzbekistan, as well as in Belarus..."⁸⁰. Several people completed their studies with excellent results and received their respective diplomas. Some of them will continue their studies at the Master's programme. And the implementation of this programme will continue. We would like to add that eight joint educational programmes are being implemented at SDSU, where 216 people are studying: 144 students from Tashkent State Law University, 37 students from Karshi State University, 32 students from Kokand State Pedagogical Institute named after Mukimi, three master's students from Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology.

Another relevant topic that was raised during the second Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum was co-operation between the regions of the two countries. At the planning session of the forum, it was emphasised that the parties need to more actively involve the scientific and expert-analytical communities in the topic of green business, including "to develop people's diplomacy, initiate and monitor the building of twinning ties between the cities of Belarus and Uzbekistan. This approach will contribute to the development of common promising business solutions, including the creation of new markets and the promotion of joint products on the markets of third countries"⁸¹. All the more so because at the second Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan the documents were adopted, which develop multifaceted cooperation between the regions of the two countries on the implementation of projects in the agro-industrial complex, electrical engineering and textiles, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, urban development, public utilities, as well as "road maps will be adopted and working groups will be created for each direction"⁸². And already after this February forum, it was possible to note a number of examples of how Belarusian and Uzbek regions carry out effective co-operation.

Thus, in April 2024, Gomel and Fergana regions signed a roadmap of cooperation and approved a plan of activities for 2024-2025, which "implies deepening and expansion of bilateral trade and economic, scientific and technical, cultural and humanitarian cooperation"⁸³. At the same time an

⁸⁰ 54 graduates of GrSU and Tashkent Law University received diplomas of two universities at once [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/diplomy-srazu-dvuh-vuzov-poluchili-54-vypusknika-grgu-i-tashkentskogo-juridicheskogo-universiteta-644190-2024/>

⁸¹ Kochanova: it is necessary to build twinning ties between the cities of Belarus and Belarus.

Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/special/society/view/kochanova-nuzhno-vystraivat-pobratimskie-svizi-mezhdu-gorodami-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-657003-2024/>

⁸² Zaleskii, B. Realisation of economic potential in the conditions of world turbulence / Boris Zaleskii.

- LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 32.

⁸³ Leaders of Gomel and Fergana regions signed a roadmap of co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

agreement on co-operation between the free economic zones "Kokand" and "Gomel-Raton" was signed and contracts for more than six and a half million Belarusian rubles were concluded. Note that the two regions have been developing ties since 2019. And during this time, "exports of Homel products to Fergana region have grown 4.5 times"⁸⁴. In the future, the parties outlined several key areas in which they will build cooperation: the creation of a joint dairy enterprise, supply of products of Homel machine-building enterprises, furniture production, and the organisation of trading houses in Homel and Fergana.

As for the interaction between the two capitals - Minsk and Tashkent - in February 2024, they signed an agreement on the establishment of twinning ties and a plan of measures in trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation for 2024-2025. And already in April, a delegation from Tashkent came to Minsk to study Minsk's experience in various spheres of urban economy. Especially since "Uzbekistan is implementing a large-scale project "New Tashkent", which involves the construction of a city based on modern achievements of architecture on the territory of almost 20 thousand hectares"⁸⁵. For this reason, the Uzbek partners were interested in everything: the width of streets, traffic organisation, dispatching of traffic lights, activity of the "One Window" system. The Belarusian capital revealed its experience in other areas: service 115, enterprises producing municipal and passenger vehicles. In addition, "the possibilities of industrial co-operation were discussed, in particular in the sphere of woodworking and furniture production, supply of baby food, creation of a trade house of Uzbekistan in Minsk"⁸⁶. So the twinning ties between the two capitals are beginning to develop on an upward trajectory. And this is only pleasing.

Finally, the second Women's Forum highlighted topics of scientific, technical and industrial-cooperative co-operation. In particular, the Institute of Microbiology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS) signed an

<https://belta.by/regions/view/rukovoditeli-gomelskoi-i-ferganskoi-oblastej-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-629168-2024/>

⁸⁴ Gomel and Fergana regions concluded contracts for more than Br6.5 million [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaj-a-i-ferganskaja-oblasti-zakljuchili-kontrakty-bolee-chem-na-br65-mln-629575-2024/>.

⁸⁵ Kukharev: Minsk is ready to share with Tashkent the experience of work in housing and communal services, urban development, digitalisation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kuharev-minsk-gotov-podelitsia-s-tashkentom-opvtom-raboty-v-zhkh-gradostroitelstve-tsi-frovizatsii-628286-2024/>

⁸⁶ Trade, industrial co-operation, exchange of experience. Kukharev outlined the directions of cooperation with Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kuharev-na-vstreche-s-poslom-oboznachil-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-s-regionami-uzbekistana-623983-2024/>

agreement on scientific and technological co-operation with the Institute of Microbiology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and an agreement with the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan on scientific co-operation in the field of studying agents of peptide nature as an alternative to antibiotics. And "the Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry signed an agreement on scientific and technical co-operation, an agreement was reached on joint implementation of a number of scientific projects, including in the field of biochemistry of meat and dairy, fish projects"⁸⁷.

In addition, an exhibition-presentation Made in Belarus was organised at the forum, where more than 70 innovations of Belarusian scientists from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Ministry of Education were presented in the section of scientific and technical developments. For example, the Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry of the National Academy of Sciences presented technologies of production of low-lactose and lactose-free dairy and sour-milk products, as well as products made on their basis. The Institute of Microbiology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus presented a number of microbiological preparations. One of them is designed for the complex treatment of wastewater from poultry processing plants. The second one is for treatment of seeds and vegetative plants of winter wheat, it stimulates growth and increases productivity of the grain crop. An unparalleled microbial preparation for purification of aqueous solutions from a mixture of the most common solvents based on esters and alcohols was also presented.

Vitebsk State Technological University presented nanofibre materials of various structures obtained by electroforming and intended for use in medicine and cosmetology to create innovative drugs. Polotsk State University showed at the exhibition-presentation a protective wax for rubbers, which is an ingredient of rubber mixtures for the manufacture of car tyres. In terms of properties it corresponds to imported protective wax. "The organisation of production will eliminate imports to Belarus in the amount of 210 tonnes per year and reduce the cost by 50% due to cheaper domestic raw materials"⁸⁸. Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno presented composite materials based on various polymer

⁸⁷ Scientists of Belarus and Uzbekistan will co-operate in the field of microbiology and biochemistry [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/uchenye-belarusi-i-uzbekistana-budut-sotrudnicat-v-oblasti-mikrobiologii-i-biohimii-656830-2024/>

⁸⁸ Gavrilova, V. From biopreparations to medical products: what Belarusian developments will be presented at the business forum in Tashkent / V. Gavrilova // [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/ot-biopreparatov-do-medizdelii-kakie-belorusskie-razrabotki-prezentujut-na-biznes-forume-v-tashkente-9344/>

matrices for the production of industrial products. The National Research Centre for Materials Science of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus demonstrated gem-quality artificial emeralds, the single crystals of which have characteristics close to the precious natural stone.

And the Belarusian State University (BSU) showed "more than ten unique inventions in the field of medicine, pharmaceuticals, , technological equipment..."⁸⁹ . In particular, the line of microbial biopreparations included products widely demanded in the agro-industrial complex. For example, "Bactogen" is designed to protect vegetable crops from bacterial and fungal diseases. In addition, the stand presented Gulliver, Stimul, MaxImmun and Korneplus plant growth and quality regulators to increase yields, as well as Nematicid, a biopreparation aimed at controlling such a pest as gall nematode. This is the only remedy in Belarus against this parasite, authorised for use in private farms. Another exhibit was food products of the "Food of the Smart City" series. It includes dry compositions of pre-chopped or crushed dried vegetables, herbs, spices, salt and other ingredients. These phytocomplexes have immunomodulating effect and contribute to the normalisation of the functions of the musculoskeletal apparatus, nervous and immune systems. Besides, the visitors of the exhibition-presentation could get acquainted with synthetic insect pheromones for controlling forest and garden pests, resource-saving technological equipment for production of products from elastic, integral and rigid polyurethane foams, new functional materials based on secondary resources.

Ten enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of Belarus also showed their products at the exhibition. A three-axle dump truck MAZ-65012K running on gas motor fuel with a payload of 18.5 tonnes was presented at the open area. The specialised engine is produced at the joint Belarusian-Chinese enterprise in the Veliky Kamen industrial park. At the closed area in the collective exposition of the Ministry of Industry the latest samples were also demonstrated - "medical products of Integral OJSC and BelOMO Holding, the largest TV set in Belarus with a diagonal of 100 inches, as well as laptops and other products of N Holding OJSC, a scale model of tram model T811 (M 1:20) of UKH "BKM" OJSC, as well as diesel-generator sets of Minsk Motor Plant OJSC" .⁹⁰

⁸⁹ BSU will present innovative developments at the exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-predstavit-innovatsionnye-razrabotki-na-vystavke-v-tashkente-656636-2024/>

⁹⁰ Ten enterprises of the Ministry of Industry will present their products at the II Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business Forum. business forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/desjat-predpriyatij-minproma-prezentujut-produktsiju-na-ii-uzbeksko-belorusskom-zhenskom-biznes-forume-655386-2024/>

This exhibition-presentation showed that it is not the first year that Uzbekistan has attracted numerous exporters from Belarus to showcase their capabilities in exhibition events in this Central Asian country. And 2024 is no exception in this respect. There are other examples that showed how diverse the participation of Belarusian enterprises and organisations in Uzbek exhibition forums can be.

Back in late winter and early spring of this year, the 25th International Specialised Exhibition "Construction - UzBuild" was held in Tashkent at the Uzexpocentre exhibition complex, where a collective exposition of Belarus was organised, represented by "five flagships of the Belarusian industry: Mogilevliftmash, Energokomplekt, Bellesexport, Newsprint Plant and Parquet Plant, a branch of Gomeldrev"⁹¹. Belarusian enterprises demonstrated their products: lifts, lifting, electrical and LED equipment, cable and wiring products, sawn timber, cylindrical wood, fuel products (wood chips, pellets), glued beam houses, frame-panel houses, solid laminated parquet, engineering board, mouldings. The exhibition also featured individual stands of business entities from Belarus - "Keramin OJSC, <...> Energokomplekt PO, Portman LLC (trade mark UNIDOORS), and Rechitsa Metizny Zavod OJSC"⁹².

A month later, at the end of March 2024, in Tashkent, enterprises from Belarus took part in the 23rd international exhibition UzFood 2024, where more than 280 companies from 26 countries participated. "The exposition Belarus. The Taste of Nature was formed by 15 Belarusian enterprises and their branches representing well-known domestic brands"⁹³. They presented a product line of meat and dairy products, cheeses, juices and desserts.

And in April, three business forms were held here at once. Firstly, it was the 25th International Exhibition "Education and Profession - 2024", which is one of the largest in Uzbekistan, where this time "more than 100 universities from almost 20 countries, including Belarus"⁹⁴. The exposition of the Belarusian National Technical University (BITU) included an information stand, presentations, master classes and consultations. After all, the number of students

⁹¹ The exposition of Belarus is presented at the international construction exhibition Uz-Build in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/ekspozitsiia-belarusi-predstavlena-na-mezhdunarodnoi-stroitelnoi-vystavke-uzbuild-v-tashkente-618287-2024/>

⁹² Belarusian enterprises presented their products and services at the construction exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriiatiia-predstavili-svoiu-produktsiiu-i-uslugi-na-stroitelnoi-vystavke-v-tashkente-618480-2024>

⁹³ Belarusian food products are presented at the exhibition in Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-produktv-pitaniia-predstavleny-na-vystavke-v-uzbekistane-623805-2024/>

⁹⁴ Opportunities of education in Belarus are presented at the international exhibition in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/vozmozhnosti-obucheniia-v-belarusi-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoi-vystavke-v-tashkente-628698-2024/>

from this Central Asian country is growing every year not only at BITU, but also at other Belarusian higher education institutions.

Secondly, it is the 28th International Exhibition "Healthcare - TINE 2024", which is a unique platform where specialists have an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the latest medical technologies. Since its foundation, more than three thousand companies have already taken part in the exhibition, and the geography of participants has covered almost all continents, including Europe, Asia, America and Africa. This year more than 250 companies from 15 countries participated here. Our republic was represented at this forum by BSU, whose stand demonstrated 20 scientific developments. The exposition included achievements of scientists and researchers in the field of medicine and chemistry. Among them - medicines, medical equipment, pharmaceutical substances. For example, haemostatic wipes to stop bleeding, which are "intended for use as an adjunctive agent during surgical procedures to stop capillary, venous and small arterial bleeding, as well as for household bleeding. The wipes are made of sterile absorbable tissue of white or yellowish-white colour, manufactured by controlled oxidation of cellulose"⁹⁵. The visitors of the exhibition could also get acquainted with an innovative drug to accelerate regeneration of damaged tissues "Foscelantan", which accelerates wound healing in boils, abscesses, carbuncles, fistulas, thermal burns, trophic ulcers. The exhibits also included the drug Antispik for the prevention of adhesions during abdominal surgery, anti-tumour drugs Cisplacel, Prospidelong and Temodex, phytosols and mixtures based on natural spicy and aromatic raw materials designed to correct the nutrition of preschool and school-age children, athletes and the elderly.

Thirdly, it is the international specialised exhibition "INNOPROM. Central Asia", which brought together more than 400 exhibitors and presented 28 collective expositions, including Made in Belarus, where "more than 10 Belarusian enterprises and their branches representing renowned domestic industrial brands" participated⁹⁶. In particular, samples and developments of one of the flagships of the Belarusian industry - a company producing quarry equipment - were presented

BELAZ OJSC is the managing company of the BELAZ-Holding holding

⁹⁵ About 20 scientific developments of BSU will be presented at the international exhibition of health care in Tashkent [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/okolo-20-nauchnyh-razrabotok-bgu-predstaviat-na-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-zdravoohranenija-v-tashkente-628163-2024/>

⁹⁶ Belarus presented industrial developments at the exhibition "INNOPROM. Central Asia." [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-promyshlennye-razrabotki-na-vystavke-innoprom-tsentrlnaia-aziia-629623-2024/>

company. Gomselmash Holding - the largest manufacturer of agricultural machinery, which is among the leaders of the world market of combine harvesters and other complex agricultural machinery - was also presented at this forum. OAO Minsk Tractor plant"

demonstrated modernised, updated and special versions of tractor equipment, while the specialised enterprise for designing, manufacturing starters and alternators for carburettor and diesel engines of trucks, cars, buses, agricultural machinery and special equipment - OJSC BATE - demonstrated products of a number of branches, including OJSC Borisov Plant Avtogidroushilitel, OJSC Belkard, OJSC Rudensk, OJSC Vitebsk Plant of Electrical Measuring Devices. OJSC "BMZ" showed a wide range of metal products, each type of which combines innovations and long-term experience of the company's developments. Samples of metal-cutting machine tools and CNC machining centres, universal console milling machines were presented at the stand of JSC "StankoGomel". Developments in the field of production of power distribution transformers and other electrical equipment were demonstrated by V.I. Kozlov MEETZ JSC. LLC "Cooling Systems Plant" presented radiators for cooling of power systems and products successfully used in cooling systems of mining dump trucks, tractors, drilling rigs, diesel generators, block power plants, traction transformers of electric locomotives, compressor stations. BKM Holding, which specialises in the production of electric transport - electric buses, trolleybuses, trams, electric trucks and charging infrastructure - demonstrated large-scale product models at the exhibition, including a low-floor single-section tram with two motor bogies. An assortment of wristwatches, alarm clocks, processing parts and printed circuit boards was presented by Minsk Watch Factory. In addition, within the framework of this forum, Belarusian participants held a number of meetings to consolidate partnership points.

As we can see, Belarus and Uzbekistan maintain high dynamics in the development of bilateral ties in the field of exhibition activities, which is reflected in the trade and economic balance. For statistics, we note that since 2016, the trade turnover of the parties "increased 5.5 times and in 2022 exceeded the half-billion mark for the first time. The growth of mutual trade last year was 15%, and in January - September this year - almost 13%"⁹⁷. At the same time, Minsk and Tashkent intend to further deepen this interaction to cover new promising areas of co-operation.

Returning to the decisions of the second Uzbek-Belarusian Women's Business

⁹⁷ Ambassador: the dynamics of Belarusian-Uzbek relations is very high [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://subs.belta.by/Republ.nsf/59e33ed42f57f8c5422569f8002b86f7/4142892f5e53f61843258bcd0069ee26!OpenDocument>

Forum, we would like to emphasise that it addressed areas across a wide spectrum: the real sector of the economy, machine-building, tourism, and health care. The investment agenda is also gradually growing. Suffice it to say that "Belarus has been investing in Uzbekistan's development multiple times over the last 5 years. <...> Only here in Uzbekistan there are about 180 organisations with capital from Belarus"⁹⁸. All this suggests that bilateral Belarusian-Uzbek economic cooperation is steadily developing and is aimed at a new level of mutual trade turnover.

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⁹⁸ Chebotar: Belarus and Uzbekistan confirm interest in developing co-operation in all directions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/chebotar-belarus-i-uzbekistan-podtverzhdaiut-interes-k-razvitiu-sotrudnichestva-po-vsem-napravleniiam-657018-2024/>

CHAPTER 5

Belarus - Kazakhstan: to enter into new projects, to maximise mutual benefits

Belarus and Kazakhstan today demonstrate great potential for mutually beneficial co-operation in various sectors, from agriculture to high technologies and innovative developments. Joint investment projects in machine-building, chemical and petrochemical industries are being successfully implemented. During the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Kazakhstan Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, which was held in Minsk in May 2024, it was also noted that "it is necessary to continue and expand the practice of holding interregional business investment forums, exhibitions and fairs..."⁹⁹. In this context, it should be said that our republic actively participates in this Central Asian country in many international exhibition events. For example, "the total exposition of Belarus at exhibitions in Kazakhstan in 2023 amounted to almost 1 thousand square metres, about 50 Belarusian enterprises took part"¹⁰⁰. This was a significant contribution to the bilateral economic co-operation.

The most representative international event in Kazakhstan in 2023 in the exhibition sphere was the **first international industrial forum "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan"**, which took place in September in the Expo Centre of the Kazakh capital. The participants included enterprises and companies from 20 countries, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Myanmar, Vietnam, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, China, Russia, presented in such thematic sections of the exhibition as mechanical engineering, metallurgy and materials, energy solutions, chemical industry technologies, information and telecommunication technologies, machine tool construction and development of infrastructure. 32 Belarusian enterprises and institutions of the Ministry of Industry, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Belarus, the State Committee for Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Education also presented their products and technologies. "The national exposition of Belarus

⁹⁹ Agro-industrial complex, culture and education. In what spheres Belarus and Kazakhstan will strengthen mutual co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://belta.by/society/view/apk-kultura-i-obrazovanie-v-kakih-sferah-belarus-i-kazahstana-budut-ukrepliat-vzaimnoe-sotrudnichestvo-638164-2024/>

¹⁰⁰ From agro-industrial complex to high technologies. Myatlikov named promising areas of co-operation with Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/ot-apk-do-vysokih-tehnologii-miatlikov-nazval-perspektivnye-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-s-kazahstanom-637976-2024/>

was spread over an area of 742 square metres (210 square metres in the pavilion and 532 square metres in the outdoor area"¹⁰¹ .

The specifics of this exhibition were characterised by its innovative nature. For this reason, the products presented by the Belarusian participants of the forum included interesting technical and scientific novelties. In particular, 20 enterprises of the Belarusian Ministry of Industry showed samples of export equipment, and "the total amount of commercial documents (agreements, protocols, contracts) <...> totalled about \$64 million"¹⁰² . For example, OJSC "Managing Company of Horizont Holding" demonstrated two directions of its products - consumer electronics and equipment, as well as professional products for transport, namely automotive and aviation electronics. In the first direction, Horizont's specialists "signed contracts worth \$25 million in two days. retail chains in Kazakhstan"¹⁰³ . In the second case, a Belarusian company received an order to produce electronics for cars. This shows that interest in Belarusian products in the Kazakh market remains traditionally high.

At this exhibition, Gomselmash also demonstrated machinery that is already assembled in Kazakhstan. The fact is that in order to develop industrial co-operation in this Central Asian country, joint assembly of combine harvesters under the Essil brand is already underway. "This is a very successful project, we are assembling 4,300 units. <...> Now the level of localisation is already up to 40%. The cutterbars, tilting chambers, hoppers are fully localised"¹⁰⁴ . And in the future it is planned to supply updated harvesters of the 4th class.

To expand its presence in Kazakhstan - this is the task for Mogilevliftmash OJSC, whose specialists participated in this exhibition. The Mogilevliftmash enterprise already has "assembly production, dealers and distribution network, but it is not enough..."¹⁰⁵ . Co-operation should be developed further. Moreover, the market of Kazakhstan is very big. A lot of construction is going on there and many lifts need to be replaced. For this reason "Mogilevliftmash" potentially

¹⁰¹ The International Industrial Forum "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan" [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-astane-otkrvlsia-mezhdunarodnyj-promyshlennyj-forum-innoprom-kazakhstan-590049-2023/>

¹⁰² Enterprises of the Ministry of Industry at "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan" concluded contracts for \$64 million [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/predpriiia-minprom-na-innoprom-kazakhstan-zakljuchili-kontraktv-na-64-mln-591102-2023/>

¹⁰³ Predko: production of "Horizon" will be realised by trade networks of Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/predko-produktsiia-gorizonta-budet-realizovyvatsia-torgovymi-seti-ami-kazahstana-590599-2023/>

¹⁰⁴ "Gomselmash" will supply Kazakhstan with updated combine harvesters [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/gomselmash-postavit-v-kazakhstan-obnovlennye-zernouborochnye-kombai-ny-590179-2023/>

¹⁰⁵ "Mogilevliftmash" plans to sell to Kazakhstan up to 700 lifts a year [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mogilevliftmash-planiruet-prodat-v-kazahstane-do-700-liftov-v-god-590005-2023/>

sets the task to sell up to 700 lifts annually.

Such a Belarusian exporter as Atlant CJSC intends to strengthen its co-operation with Kazakhstan. At the forum "INNOPROM.

Kazakhstan" the enterprise presented household appliances. An important fact: Atlant has concluded "contacts with all major retail chains. In particular, for 8 months [2023] 20 thousand refrigerators and 3 thousand washing machines were shipped to this country <...>"¹⁰⁶. The Belarusian supplier intends to further strengthen this co-operation. And Minsk Tractor Plant showed a wide range of its new machinery and "signed a commercial contract for the supply of 1.5 thousand cabins to MTZ Machine Building Plant - Kazakhstan LLP". 1.5 thousand units of cab kits for \$3 million"¹⁰⁷.

As for the enterprises of Bellegprom Concern, following the forum "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan", agreements were reached on increasing supplies of Belarusian fabrics for various purposes to the Kazakh market, as well as "on the placement of an "island" with Belarusian light industry goods in the hypermarket Magnum. It is planned that the products of Orsha Flax Factory, Vitebsk Carpets, Dobrush Porcelain Factory, BPHO OJSC will be presented there"¹⁰⁸. In addition, following the results of the negotiations, a memorandum of co-operation between Bellegprom Concern and Global-Spetsodezhda LLP and Union of Kazakhstani Manufacturers of Personal Protective Equipment was signed. It can be added that for three quarters of 2023 the enterprises of concern shipped to Kazakhstan for nine million dollars. Export growth is 131 per cent. Speaking about the joint stand of Belarusian scientific organisations and educational institutions at the exhibition "INNOPROM.

Kazakhstan", it should be noted that six organisations subordinate to the NAS of Belarus were represented at the event - Optron Plant, Optics, Optoelectronics and Laser Technology State Scientific and Production Association, United Institute of Informatics Problems of the NAS of Belarus, Minsk Research Institute of Radio Materials, Aviation Technologies and Complexes CJSC, Centre for System Analysis and Strategic Research of the NAS of Belarus, as well as three universities. - Belarusian State University,

¹⁰⁶ "Atlant" intends to increase cooperation in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/atlant-nameren-naraschivat-sotrudnichestvo-s-kazahstanom-590085-2023/>

¹⁰⁷ MTW will supply to Kazakhstan 1.5 thousand units of cab kits for \$3 million [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-postavit-v-kazahstan-15-tys-edits-kabinokomplektov-na-3-mln-590218-2023/>

¹⁰⁸ Bellegprom" enterprises have increased supplies to Kazakhstan by more than a third since the beginning of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/predpriatiia-bellegprom-a-s-nachala-goda-uvlechili-postavki-v-kazahstan-bolee-chem-na-tret-590675-2023/>

Belarusian state Technological University, Belarusian state Belarusian State University of Informatics and radioelectronics, plus HTP resident Mind Games Soft LLC and Mogotex OJSC. They showed "several thematic blocks: unmanned aerial vehicles, electric transport and component base, industrial technologies, microelectronics, laser technology, artificial intelligence and IT-technologies, biotechnology and pharmacology, technologies for space exploration"¹⁰⁹.

In particular, an ultralight aircraft was demonstrated - a gyroplane model "Yastreb", which is designed for border patrols, cargo transport, aerial survey, forestry monitoring and fire protection. "In the short term - operation as an air taxi"¹¹⁰. Compared to aeroplanes and helicopters, this gyroplane has a number of advantages: ease of control in all ranges of operation, no vibrations and "stalling on the wing", many variations of horizontal flight speeds. There is also no need for special preparation of a site for take-off, the device can be landed on unprepared country roads, soil, water and snow.

Among other presented developments of CJSC "Aviation Technologies and Complexes" it was possible to see Agrodron A60-X - a complex for spraying of the field using ultra-small volume technology, which has a number of advantages over traditional methods of plant protection agent application. In total, more than 70 developments of organisations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and institutions of the Ministry of Education were presented as part of the national exposition of Belarus.

Let us now look at some other interesting international exhibitions organised with Belarusian participation in Kazakhstan over the past two years. For example, the exposition of Belarusian producers under the brand Belarus - The Taste of Nature was presented at the **Kazakhstan International Exhibition "Food, Beverages, Ingredients, Packaging and Equipment for the Food Industry" - InterFood Astana** in Astana at the end of May 2023. This forum is a traditional meeting place for specialists from different countries in the food, processing and packaging industry. More than 70 companies from Armenia, Belarus, Vietnam, Germany, Kazakhstan, China, Malaysia, Russia, Russia and Uzbekistan presented at their stands new product portfolios, innovations in the food industry, beverages, ingredients and modern packaging technologies. The

¹⁰⁹ Shakhanovich, A. For the first time in Kazakhstan. What Belarus will present at the exhibition "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan" in Astana / A. Shakhanovich // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/comments/view/vpervye-v-kazhstane-chto-belarus-predstavit-na-vystavke-innoprom-v-astane-8893/>

¹¹⁰ Gavrilova, V. Scientific and technical developments of Belarus will be presented at the exhibition "INNOPROM. Kazakhstan" / V. Gavrilova // [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/nauchno-tehnicheskie-razrabotki-belarusi-predstaviat-na-vystavke-innoprom-kazakhstan-589784-2023/>

Belarusian exposition showed "a variety of products from Volkovysk, Grodno, Slonim meat processing plants and JV JSC Spartak: sausages, meat semi-finished products, confectionery products"¹¹¹. The exhibition included a business programme including conferences, presentations, master classes and tastings of product lines.

A year later - at the end of May 2024 - at the same international exhibition - **InterFood Astana** - food industry leaders from 15 countries demonstrated the goods and services of more than 80 food manufacturers and brands. The honoured region of the exposition forum was the "European Union with the presentation of European goods from 30 producers of the member countries of the association"¹¹². And in the exposition Belarus. The Taste of Nature exposition, a wide range of products was presented by Belarusian meat and dairy companies: Slutsk Cheese Factory OJSC and Slonimsky Meat Processing Plant OJSC.

One of the most visited and widely covered agricultural events in Kazakhstan - the **International Exhibition of Agriculture and Food Industry "KazFarm/KazAgro-2023"** - was held in October in Astana, where 250 companies from 20 countries participated and where the best developments were presented, from seeds and embryos to finished products of crop, livestock and processing industries. The participants from our country were Agropolikhim LLC, RTIFLEX LLC, Tekhmash LLC, Minsk Motor Plant. The Belarusian State Association for Breeding Livestock Breeding "Belplemzhivobedinenie" and the Republican Unitary Enterprise "Gomelgosplempredpriyatie" "organised an exposition stand with demonstration of video materials, which acquainted the guests and visitors of the exhibition with the breeding livestock breeding of the Republic of Belarus".

Belarus"¹¹³. Negotiations were held with the heads of Kazakhstani breeding organisations and issues of mutually beneficial cooperation were discussed.

Finally, in early November 2023, Belarusian meat processing and dairy companies took part in Kazakhstan's largest specialised exhibition event - **the**

¹¹¹ Exposition Belarus - The Taste of Nature at the exhibition InterFood Astana [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.cci.by/o-palate/novosti/ekspozitsiya-belarus-the-taste-of-nature-na-vystavke-interfood-astana/#>

¹¹² Belarusian enterprises are presented at the international exhibition InterFood Astana in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriatia-predstavleny-na-mezhdunarodnoi-vystavke-interfood-astana-v-kazhastane-637677-2024/>

¹¹³ KazFarm/KazAgro-2023" Exhibition was held in Astana on 19-21 October [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.mshp.gov.by/printv/ru/news-ru/view/19-21-oktiabrya-v-gastana-proshla-vystavka-kazfarm-kazagro-2023-9164-2023/>

25th Central Asian International Food Industry Exhibition - FoodExpo Qazaqstan-2023, which took place in Almaty and brought together over 300 companies from 33 countries. In addition to Belarus, collective country expositions were presented by Hungary, Indonesia, Poland, Russia, North Macedonia, the United States of America, Sri Lanka and the Republic of Korea. In the section "Meat and meat products" the enterprise "Veles-Mit", as well as Volkovysk, Grodno, Pinsk and Slonim meat processing plants were presented. Belarusian producers familiarised Kazakhstani consumers with a wide range of sausages, delicatessen, smoked and tinned products. Volkovysk meat processing plant demonstrated already favourite meat products, including beef steaks and new types of semi-smoked sausages. Grodno Meat Processing Plant offered beef sausage with prunes. Pinsk meat processing plant surprised visitors with products made of game meat. "Among the novelties are meat paste and Italian series of sausages from Veles-Mit". Boiled sausage with pistachios according to the Italian recipe aroused special interest among the visitors of the exhibition. Enterprises of the dairy industry - Bellact, Molochnye Gorki, Lida Dairy Canning Plant - brought milk, cheese, butter, dried baby food, milk powder¹¹⁴. Bellakt presented its new products to the Kazakh market - frozen cheesecakes, dessert paste with cocoa and hazelnut and a new line of glazed cheesecakes. Goretsky Food Combine for the first time brought to Kazakhstan its legendary line of Exponenta products, rich in protein and functional characteristics. Dairy Horki presented not only its traditional line of whole-milk products, but also a new range of lactose-free products, including cottage cheese, sour cream and butter. Among the novelties we should mention clarified butter presented in glass packaging. By the way, at the professional competition-tasting "The Best Product of FoodExpo Qazaqstan-2023", which was held on the opening day of the exhibition, the company "Molochnye Gorki" was awarded a diploma in the category "Dairy Products", and Goretsky Food Complex received an award in the category "Best Sour Milk Drinks". Traditionally, this exhibition was accompanied by a rich business programme, participation in which gave the representatives of Belarusian business an opportunity to exchange experience and vision of further development of the food industry. In particular, a business session "Sustainable Development of Food Industry Enterprises" was held and direct negotiations between retail chains and distributors were held in the retail centre.

¹¹⁴ Belarus presented its exposition at the food exhibition in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2023.
- URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-ekspozitsiiu-na-prodovolstvemoi-vstavke-v-kazahstane-597496-2023/>

A year later, in mid-November, the **26th Food Industry Exhibition - FoodExpo Qazaqstan-2024** - was held, where Belarusian meat processing, dairy and confectionery companies participated in the exposition Belarus. The Taste of Nature. They were represented by eight companies, among which one could see flagships and well-known brands - Volkovysk, Grodno, Oshmian, Pinsk and Slonim meat processing plants. Turovsky Dairy Plant presented at the exhibition a product line of cheese for consumers of the professional market and chain retail. Under the auspices of the enterprise a thematic location Show-Kitchen was organised, within the framework of which pizza preparation with these cheeses was demonstrated. OJSC "Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1" presented novelties of 2024 - Edelweiss cheese in various spices, "Imeruli" cheeses and cheeses with the addition of goat's milk. The company showed a lactose-free product line including milk, cottage cheese, sour cream and butter. "Also presented unique cheeses without added sugar, the assortment of which was enriched with two new types: cheese curd glazed without added sugar with fillers "mango-orange-ginger" and "blueberry-ejeverica" with a mass fraction of fat 20%"¹¹⁵. Spartak presented a product line without added sugar: bitter chocolate with collagen, with strawberry and hazelnut, a range of mini granola bars, wafer bars, No sugar biscuits with flax seeds and bran, and Truffles candies without added sugar.

Let us summarise the results. All these exhibitions 2023-2024 organised in Kazakhstan have shown that the participation of enterprises from Belarus in these business forums provides an opportunity not only to exchange experience with Kazakh partners and visions for further development in the most relevant sectors of the economy, but also provides access to specific bilateral cooperation projects. Moreover, the parties see great potential for co-operation thanks to the exhibition events, which have significant potential and unique opportunities for mutual benefit.

¹¹⁵ Belarusian enterprises became participants of a large exhibition of food industry in Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/beloruskie-predpriatia-stali-uchastnikami-krupnoi-vystavki-pischevoj-promyshlennosti-v-kazhastane-675060-2024/>

CHAPTER 6

Belarus: international economic international economic forums as a path to investment projects and promising proposals 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, economic and investment cooperation, establishment of reliable long-term

interregional and co-operative ties. Over its history, this forum has turned into the main business event of the Gomel region, "which has 107 signed documents worth \$2 billion 600 million and created 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"¹¹⁶, 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, cities 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 research and development work..."¹¹⁷. 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,

¹¹⁶ 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-prochnajia-osnova-dlia-sozdaniia-umnoi-ekonomiki-662391-2024/>.

¹¹⁷ 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-gomelskoi-oblasti-i-raitsentrov-zakliucheno-bolee-250-mezhdunarodnyh-dogovorov-662333-2024/>

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"¹¹⁸.

For example, in Lelchitsy 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, 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"¹¹⁹. Especially since the demand for aluminium is constantly growing. Aluminium applications range from aerospace to construction and chemical industries.

Returning to the prospects and possible areas of cooperation between Gomel Region and foreign countries, we should note that Kazakhstan was among the active participants of the forum from the countries of the Commonwealth of

¹¹⁸ More than 80 objects for investment are offered at the Gomel Economic Forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/bole-80- obiekto- dlia- investirovaniia- predlagaiut- na- gomelskom- ekonomicheskom- forume-662389- 2024/>.

¹¹⁹ "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-aliuminii-kakie-bogatstva-nedr- predlagaiut- v- gomelskoi-oblasti-investoram-662828-2024/>

Independent States, whose potential for cooperation 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"¹²⁰. 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 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. At present, 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 be implemented soon..."¹²¹.

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 defined the guidelines for new directions of strengthening co-operation with Homiel region. "There is an interest in the 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."¹²². In addition, the Chinese region has a factory for the production of bearings. And this 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, as well as this year opened a new page in the history of Belarusian-Mongolian partnership ties. Interesting prospects are seen "in

¹²⁰ Gomel region intends to expand cooperation with partners from Kazakhstan [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaia-oblast- namerena-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-partnerami-iz-kazahstana-662369-2024/>.

¹²¹ 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/poluchitsia-superprodukt-predstavitel-sez-kokand-anonsiroval- novyi-belorussko-uzbekskij-proekt-662558-2024/>.

¹²² Promsector and woodworking. Gomelschina 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/>.

agriculture, industry, and food production"¹²³ . 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 ninefold at the end of last [2023] year"¹²⁴ . 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 technologies, food products, food security, "green technologies", clean energy, as well as interregional cooperation, as the parties plan to adopt an important document in the near future - "a memorandum on the establishment of twinning relations between Homiel and the Emirate of Fujairah"¹²⁵ .

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 has 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 Development of Zimbabwe gave such a high assessment of the joint government programme on mechanisation of the agricultural sector with Belarus"¹²⁶ . By the end of this year, another 80 units of Gomselmash machinery will be delivered to this African country from the Belarusian south-eastern region.

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

¹²³ 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-do-sladostej-kakov-tochki-soprikosnovenija-gomelskoj-oblasti-i-mongolii-662425-2024/>.

¹²⁴ 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-uae-vyros-pochti-v-deviat-raz-po-itogam-2023-662349-2024/>.

¹²⁵ Homiel and Fujairah plan to establish twinning relations [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomel-i-fudzheira-planirujut-ustanovit-pobratimskie-otnoshenija-662476-2024/>.

¹²⁶ "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/>.

period"¹²⁷ , 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", "Electronic Trade as a Tool for Export Promotion", "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"¹²⁸ . 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"¹²⁹ .

Speaking in particular about Grodno itself - the place of the international forum,

¹²⁷ 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-razviti-i-mezhdunarodnyh-svi-azei-662566-2024/>

¹²⁸ Chebotar at the international forum in Grodno: we have a high-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-privekaet-investorov-659331-2024/>

¹²⁹ 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/>

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, cooperation agreements have been signed 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 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",¹³⁰.

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"¹³¹. 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. 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 "Grodtoorgmash", LLC "PCC Consumer Produkte Navigator", LLC "Biocom", LLC "Cosy Eurodom Premium", LLC "TekhnoKhimReagentBel", PT LLC "Tayfun", CJSC "NPO "Vektor", Terrazit Plus LLC, JV CJSC Bigan, ServisPromPak LLC, Medlen LLC, Belkard OJSC, Conte Spa JLLC, Gronitex OJSC, ZOV-LENEVROMEBEL, and EUEcoPak LLC. and LLC "EUEcoPak"¹³². It

¹³⁰ Six agreements with foreign partners concluded at the economic forum in Hrodna [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/shest-soglashenij-s-zarubezhnymi-partnerami-zakljucheny-na-ekonomicheskom-forume-v-grodno-659365-2024/>.

¹³¹ Ministry of Economy: priority in the work of FEZ "Grodnoinvest" - development of investment sites in districts [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-prioritet-v-rabote-sez-grodnoinvest-razvitie-investitsionnyh-ploschadok-v-rajonah-672104-2024/>.

¹³² Grodno International Economic Forum was held with the participation of FEZ "Grodnoinvest".

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 the Nizhny Novgorod Region in Belarus and the Turkish company Vin Logistic.

And 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"¹³³. The main volume of sales came from agricultural and woodworking products. The share of these commodity groups in the structure of exchange exports of Hrodna enterprises was almost 90 and 10 per cent respectively. This year, companies from 19 countries purchased goods of Grodno producers at the exchange trades. 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.

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"¹³⁴. 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 the Mogilev region and the most

[Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://grodnoinvest.by/press-centre/grodnenskij-mezhdunarodnyj-forum-sostoivalsya-pri-uchastii-sez-grodnoinvest/>

¹³³ 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/>

¹³⁴ 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 zasiedanie otkrylo cheredu meroprivatv grodnen skogo mezhdunarodnogo ekonomicheskogo foruma.html>

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 in 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 issues,

import substitution, support for exporters, new logistics routes and transport corridors, financial market instruments, urgent tasks of the process of integration of regional business into the global economic space"¹³⁵.

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 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 of 101.6%, this year to this base it is growing at the rate of 105.8%"¹³⁶. 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"¹³⁷. Moreover, for an open dialogue in this Belarusian region there are all the necessary tools for business support: free economic zone "Mogilev", Mogilev Agency for Regional development, Mogilev branch of the Belarusian

¹³⁵ New markets, import substitution. Two major economic forums will be held in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/novve-rvnyi-sbvti-importozameschenie-dva-krupnyh-ekonomicheskikh-foruma-projdu-v-mogileve-667334-2024/>

¹³⁶ "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-otkryli-v-mogileve-668921-2024/>

¹³⁷ 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-omelnitse-uspeha-forum-stal-ploschadkoi-dlia-vstrech-s-nadezhnymi-druziami-i-i-novymi-668855-2024/>

Chamber of Commerce and Industry. 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 the implementation of 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. The division of production into stages and components based on the principle of relative advantages will allow not only to optimise production processes, but also to 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"¹³⁸.

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 and rural areas, the Bremin-Orsha Special Economic Zone, the China- Belarusian industrial park Veliky Kamen. 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

¹³⁸ "External restrictions open a window of opportunity". Naumovich at the economic forum in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vneshnie-ogranichenija-otkryvajut-okno-vozmozhnostej-naumovich-na-ekonomicheskom-forum-v-mogileve-668949-2024/>

world's GDP, offers huge opportunities for trade and investment"¹³⁹. 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.

Free Economic Zones of Belarus: aiming to increase the pace of development

Free Economic Zones (FEZs) of Belarus have been drivers of economic development of the regions of our republic for many years. Statistics show that a total of 440 residents of six Belarusian FEZs provide more than five per cent of the gross domestic product, one fifth of foreign direct investment, exports of goods and industrial production. Only "in the last three years, 100 new FEZ residents have become new participants with plans to create 6,000 jobs"¹⁴⁰. And in 2024 in the Belarusian FEZs are already implementing new projects in metal and wood processing, machine building, integrated logistics, chemical and polymer industry, production of charging infrastructure of electric transport, biotechnology. "These include a number of large-scale investment projects: organisation in Kobrin of the production of chrome-plated blanks for hydraulic cylinder rods, construction in Vitebsk of a plant for the production of chipboard and laminated boards, organisation in FEZ Minsk and FEZ Mogilev of the production of metal pipes and packaging materials"¹⁴¹. In terms of export development, FEZ residents of Belarus are actively working on reorienting the supply of their products from the European direction to the countries of Asia, Africa and the Pacific region, diversifying logistics chains and expanding the range of products supplied. For example, "woodworking producers have increased shipments to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, and China,

¹³⁹ "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/>

¹⁴⁰ Naumovich: FEZs are drivers of economic development of regions [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/naumovich-sez-javljaetsja-drajverami-ekonomicheskogo-razvitiia-regionov-664109-2024/>

¹⁴¹ 36 new residents have been registered in the economic zones of Belarus since the beginning of the year [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/v-ekonomicheskijh-zonah-belarusi-s-nachala-goda-zaregistrirovany-36-novyh-rezidentov-648189-2024/>

Mexico, Russia, Turkey and Uzbekistan. As a result, it was possible to compensate for the reduction of supplies to the European market"¹⁴². And already in the first quarter of 2024, the volume of exports exceeded two billion dollars. This is a record for three months of this year for the entire period of operation of Belarusian FEZs. At the same time, resident enterprises "significantly increased the volume of supplies of their products to Asian countries: to Kazakhstan - 1.1 times, to India - 1.2 times, to Tajikistan - 1.3 times, to China - 1.5 times, to Turkey - 1.6 times, to Turkmenistan - 2.1 times, to Iraq - 4.5 times"¹⁴³. Domestic FEZs continue to have a significant impact on regional indicators, accounting for up to half of the export volumes of a number of Belarusian regions.

Among the leaders in this indicator is FEZ "**Gomel-Raton**", where in 2022 almost 105 million dollars of foreign direct investment was attracted for the implementation of investment projects, or more than half of the volume of foreign investment in Gomel region. At the same time, at the beginning of 2023, 67 residents worked in the FEZ, including 24 companies with foreign capital from 15 countries. "In total, 3 new resident enterprises with the volume of declared investments of \$2.3 million were registered in 2022. Foreign trade turnover of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" residents according to the results of work in 2022 increased by 7.8% compared to the same period of 2021 and amounted to \$2.6 billion"¹⁴⁴. The residents sold most of their products outside Belarus. Exports of goods of FEZ participants account for almost forty per cent of the region's exports. In 2023, exports of FEZ residents already totalled almost \$1.5 billion.

Now 63 investment projects are being implemented here at various stages. There are 25 enterprises with foreign capital from 13 countries operating in the FEZ. Residents' enterprises employ nearly 30 thousand people. In 2023, 545 people will be employed in additionally introduced jobs"¹⁴⁵. At the same time, the growth of investments of residents of this FEZ last year was 163 per cent or 315.5 million Belarusian rubles. If we talk about the growth of foreign direct

¹⁴² Abramenko: export supplies of FEZ residents exceeded \$2bn - a record [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/abramenko-eksportnye-postavki-rezidentov-sez-prevysili-2-mlrd-eto-rekord-644544-2024/>

¹⁴³ Export of goods of FEZ residents in the first quarter exceeded \$2 billion [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/eksport-tovarov-rezidentov-sez-v-i-kvartale-prevysil-2-mlrd-635605-2024>

¹⁴⁴ Foreign trade turnover of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" increased by 7.8% last year [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vneshnetorgovji-oborot-sez-gomel-raton-uvlichilsja-za-proshlyi-god-na-78-552223-2023>

¹⁴⁵ FEZ "Gomel-Raton" residents exported goods worth \$1.4 billion in 2023 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-sez-gomel-raton-eksportirovali-tovarov-na-14-mlrd-v-2023-godu-618590-2024>

investment on a net basis, it grew by 150 per cent or \$38.2 million. "Among the new facilities introduced by residents of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" in 2023 are a workshop for the production of sterile medical products at the enterprise "Alcopack", a metalworking shop "Veza-G", reconstructed administrative and laboratory buildings

"Mirtek-engineering" and "TM BELAR", mineral fertiliser warehouse of Gomel Chemical Plant"¹⁴⁶. In addition, FEZ resident SvetlogorskKhimvolokno OJSC has mastered the production of latex and nitrile gloves. For this purpose about 10 million dollars of investments were directed. And "the project on production of three-layer polyethylene film is at the stage of completion - now the equipment is being installed. The capacity is 4 thousand tonnes per year..."¹⁴⁷. Already in 2024, another FEZ resident - JSC "Milkavita" - began to produce fast-soluble milk powder, which has no analogues in Belarus. The thing is that milk in this case is subjected to low-temperature drying, while not losing its useful properties. "The innovative product can later be used to produce cheese, sour cream, cottage cheese and other dairy products. The payback period of the project is about 8 years"¹⁴⁸.

Another indicative fact: last year five enterprises were registered in this FEZ: two new residents - in Gomel, two - in Mozyr, one - in Svetlogorsk district. For example, LLC "Geflis" implements an investment project on development in the field of reconstruction, modernisation and repair of sewage treatment facilities, LLC "GOSNIP" - on organisation of production of cable and wire products, LLC "Ameta-Electrod" implements "a project on organisation of production of a full cycle of welding rutile electrodes for manual arc welding. <...> The project

The creation of 197 additional jobs is envisaged"¹⁴⁹. In June 2023, BELPLASTKHM CJSC was registered in the FEZ with an investment project on modernisation and development of wallpaper production in order to "develop a fundamentally new type of products - profile embossed wallpaper <...>. The

¹⁴⁶ Over Br315 million invested in production by residents of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" in 2023 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/svvshe-br315-mln-investirovali-vizvodstvo-rezidenty-sez-gomel-raton-v-2023-godu-618608-2024>

¹⁴⁷ FEZ resident "Gomel-Raton" has established the production of import-substituting products [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <http://gomelraton.com/press-center/news/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-naladil-vypusk-importozameshchavushchev-produktsii/>.

¹⁴⁸ The enterprise-resident of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" OJSC "Milkavita" plans to switch to the production of quick-soluble milk powder, which has no analogues in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <http://gomelraton.com/press-center/news/predpriatie-rezident-sez-gomel-raton-oao-milkavita-planiruet-pereyti-k-vypusku-sukhogo-byvstrorastvo/>

¹⁴⁹ Registration of a new resident of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" took place [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <http://gomelraton.com/press-center/residents/sostovalas-registratsiya-novogo-rezidenta-sez-gomel-raton/>

number of employees hired for the additionally introduced jobs will amount to 73 people"¹⁵⁰.

And in the third quarter of last year, another new FEZ resident, ProfitPlastMetal LLC, started implementing an investment project to create a production facility for cast iron products to meet the needs of domestic and foreign enterprises on the premises formerly owned by Mozyr Distillery. "The nomenclature of manufactured products will include both finished cast iron products (heating radiators, various fasteners, hatches, ladders, ladders, consoles, plinths, grates, cast iron utensils) and cast iron blanks"¹⁵¹. At this enterprise it is planned to increase the number of employees to 105 people.

As for 2024, the FEZ is already negotiating "with potential domestic investors to organise export-oriented and import-substituting production of local treatment facilities, polyethylene and polypropylene products, metal structures of various complexity, reinforced concrete structures and reinforcement products"¹⁵². And in general, if we talk about the prospects of FEZ "Gomel-Raton", it should be noted that there are plans to actively develop engineering and transport infrastructure there, provide resident enterprises trained personnel to significantly expand opportunities and fulfil the key objectives of 2024 - "growth of investments in fixed capital by 25%, exports of goods by 5% and salaries of employees by 11.8%, registration of 4 new residents"¹⁵³, as well as to introduce new formats of interaction with FEZ participants, investors and foreign partners.

FEZ Vitebsk, established in August 1999, is one of the other FEZs contributing to the development of the Belarusian economy. The first resident was registered in this FEZ in 2000. This is the German company Vitella, which is still operating today. In 2018, a presidential decree expanded the area in this FEZ and defined "16 sectors located not only in the area of Vitebsk, but also in other cities and urban settlements of the region - Postavy, Orsha, Barani, Bolbasovo, Novopolotsk, Polotsk district, as well as near the villages of Kosachi and Kopti

¹⁵⁰ In FEZ "Gomel-Raton" a new resident of CJSC "BELPLASTKHIM" is registered [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <http://gomelraton.by/press-center/residents/v-sez-gomel-raton-zaregistrirovannovyy-rezident-zao-belplastkhim/>.

¹⁵¹ A new resident of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" will launch the production of cast iron products [Electronic resource]. - 2023. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novyy-rezident-sez-gomel-raton-zapustit-proizvodstvo-izdelij-iz-chuguna-579381-2023/>.

¹⁵² Five enterprises received the status of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" resident in 2023 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/pjat-predpriyatij-poluchili-status-rezidenta-sez-gomel-raton-v-2023-godu-618615-2024/>.

¹⁵³ Abramenko: FEZ "Gomel-Raton" actively participates in personnel training for its residents [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/abramenko-sez-gomel-raton-aktivno-uchastvuet-v-podgotovke-kadrov-dlja-svoih-rezidentov-632039-2024/>.

of Vitebsk district"¹⁵⁴ . And in August 2024 the FEZ celebrated its 25th anniversary. And today it has already registered 57 residents with capital from 14 countries, employing about 16 thousand people. The FEZ administration gives priority to investors with innovative and high-tech projects, constantly developing engineering and transport infrastructure and creating the most favourable conditions for residents. As a result, "since 2000 the free economic zone has attracted \$1.2 billion of investments, including \$900 million in fixed capital. The volume of accumulated foreign investments in FEZ "Vitebsk" as of 1 April of the current [2024] year amounted to \$104.4 million. Almost all of them, namely 99%, are foreign direct investments"¹⁵⁵ . At the same time, investments continue to arrive from investors from Poland, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Sweden, Great Britain, Lithuania, Spain, Romania, Latvia, and Iran. In general, FEZ residents now co-operate with more than 50 countries. At the beginning of this summer "they exported \$340 million worth of goods, the total trade turnover exceeded \$500 million"¹⁵⁶ .

An important trend in this context is the strengthening of co-operation with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Export growth to Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan has already been secured in 2024.

It should be reminded that the main tasks of the FEZ for the current year include "growth of investments in fixed capital by 10%, export of goods by 9%, wages of employees by 12%, registration of 6 new enterprises"¹⁵⁷ . And by 2027 FEZ residents plan to increase the volume of industrial production at least twice, which will amount to eight billion Belarusian rubles. "Also, a twofold increase by 2027 is expected in all key indicators: the size of the average salary of employees, tax payments, exports of goods, the volume of import-substituting products"¹⁵⁸ .

¹⁵⁴ Zalessky, B. Success is in development. Free economic zones as points of growth / Boris Zalessky.

- LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. - C. 17.

¹⁵⁵ Modernisation of production facilities, competitive goods. FEZ "Vitebsk" named the secret of success for business [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/modernizatsiia-proizvodstv-konkurentosposobnyi-tovar-v-sez-vitebsk-nazvali-sekret-uspeha-dli-a-biznesa-653077-2024/>

¹⁵⁶ FEZ "Vitebsk" strengthened interaction with the CIS countries [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://subs.belta.by/Republ.nsf/59e33ed42f57f8c5422569f8002b86f7/2137d035c089e21e43258b7300419c56!OpenDocument>

¹⁵⁷ Abramenko: FEZ administrations need to keep under control the implementation of investment projects of residents [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/abramenko-administratsijam-sez-nuzhno-derzhat-na-kontrole-hod-realizatsii-investproektov-rezidentov-631354-2024/>

¹⁵⁸ FEZ "Vitebsk" enterprises intend to double industrial production by 2027 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/predpriiatija-sez-vitebsk-k-2027-godu-namereny-uvelichit-promproizvodstvo-vdvoe-653093-2024/>

In the first half of 2024, FEZ residents increased production by almost a quarter, increased profit from sales by two and a half times, doubled both net profit and the number of new jobs - 294 people. The main areas of activity of FEZ residents in the current year - production of cable and mechanical engineering products, hydraulics, construction materials and equipment, woodworking, chemical and oil and gas industry, radio electronics, food production, pharmaceuticals, water purification and water treatment, printing and packaging, light industry goods, transport and logistics. "The main export items, accounting for more than 60% of shipments abroad, were insulated wires, cables, TV sets, monitors and projectors, glass fibre and glass fibre products, water treatment and water purification equipment, linen fabrics, processed fish, plastic containers, flat rolled white tin plate"¹⁵⁹.

Recently registered FEZ residents will also work to increase exports. Firstly, it is the Belarusian-Italian EuroPressForm LLC, the only enterprise in the Eurasian Economic Union that has competences in the production of moulds for casting shoe soles. Secondly, it is the Belarusian-Chinese company Chile New Energy, which plans to produce urban electric transport - trucks with a load capacity of up to three and a half tonnes and municipal vehicles, as well as three-wheeled agricultural machinery.

And in 2025, four major investment projects will be realised in the FEZ. "Two projects in machine-tool engineering, one project in food industry, one project in woodworking"¹⁶⁰. In particular, Vitebsk Tractor Spare Parts Plant plans to organise a new production in the FEZ. It is said that "together with Minsk Tractor Plant a road map of the project implementation has been developed. At the initial stages it is envisaged large-scale assembly, and in the future - organisation of the full cycle of machinery production"¹⁶¹. So the choice of a new site in the FEZ was caused by the need for innovation production with modern infrastructure, as well as the shortage of space directly on the territory of the plant.

Returning to the 25th anniversary of FEZ "Vitebsk", we note that for a quarter of a century on this territory in Vitebsk region they managed to form a very effective system for the production of high-tech, innovative and import-substituting products. And today "the specific weight of FEZ "Vitebsk" residents

¹⁵⁹ For 25 years of activity FEZ "Vitebsk" attracted \$1.2 billion [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/za-25-let-dejatelnosti-sez-vitebsk-privlekla-12-mlrd-664898-2024/>

¹⁶⁰ Four major investment projects will be implemented in Vitebsk region in 2025 [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/chetvire-krupnyh-investproekta-realizujut-v-vitebskoj-oblasti-v-2025-godu-653071-2024/>

¹⁶¹ Vitebsk Tractor Spare Parts Plant plans to organise new production in FEZ "Vitebsk" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://vitvesti.by/obshestvo/vitebskii-zavod-traktornvkh-zapchastei-planiruet-organizovat-novoe-proizvodstvo-v-sez-vitebsk.html>

in the indicators of the region in terms of direct foreign investments is 65%, in terms of industrial production - 14%, in terms of export of goods and services - 16%"¹⁶². And there is a strong belief that this FEZ will continue to increase the pace of development with promotion of residents' products to new markets and with attraction of new participants of this innovation platform.

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¹⁶² Subbotin: an effective business environment for new industries has been created in FEZ "Vitebsk" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/subbotin-v-sez-vitebsk-sozdana-effektivnaja-biznes-sreda-dlja-novyh-proizvodstv-653047-2024/>

CHAPTER 7

Minsk Free Economic Zone: ambitious tasks and promising projects

There are many attractive investment sites in the Republic of Belarus, which are key investment attraction points for the creation of modern export-oriented and import-substituting industries. The free economic zone (FEZ) "Minsk", whose residents conduct business in various areas of the Belarusian economy - "machine building, microelectronics, microelectronics, radio electronics, metalworking, pharmaceuticals, woodworking, chemical industry, printing and packaging, cable production and innovative agricultural machinery..."¹⁶³.

It should be reminded that for the current year the administration of FEZ "Minsk" set very ambitious tasks for the residents - "growth of investments in fixed assets by 5 per cent, exports of goods by 8 per cent, salaries of employees by 11.5 per cent, creation of about 550 new jobs, registration of 10 new residents"¹⁶⁴. And already for three quarters of 2024, exports of goods of 107 FEZ enterprises increased by almost 11 per cent, foreign trade turnover increased by almost five per cent and amounted to more than four billion dollars. "During this period, residents of FEZ "Minsk" mastered about Br323 million of investment in fixed assets, which is more than 70 per cent higher than the corresponding period of 2023. Enterprises of the free economic zone from January to September produced 27.3% more products and services than last year, created 373 new jobs"¹⁶⁵. In addition, ten residents were registered during this period with a declared investment volume of about 50 million dollars.

It should be noted that the growth in the number of new FEZ participants started back in the summer of 2024, when five residents were registered there in the most diverse areas: from the production of paint and varnish materials, secondary crushed stone and wire to the production of jewellery and dry animal feed. First of all, this is **LLC "Paint and varnish factory Kondor"**. Within the framework of this investment project, a new enterprise is being created to produce finishing materials - enamels, paints, primers, varnishes, fillers and

¹⁶³ Buben, A. What FEZ "Minsk" is today and what is its contribution to the country's economy / A. Buben // [Electronic resource]. [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/interview/view/chto-segodnia-predstavliaet-soboi-sez-minsk-i-kakov-ee-vklad-v-ekonomiku-stranv-9200/>

¹⁶⁴ Abramenko: FEZ "Minsk" should actively attract "anchor" investors on ready investment sites [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/abramenko-sez-minsk-nado-aktivno-privlekat-iakornyh-investorov-na-gotovye-investploschadki-631595-2024/>

¹⁶⁵ FEZ "Minsk" enterprises for nine months increased export of goods by almost 11% [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/predpriiatija-sez-minsk-za-devyat-mesiatsev-uvlichili-eksport-tovarov-pochti-na-11-674843-2024/>

adhesives used in construction, finishing and decorative works. "It is planned to set up production of 35 items of goods. The start of production activities is planned for the second half of 2026. Realisation of the investment project provides for the creation of 50 jobs"¹⁶⁶. The largest consumers of these paint and varnish materials will be enterprises of machine building, bridge building, railway transport, representatives of the oil refining and gas industry and manufacturers specialising in the production of mineral fertilisers.

Secondly, it is **SpetstehikaGroup LLC**, which plans to expand the production capacity of the enterprise, purchase equipment for secondary crushed stone, arrange a site and construct a building. The new line will increase production volumes, which will reduce delivery costs and increase the attractiveness for consumers in terms of better meeting the demand for construction materials. "The main consumers of the plant's products are road construction companies, building trusts and individuals. The project will create ten new jobs"¹⁶⁷. Production activity is scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of 2025.

Thirdly, it is **BELMETALL OJSC**, which will organise the production of welding and general-purpose wires with the reconstruction of the calibration warehouse building into a hardware production shop. The investment project provides for the production of products with enhanced consumer properties due to the use of high-quality raw materials using the most modern high-tech equipment. "At least 86 jobs will be created at the enterprise. The facilities under the project are planned to be put into operation in 2025"¹⁶⁸. The main consumers of welding wire will be industrial enterprises of machine building, wagon repair enterprises, manufacturers of metal structures for the construction industry, assembly organisations, repair enterprises of the agro-industrial complex.

Fourthly, it is **Goldpass LLC**, which will organise its own production of gold products for sale to non-CIS countries, including the United Arab Emirates, India and China. "The start of production activities of the company is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2024"¹⁶⁹. The company's production capacity is

¹⁶⁶ Production of paint and varnish materials will be launched by a new resident of FEZ "Minsk". [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-lakokrasochnyh-materialov-zapustit-novyi-rezident-sez-minsk-651775-2024/>.

¹⁶⁷ A new resident of FEZ "Minsk" will specialise in the production of secondary crushed stone [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-proizvodstve-vtorichnogo-shebnia-budet-spetsializirovatsia-novyi-rezident-sez-minsk-657751-2024/>.

¹⁶⁸ A new resident of FEZ "Minsk" will be engaged in the production of wire [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/novyi-rezident-sez-minsk-zajmetsia-proizvodstvom-provoloki-645157-2024/>.

¹⁶⁹ A new resident of FEZ "Minsk" will be engaged in the production of jewellery [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-sez-minsk-zajmetsia-proizvodstvom-juvelirnyh-izdelij-650006-2024/>.

designed to meet high customer demand. By 2028, it is planned to increase jewellery production by 3.6 times.

Fifthly, it is **Bekdash Azot LLC**, which specialises in the production of dry animal feed. The purpose of this investment project is to organise production of dry dog and cat food intended for balanced daily nutrition. "Within the framework of the project implementation 24 workplaces will be created. The start of production activities is planned for 2025"¹⁷⁰. In terms of technical characteristics, the production will be minimally wasteful. The producers plan to buy raw materials from meat processing plants and farmers in the regions. Successful implementation of the project will ensure the growth of Belarus' production and export potential.

Several more residents appeared in FEZ Minsk this autumn. In September, **Silikontek LLC** was registered, which will produce high-quality rubber products made of silicone. "The new resident plans to produce up to 80 tonnes of products per year. The project will create 10 jobs"¹⁷¹. Today, the company's main sales market is the Belarusian market. Having received the FEZ resident status, the company intends to develop export of finished products. The start of production activities is planned for the first quarter of 2025.

In October, two more residents were registered in the FEZ. This is **BELSOYUZHIM LLC**, which organises the packing of caustic soda "used in various industrial processes, so that it can be sold not only to large enterprises, but also to medium and small wholesale consumers, including dairy enterprises, food industry, service companies and educational institutions"¹⁷². It should be noted that there is no such enterprise in Belarus yet. The project will create more than 20 jobs. The start of production activities is scheduled for the end of 2026.

The second new FEZ resident in October is **Kinson Technology LLC**, which will produce bumpers for all models of BELGEE and Geely cars. Creation of own production of bumpers for cars on the territory of the BELGEE plant will increase the level of production localisation, reduce the dependence of production on foreign components and the cost of finished products, as well as

¹⁷⁰ Dry animal feed will be produced by a new resident of FEZ "Minsk". [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/suhie-korma-dlja-zhivotnyh-budet-vypuskat-novyi-rezident-sez-minsk-641157-2024/>

¹⁷¹ High-quality rubber products from silicone will start to be produced in FEZ "Minsk" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/vysokokachestvennye-rezintekhnicheskie-izdelija-iz-silikona-nachnut-proizvodit-v-sez-minsk-661511-2024/>

¹⁷² A complex for the production of chemical products will appear in FEZ "Minsk" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/kompleks-po-proizvodstvu-himicheskoi-produktsii-poiavitsia-v-sez-minsk-666530-2024/>

avoid risks of bumpers damage during transportation from China. "The implementation of the project involves the creation of 12 jobs. The enterprise plans to start its operations in the second quarter of 2025"¹⁷³. An important detail: today, cars produced by BELGEE occupy leading positions in sales on the Belarusian market, as they have accounted for more than half of total car sales for the last two years.

And already in November, two more residents appeared in the FEZ. **MarketGroupBel LLC** will set up production of cargo vehicles, ranging from dump trucks and flatbed trucks to specialised equipment: rubbish trucks, truck towers, and more. Chinese companies will be the suppliers of vehicle components. Chassis and components of Belarusian and own production, as well as those of the world's leading manufacturers will be used for the production of vehicles. After all, the organisation of domestic production of machinery is of great importance in the creation of competitive high-tech industries, meets the needs of the country's economy in creating jobs and in the production of import-substituting commercial vehicles demanded by the market. "The project envisages the creation of 25 jobs. The start of production activities is scheduled for the first quarter of 2025"¹⁷⁴.

The second November resident, **AlexTransAlliance LLC**, will provide container cargo handling services: loading and unloading operations, container storage, including photo fixation, and support for document processing. The enterprise will be located in Minsk district in close proximity to railway tracks. The creation of the centre will reduce the load on the nearby transport and logistics infrastructure, increase the variability and manoeuvrability of logistics operations, and strengthen the stability of container freight traffic. "More than 30 jobs will be created as part of the investment project. The start of production operations is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2026."¹⁷⁵.

In addition to registering new residents, FEZ Minsk 2024 is also actively developing international ties. In particular, in September it signed a memorandum of co-operation with **FEZ Bishkek**, which is aimed at developing interaction between the FEZs "on issues of promoting business development,

¹⁷³ Large-size plastic parts for BELGEE and Geely will be produced by a new resident of FEZ "Minsk". [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/krupnogabaritnye-plastikovye-detali-dlia-belgee-i-geely-budet-proizvodit-novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-668207-2024/>

¹⁷⁴ A new resident of FEZ "Minsk" organises the production of commercial cargo transport [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-organizuet-proizvodstvo-gruzovogo-kommercheskogo-transporta-673171-2024/>

Transport and logistics centre in the free economic zone will be organised by a new FEZ resident "Minsk" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/transportno-logisticheskij-tsentr-v-svobodnoj-ekonomicheskoi-zone-organizuet-novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-676803-2024/>

business environment and business climate, implementation of joint investment projects and establishment of enterprises with foreign investment on the territory of the parties"¹⁷⁶. And they have already discussed promising areas of co-operation, opportunities for Belarusian-Kyrgyz business partnership and implementation of joint projects.

There was also an interesting interaction between FEZ Minsk and Tajik FEZ **Sughd**. It should be reminded that "in September 2023 the capital's FEZ expanded its interaction with partners from Tajikistan, when three agreements on cooperation with FEZ "Sughd", "Kulyab", "Dangara" were signed on the margins of the Belarusian-Tajik business forum"¹⁷⁷. And already in June this year Tajik partners from FEZ "Sughd" in Minsk specifically discussed promising areas of co-operation and possibilities of industrial co-operation between the residents of the parties.

In 2024, FEZ Minsk also participated in a number of international business events, where promising niches of cooperation between FEZ residents and partners from other countries were considered. In particular, in March of this year, at the Belarusian-Turkish business forum, FEZ specialists held negotiations with companies from Turkey, which specialise "in the production of packaging materials, parts for automotive and agricultural machinery, furniture, catering and logistics services"¹⁷⁸. It turned out that Turkish business was interested both in supplying products to the Belarusian market and in purchasing a number of goods, in particular, woodworking and food processing products.

At the Belarusian-Hungarian business forum held in May in the Belarusian capital and attended by 24 Hungarian companies, residents of FEZ Minsk held talks "on the development of co-operation in agriculture, construction and woodworking, mechanical engineering, medicine and pharmaceuticals, investment opportunities"¹⁷⁹. And this forum showed interesting prospects for the development of economic co-operation.

¹⁸⁰ In June at the Belarusian-Azerbaijani business forum, where more than 100

¹⁷⁶ FEZ "Minsk" and FEZ "Bishkek" signed a memorandum of co-operation [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/sez-minsk-i-sez-bishkek-podpisali-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-662236-2024/>.

¹⁷⁷ Zalesky, B. Ideology of pragmatism. Peculiarities of partnership in the Belarusian economy: internal and external segments / Boris Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 11.

¹⁷⁸ FEZ "Minsk" at the Belarusian-Turkish business forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.fezminsk.by/news/rukovodstvo-administratsii-sez-minsk-prinimaet-uchastie-v-belorussko-turetskom-biznes-forume-kotorvy/>

¹⁷⁹ FEZ "Minsk" at the Belarusian-Hungarian Business Forum [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.fezminsk.by/news/sez-minsk-na-belorussko-vengerskom-biznes-forume/>

¹⁸⁰ FEZ "Minsk" took part in the Belarusian-Azerbaijani business forum and B2B-negotiations

enterprises and organisations covering all sectors and areas of activity - agriculture, food, machine building, metallurgy, woodworking, construction and production of construction materials, chemical, pharmaceutical and light industry, as well as wholesale and retail trade - took part only from the Belarusian side, "during B2B negotiations the management of FEZ "Minsk" administration discussed with Azerbaijani partners the possibilities and conditions of participation of FEZ "Minsk" residents in the B2B negotiations.

¹⁸¹ And at the IV Forum of the Heads of Regions of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states, which took place in September 2024 and where about five hundred people from Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, India and other countries, as well as business representatives from Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates and Japan participated, the opportunities of FEZ "Minsk" were presented, both in the framework of potential investment and in the framework of industrial cooperation development, in order to deepen "interregional cooperation in trade and economic, investment and economic cooperation". For reference: at present this international organisation unites ten countries with a population of more than three and a half billion people.

As part of the topic of international co-operation of FEZ Minsk residents, let us cite one more interesting fact. In May 2024, the FEZ resident - JV CJSC Unison - launched production of cars under the brand VGV Sinotruk. This Chinese passenger vehicle concern - China National Heavy Duty Truck Group Co. Ltd (Sinotruk) - is China's second largest manufacturer. In this case we are talking about the production of seven-seat family cars at the price of a compact crossover. It is planned to produce them about thirty thousand units per year. "In the future, the company envisages setting up production of a number of other VGV Sinotruk models, including a four-wheel drive pick-up truck, and there are also plans to produce electric cars"¹⁸². The Chinese partners expect to continuously deepen co-operation. Moreover, the Belarusian side is fully entrusted with the support and promotion of this project.

Finally, a promising investment project of the Afghan company Zafaran Pharmaceuticals, which is interested in trade, production and investment

[Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.fezminsk.by/news/sez- minsk-prinyala-uchastie-v-belorussko-azerbaydzhanskom-biznes-forume-i-v2v-peregovorakh/>.

¹⁸¹ FEZ "Minsk" presents its opportunities to the participants of the IV Forum of the Heads of Regions of the SCO Member States [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.fezminsk.by/news/sez-minsk-predstavlyaet-vozmozhnosti-svobodnov-ekonomicheskoy-zony-uchastnikam-iv-foruma-glav-region/>.

¹⁸² FEZ "Minsk" resident launched the production of cars under the brand VGV Sinotruk [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.fezminsk.by/news/rezident-sez- minsk-zapustil-proizvodstvo-avtomobilev-pod-brendom-vgv-sinotruk/>.

activities and is "considering the possibility of building a pharmaceutical company in the FEZ", may be realised in the FEZ "Minsk" in the near future .

¹⁸³ This firm has been operating in the healthcare sector for over 25 years and is one of the five largest pharmaceutical companies in Afghanistan. The company is licensed to produce more than 60 different medicines, specialising in generics, capsules, dry suspensions and injectables. So it could be an interesting Belarusian-Afghan partnership in the field of pharmacy.

All these facts show that in FEZ "Minsk" serious work is carried out to develop new types of products through the implementation of new investment projects, as well as through diversification of investment activities of residents to further develop this territory, where the course on modernisation and technical re-equipment of existing production facilities and introduction of new modern technologies is taken as a basis.

Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: to develop partnership both in known areas and new positions

In 2024, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUTB) continues to be active in the market of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to develop export-import opportunities and increase exchange turnover between the two countries. This is evidenced by the figures: at the beginning of October this year, BUTB has already accredited 224 residents from the PRC, three of whom have the status of stockbrokers. And "for seven months of 2024, the amount of transactions of Chinese business entities reached \$84 million, which is 2.6 times more than in the same period of 2023"¹⁸⁴ . At the same time, residents of the Celestial Empire bought and sold mainly timber, meat and dairy products, ferrous metal products, and industrial equipment on the Belarusian exchange platform. Among the effective tools for promoting BUTB to the Chinese market is the participation of this exchange platform in international exhibitions held in different regions of China.

For example, in June this year, BUTB took part in the **international EXPO exhibition "China-Eurasia"** for the first time **"China-Eurasia"**, held in Urumqi, the administrative centre of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. Taking into account the theme of the exhibition, the main emphasis at

¹⁸³ Afghan company is interested in co-operation with FEZ "Minsk" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/afganskaia-kompaniia-zainteresovana-v-sotrudnichestve-s-sez-minsk-625003-2024/>.

¹⁸⁴ BUTB will help Chinese producers of synthetic fibre to enter the Belarusian market [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-pomozhet-kitajskim-proizvoditeljam-sinteticheskogo-volokna-vviti-na-belorusskij-rynok-652563-2024>

the BUTB stand was placed on agricultural products and industrial goods. Visitors were offered to get acquainted with the commodity nomenclature and export-import opportunities of the Belarusian exchange platform, as well as to consult on the issues of accreditation at the exchange and participation trading. In addition, at the stand of BUTB there was an opportunity to view actual purchase and sale orders placed by Belarusian enterprises at the exchange, which made it possible to conduct substantive negotiations with Chinese importers and exporters. It should be noted that participation in this exhibition forum helped to attract manufacturing and trade enterprises from all over the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to BUTB. Through the exchange they can trade with Belarusian companies without intermediaries on a wide range of goods: from cotton fibre and oilseeds to industrial equipment and special machinery. Another important detail: in 2024, the trend towards diversification of the structure of the Belarusian-Chinese exchange turnover became clearer. Thus, "the sum of transactions with goods other than woodworking products increased more than 8 times in January-May. The exchange platform, in particular, was used by Chinese producers to supply Belarus with ferrous and non-ferrous metal products, spare parts and components for machinery and equipment, raw materials for the food industry"¹⁸⁵. The BUTB expects that the share of products of the agro-industrial complex, metallurgy and light industry in the total volume of exchange trade between Belarus and China will grow as new participants from the PRC regions come to the trades.

In July 2024, thanks to BUTB's participation in the **international aluminium industry exhibition Aluminium China 2024**, held in Shanghai, more than twenty Chinese metal producers announced their readiness to enter the exchange commodity market of Belarus. Through the BUTB "aluminium pipes, profiles, sheets, foil and other demanded products are planned to be supplied to the Belarusian market"¹⁸⁶. This will expand the circle of foreign suppliers of rolled aluminium products, using the Belarusian platform, and consumers from Belarus will be able to make purchases on more favourable terms. The emergence of new aluminium producers from China should not only have a positive impact on the volume of sales, but also increase the economic effect of the exchange mechanism for Belarusian enterprises in the real sector.

¹⁸⁵ BUTB electronic tools are presented at the EXPO "China-Eurasia" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/elektronnve-instrumenty-butb-predstavleny-na-ekspo-kitajevrazija-643984-2024/>.

¹⁸⁶ Chinese aluminium producers are ready to enter the exchange market of Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kitajskie-proizvoditeli-aluminija-gotovy-vyjti-na-birzhevoj-rynok-belarusi-645865-2024/>.

In August this year, in the same Shanghai, the BUTB delegation participated in the **international exhibition of thermal insulation materials and energy-saving technologies TIM Expo Shanghai**, where it held negotiations on cooperation with the leading Chinese producers of synthetic fibres on the issue of selling their products on the exchange trading. And "a number of Chinese companies expressed their readiness to place bids for the sale of the most demanded in Belarus types of fibres on the platform of industrial and consumer goods BUTB. Thus, Belarusian light industry enterprises will be able to purchase the raw materials they need from suppliers from the Celestial Empire verified by the exchange without intermediaries"¹⁸⁷. This will not only make it possible to increase the efficiency of procurement activities of Belarusian bidders, but will also contribute to further strengthening of trade and economic relations between Belarus and China.

It should be noted that this year the BUTB is paying special attention to the involvement of non-residents of Belarus in exchange trading in industrial and consumer goods. In January-July 2024, companies from eight countries, including China, concluded deals in such goods. Transactions have become more frequent, and for some commodity items have become regular. For example, this year China supplied Belarus with spare parts and components for machinery, industrial tools and technological equipment. Moreover, these were mainly import-substituting products.

A separate topic in this context is the activity of the BUTB representative office in Shanghai, which opened in 2023. Its specialists already regularly participate in major industry exhibitions, forums, conferences and other business events in the PRC. Direct contact with representatives of Chinese business provides additional opportunities to inform potential bidders about BUTB's tools and services, and also simplifies interaction with already accredited companies.

Finally, at the beginning of September 2024, the opportunities for purchasing products of the woodworking industry of Belarus at the BUTB auction were presented at the **International Conference on Cooperation in the Production of Household Goods and Building Materials in China and Central Asia**, which was held in Xi'an, the administrative centre of Shaanxi Province. The event, organised by the International Chamber of Furniture and Décor of China and the Furniture Chamber of Commerce of this province, was attended by about 400 business entities engaged in the production and sale of furniture, building materials and interior items. By involving these companies in exchange

¹⁸⁷ BUTB will help Chinese producers of synthetic fibre to enter the Belarusian market [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-pomozhet-kitajskim-proizvoditeljam-sinteticheskogo-volokna-vviti-na-belorusskij-rynok-652563-2024>

trading, the BUTB plans to expand the pool of Chinese importers of Belarusian lumber products, as well as to organise deliveries of wood panels to China, which are especially in demand in the furniture industry of the country.

It is known that in the current year PRC residents are the largest buyers of woodworking products at the exchange platform, but the potential for cooperation in this area is far from being exhausted. "For 9 months of 2024, Chinese participants purchased at the exchange trading almost 672 thousand cubic metres of sawn wood products, 2.4 times exceeding the figure achieved in January - September 2023. The growth of sales is connected with the reduction of sawn timber stocks in the domestic market of China, which stimulates demand for imports from Belarus"¹⁸⁸. Traditionally, the highest demand from Chinese participants was for softwood sawn timber. At the same time, other types of products of the timber industry, which could be of interest to the Chinese side, are also presented at the auction. In particular, the stock exchange is ready to assist furniture companies from China in purchasing Belarusian chipboard and fibreboard. After all, the leading producers of these goods are accredited on the Belarusian exchange platform, which will make it much easier for Chinese exporters to enter the Belarusian market.

All these facts demonstrate that BUTB "plans to further increase both exports of Belarusian agricultural products and Chinese imports of metals and metal products by participating in international exhibition events in the Celestial Empire"¹⁸⁹, in order to develop exchange trading in different regions of China, both in developed commodity areas and in new items that will significantly increase the overall volume of Belarusian-Chinese trade turnover.

In the second half of 2024, BUTB is also expanding co-operation with other countries on the Asian continent, including **Mongolia, South Korea, Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Jordan, and Turkey.**

For example, back in June this year, BUTB signed a memorandum of cooperation with the **Mongolian Commodity Exchange** to combine the resources, technologies and experience of the two exchange platforms and give a new impetus to trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Mongolia. The parties will focus on agro-industrial products. At the same time, "based on the nomenclature of goods currently available on the Belarusian and Mongolian exchanges, the most promising items for supplies to Mongolia are sugar and milk products, while Belarus should import raw materials for the

¹⁸⁸ A large batch of Belarusian cellulose is planned to be realised for export through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/krupnuju-partiiu-belorusskoi-tselliulozy-planiruetsja-realizovat-na-eksport-cherez-butb-667638-2024/>.

¹⁸⁹ Zalesky, B. Growth points of the Belarusian economy in the dynamics of global challenges / Boris Zalesky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 6.

textile industry - primarily wool and cashmere. .¹⁹⁰

Recall that until recently, only Belarusian sugar was exported to Mongolia using the exchange mechanism. In four months of 2024, a little less than four thousand tonnes of this product worth about \$2.5 million were sold to the Mongolian market. And already in May this year, two first deals were concluded at BUTB to supply skimmed milk powder to this East Asian country. "The buyer was a well-known Mongolian producer of dairy and sour-milk products. The total volume of the trial purchase amounted to

73 т. Assistance in attracting the first Mongolian importer of Belarusian dairy products to the exchange trading was provided by the accredited BUTB broker in Mongolia - United Meres Machinery Company" .¹⁹¹

This fact can be considered a landmark event in the development of Belarusian-Mongolian exchange trade, especially since the expansion of the commodity range has a positive effect on the volume of exchange turnover and contributes to the growth of business activity of both sellers from Belarus and buyers from Mongolia. In addition, the parties plan to work out the issue of supplying the Mongolian market with Belarusian sawn timber, which is in high demand in the country's construction sector. It only remains to add that six residents of Mongolia have already been "accredited on the BUTB, one of which has the status of stockbroker. In January-May 2024, the amount of exchange transactions of Mongolian traders reached \$2.5 million"¹⁹² .

Another East Asian country, **the Republic of Korea**, is a very promising market for Belarusian timber companies. Korean residents of BUTB have been participating in the exchange trading in timber products since November 2023, gradually increasing the volume of transactions. In the first half of this year, they purchased almost six thousand cubic metres of softwood lumber. At the end of July 2024, "two companies from the Republic of Korea specialising in the import, production and distribution of wood products announced their readiness to make regular purchases of sawn timber on the exchange platform"¹⁹³ . In

¹⁹⁰ Commodity exchanges of Belarus and Mongolia plan to co-operate in trade in agricultural products [Electronic resource]. resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarnye-birzhi-belarusi-i-mongolii-planirujut-sotrudnichestvo-v-torgovle-selhozproduktami-635733-2024/>

¹⁹¹ Mongolia started buying Belarusian dairy products at the stock exchange trading [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/mongolija-nachala-pokupat-belorusskiju-molochnuju-produktsiju-na-birzhevnyh-torgah-634389-2024/>

¹⁹² BUTB will expand co-operation with Mongolian business [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-rasshirit-sotrudnichestvo-s-mongolskim-biznesom-638715-2024/>

¹⁹³ Importers of forest products from the Republic of Korea are interested in co-operation with BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/i-uzhnokorejskie-importery-lesoproduktov-zainteresovany-v-sotrudnichestve-s-butb-650959-2024/>

addition, the issue of supplying wood fuel pellets or pellets to this East Asian country is being worked out. We are talking about the so-called "grey pellets" used for industrial purposes. And this issue, to all appearances, will soon become a practical matter.

Vietnam joined the list of BUTB's partners from South-East Asia at the beginning of this autumn. In the first days of September, the pool of foreign buyers of Belarusian milk powder was enlarged by a Vietnamese trading company, which concluded the first exchange transaction with a Belarusian milk processing company using the address mechanism, which has been in effect on BUTB since 9 August. "The purchase volume was 52 tonnes"¹⁹⁴. It should be noted that buyers from seven new countries came to BUTB in August to buy milk powder and other domestically produced dairy products.

Now let's move to the Middle East, where Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia, and Syria are among the countries using the domestic exchange platform to import Belarusian-made goods. As of the beginning of October 2024, BUTB had accredited: 26 business entities from the UAE, 6 each from Lebanon and Egypt, 5 each from Syria, 3 each from Jordan, 2 each from Iraq, and 1 each from Oman and Saudi Arabia. The UAE and Lebanon are the leaders by the sum of deals for three quarters. At that, in both cases the dynamics is positive. In particular, "compared to January-September of last year, the turnover of Emirati participants increased in monetary terms by 96 times, and that of Lebanese participants - by 1.5 times. Based on the structure of exchange sales, domestic sawn timber and milk powder are in the greatest demand among Middle Eastern companies. Their specific weight in the total volume of transactions is more than 70%"¹⁹⁵.

Speaking about landmark events in this context, we can note a number of interesting observations. For example, in early July this year, a UAE resident company purchased feed additives produced in Belarus for the first time via BUTB. The thing is that companies from the Middle East countries had not previously concluded stock exchange transactions on the purchase of domestic feed additives. And these first exchange transactions on the purchase of amino acids, concluded by a company from the UAE, open a new page in the development of exchange trade between Belarus and this Middle Eastern

¹⁹⁴ Vietnam has joined the list of buyers of Belarusian dried milk through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/vietnam-popolnil-spisok-pokupatelej-belorusskogosuhogo-moloka-cherez-butb-658614-2024/>.

¹⁹⁵ Belarusian dairy products were first sold to Jordan through BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskuij-molochnuju-produktsiju-vpervve-prodali-v-jordaniju-cherez-butb-668653-20247/>.

country. Until now, UAE residents have been buying only sawn timber on the exchange. In particular, "in the first half of 2024, the volume of purchases amounted to 29 thousand cubic metres, which is 5.3 times more than in the whole of 2023. The entry of Emirati companies into the agricultural products exchange market will undoubtedly give an additional impetus to cooperation between Belarus and the UAE in the exchange sector and create prerequisites for further growth of mutual trade turnover"¹⁹⁶.

Another interesting fact. In September this year, a major dairy distributor headquartered in Dubai (UAE), , which serves the Middle East and North Africa region, intends to significantly increase its purchases of skimmed milk powder on the BUTB by the end of the year. In addition to increasing imports of dried milk through the exchange, the Emirati company is considering the possibility of co-operation with Belarus in other commodity items. In particular, the company is considering the purchase of butter and meat products, as well as the organisation of palm oil supplies from Southeast Asia for the Belarusian food industry. It only remains to add that "at the end of January-August 2024, the trade turnover of residents of the United Arab Emirates at the BUTB exceeded \$25.5 million. About 77% of this amount was brought by exports of Belarusian agricultural products"¹⁹⁷.

Oman and Jordan are also planning to use the BUTB platform to supply dairy products produced in Belarus. In the first case, for this purpose, the first Omani company has already been accredited on the domestic exchange platform and intends to take part in exchange trading in the near future. "In the future, in addition to dairy products, the range of Belarusian goods supplied to Oman via BUTB may be expanded to include such items as rapeseed oil, beet pulp and molasses, sugar, amino acids, feed additives"¹⁹⁸. In the second case, in October this year BUTB has already registered the first transactions for the sale of dairy products to the Jordanian market. The subject of the trial purchase was skimmed milk powder and whey powder with a total volume of 26 tonnes.

Finally, speaking about **Turkey**, we would like to remind that as of 1 June 2024, 85 Turkish residents were accredited on the BUTB, 19 of which started participating in exchange trading only this year. Until recently, the structure of the Belarusian-Turkish exchange turnover was dominated by exports of timber

¹⁹⁶ A company from the UAE bought Belarusian feed additives for the first time at BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/kompanija-iz-oae-vperve-kupila-belorusskie-kormovve-dobavki-na-butb-644906-2024/>

¹⁹⁷ UAE businesses are ready to increase purchases of milk powder at BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/biznes-oae-gotov-naraschivat-zakupki-suhogo-moloka-na-butb-662372-2024/>

¹⁹⁸ Zalessky, B. The potential for increasing economic co-operation between Belarus and the countries of the far arc / Boris Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. - C. 37.

products from Belarus, as well as scrap ferrous metals and man-made fibres. However, in June 2024, a deal to buy sugar was concluded on the BUTB for the first time. The volume of the trial purchase was 136 tonnes. This fact shows that "Turkey, as a country with a developed confectionery industry, is certainly of significant interest in terms of exporting Belarusian sugar and other sugar beet processing products"¹⁹⁹. And there is confidence that the first deal concluded by a resident company from Turkey will serve as a positive signal for other representatives of Turkish business, including chocolate and soft drinks producers, for whom the Exchange can become a reliable source of raw materials in demand.

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¹⁹⁹ At BUTB, a Turkish resident company for the first time concluded a deal to buy Belarusian sugar [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/na-butb-kompanija-rezident-turtsii-vpervve-zakljuchila-sdelku-na-pokupku-belorusskogo-sahara-640235-2024/>

CHAPTER 8

One District One Project Initiative as a tool to promote local initiative

The "One District - One Project" initiative has been in place since 2022, when the 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 job creation, personnel retention in a particular region, as well as retention 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"²⁰⁰. 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"²⁰¹. And as of January 1, 2024, 28 investment projects have already been implemented, while 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 under the realised projects. Overall, more than 9 thousand jobs are to be created under the "One District - One Project" initiative"²⁰².

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. "In this year, almost Br0.5 billion have been implemented. In total in 2024 <... > should invest Br1.5 billion under this

²⁰⁰ 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-initsiativy-odin-rajon-odin-odin-634027-2024>

²⁰¹ 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-raion-odin-proekt-budet-vkliucheno-esche-okolo-dvuh-desyatkov-initsiativ-634147-2024/>

²⁰² Under the initiative "One district - one project" 34 projects have already been implemented [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/po-initsiative-odin-raion-odin-proekt-realizovano-uzhe-34-proekta-633766-2024/>

programme"²⁰³ .

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"²⁰⁴ . Among the already implemented initiatives, the majority of them are production-oriented projects. If we look by sector, they include wood processing, metallurgical production, production of machinery and equipment, processing of agro-industrial products, production of medical products, and pharmaceuticals. Among the most successful projects are the enterprise on 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 poultry farm, in the Minsk region - Slutsk cheese factory. A large woodworking complex in Grodno region was also realised this year"²⁰⁵ .

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"²⁰⁶ . 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"²⁰⁷ . Among the projects completed last year in the capital region we would like to mention a project in Krupsky district -

²⁰³ Pushnyakova, A. Golovnenko: 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-raion-odin-proekt-napravlena-na-raskreposchenie-initsiativv-na-mestah-657380-2024/>

²⁰⁴ 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/liderv-sredi-oblastei-gde-realizovan-potentsial-initsiativv-odin-raion-odin-proekt-633813-2024/>

²⁰⁵ 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-ushpeshnye-initsiativv-odin-rai-on-odin-proekt-633981-2024/>

²⁰⁶ 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-realizovvalos-46-proektov-po-programme-odin-raion-odin-proekt-635036-2024>

²⁰⁷ Investors in Minsk region invest most of all in manufacturing industry [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/investory-v-minskoj-oblasti-bolshe-vsego-vkladyvajutsja-v-obrabatvajuuschuju-promyshlennost-633940-2024/>

organisation of terrace board production. As well as the realised project on 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 Minsk region, including in Kopyl district, where a new line for production of sawn timber was opened, and "its annual capacity is 18 thousand cubic metres of finished sawn timber (1.5 thousand cubic metres per month). <...> Thanks to the project, 22 new jobs with decent wages will be created in the region"²⁰⁸. 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"²⁰⁹.

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. The programme "One District - One Project" has already included 53 investment projects worth just under two billion Belarusian rubles in 23 districts of the capital region, which will create more than two and a half thousand jobs. At present, seven projects have already been implemented, where over two hundred jobs have been created.

"And 14 projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024, and 15 in 2025"²¹⁰.

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 poultry farm. And it has already started a new project - the construction of a feed mill. The production and

²⁰⁸ In Kopyl leskhoz opened a new production of sawn timber [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-kopylskom-leshoze-otkryli-novoe-proizvodstvo-po-vvpusku-obreznvkh-pilomaterialov-633821-2024/>

²⁰⁹ In Minsk region this year it is planned to complete 16 investment projects of the programme "One district - one project" [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL:

<https://www.belta.by/society/view/v-minskoi-oblasti-v-etom-godu-planiruetsia-zavershit-16-investproektov-programmv-odin-rai-on-odin-proekt-635314-2024>

²¹⁰ 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-minskoi-oblasti-k-kontsu-goda-budet-realizovano-14-investproektov-po-programme-odin-raion-odin-proekt-661592-2024/>

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"²¹¹. 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 the production of clothing products in Dokshitsy, the production of perfume products in the Dokshitsy district, and the production of juices in the Sharkovski district"²¹². 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, Br 5 million was allocated for their implementation. This is a little more than the volume planned for this period"²¹³. An important 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"²¹⁴. 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"²¹⁵.

²¹¹ In Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee told what is 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-raion-odin-project-v-2023-godu-633972-2024/>

²¹² 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-vitebskoi-oblasti-do-kontsa-goda-zavershat-12-proektov-initsiativv-odin-raion-odin-proekt-project-631195-2024/>

²¹³ In 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-gomelskoi-oblasti-na-proektv-po-programme-odin-raion-odin-proekt-v-i-polugodii-napravili-br15-mln-653056-2024/>

²¹⁴ 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-gomelskoi-oblasti-na-proektv-po-programme-odin-raion-odin-proekt-v-i-polugodii-napravili-br15-mln-653056-2024/>

²¹⁵ Chebotar: the state consistently increases the production potential of the regions [Electronic

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"²¹⁶. 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"²¹⁷. In 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 the science and technology 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"²¹⁸. 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

resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-gosudarstvo-posledovatelno-naraschivaet-proizvodstvennyi-potentsial-regionov-654678-2024/>

²¹⁶ 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-dokonta-goda-v-mogilevskoi-oblasti-666749-2024/>.

²¹⁷ Krutoy told about the priorities of development of the south-east of Mogilev region on the example of Slavgorod district [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/krutoj-na-primere-slavgorodskogo-raiona-rasskazal-o-prioritetah-razvitiya-jugo-vostoka-mogilevskoi-666767-2024/>.

²¹⁸ "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-mvestproektah-bresta-672089-2024/>

to make a production facility instead of a warehouse. Work on the project is underway, equipment has been ordered"²¹⁹. Taking these points into account, it is possible to reach a capacity of about three million batteries per year. Also on the 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. "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 Institute"²²⁰.

All these facts suggest that the One District - One Project programme, which is being implemented in Belarus, will continue to evolve. The Ministry of Economy is already conducting a round of review of plans for 2025 and, in doing so, emphasises that "for us the key - projects in the area of technological safety and 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"²²¹. 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 Belarusian district, which is involved in the implementation of the initiative "One District - One Project".

²¹⁹ 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/>

²²⁰ 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/planirui-ut-delat-samolety-i-holodilniki-kakie-esche-investproekty-realizuiut-v-baranovichah-672049-2024/>

²²¹ Chebotar: the programme "One district - one project" will be supplemented by new initiatives [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chebotar-programmeu-odin-rai-on-odin-project-dopolni-at-novye-initsiativy-635398-2024>

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