

FEATURES OF DIGITIZATION IN THE EAEU STATES

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The analysis of the rating of the EAEU countries on digital development is based on: the ICT development index, the network readiness index, the digital adoption index, the e-government development index, the e-participation index, and the global cybersecurity index. The article describes Belarus in the ranking of the EAEU countries on digitalization.

Keywords: digitalization; rating; index; international ratings of digital development; Eurasian Economic Union.

ОСОБЕННОСТЕЙ ЦИФРОВИЗАЦИИ В ГОСУДАРСТВАХ ЕАЭС

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Проведен анализ рейтинга стран ЕАЭС по цифровому развитию на основе: индекса развития ИКТ, индекса сетевой готовности, индекса цифрового внедрения, индекса развития электронного правительства, индекса электронного участия, глобального индекса кибербезопасности. Дана характеристика Беларуси в рейтинге стран ЕАЭС по цифровизации.

Ключевые слова: цифровизация; рейтинг; индекс; международные рейтинги цифрового развития; Евразийский экономический союз.

The current stage of global economic and social development is characterized by the impact of digitalization, which, on the scale of the economic and social life of an individual country, integration groups, and the whole world, leads to increased economic efficiency and improved quality of life for the population.

Belarus is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Eurasian integration is an important factor in the digitalization of not only the economy of Belarus, but also the member states of the Union. For the implementation of regional digital policy, the use of mechanisms for digital interaction between countries and the formation of a single supranational regulation, it is effective to analyze the level of digitalization in all EAEU states.

We will conduct a comparative analysis of the level of digitalization in the EAEU countries according to the following international expert ratings reflecting digital development:

1. Rating by the level of development of information and communication technologies (ICT) based on the calculation of the ICT Development Index (IDI) (fig. 1).

The ICT Development Index (IDI) includes 11 indicators grouped into three sub-indexes. Researchers in this subject area proceed from the position that there is a close relationship between the development of ICT and economic well-being in the country.

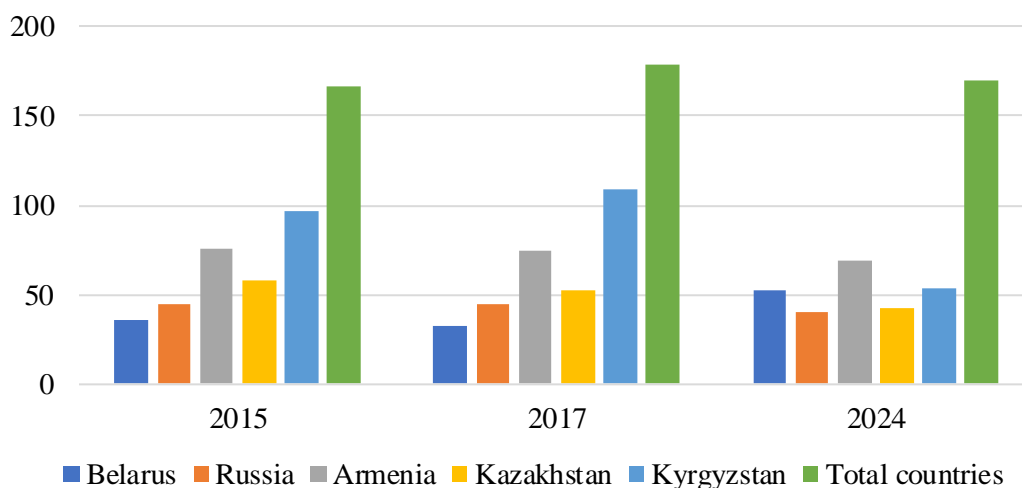


Fig. 1. Rating of EAEU countries by level of network readiness from 2015 to 2024.
Source: [1]

The figure shows a comparison of the IDI by year. At the same time, according to the data of 2024, Russia ranks 40th in the world ranking of countries in terms of ICT development, Kazakhstan – 42nd, Belarus – 52nd, Kyrgyzstan – 53rd, Armenia – 69th.

2. Rating according to the level of network readiness based on the calculation of the network readiness index (Networked Readiness Index – NRI) (fig. 2).

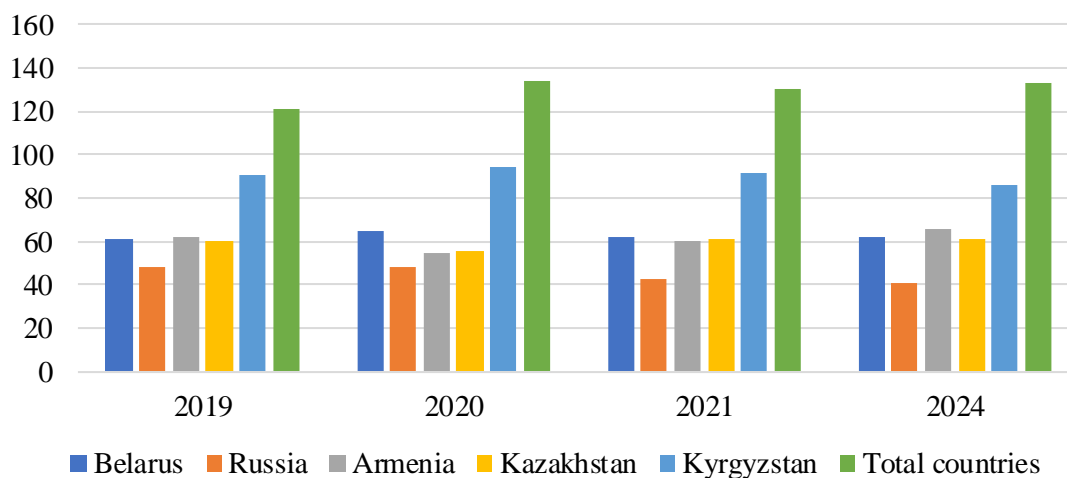


Fig. 2. Rating of EAEU countries by level of network readiness from 2019 to 2024.
Source: [1]

The Network Readiness Index is an assessment of a country's ability to use ICT capabilities in order to form a networked institutional space. The index measures the level of ICT development by 62 parameters, grouped into three main groups.

Firstly, this index is used to analyze information about the main factors influencing network development for their subsequent consideration in government policy. Secondly, the information presented in the index contributes to the involvement of new subjects of the information economy in the online space, showing differences between countries in the level of informatization. In 2024,

Belarus ranked 62nd among 133 countries of the world, Russia - 41, Kazakhstan - 61, Kyrgyzstan – 86, Armenia – 66 [1].

3. Rating by level of digital adoption based on the calculation of the digital adoption index (Digital Adoption Index – DAI) (fig. 3).

DAI is designed to analyze the achievements of countries in the dissemination and use of digital technologies. It includes 9 indicators aggregated into three sub-indexes [1]. Among the EAEU member states, Russia is the leader in terms of digital adoption, ranking 28th among 180 countries, followed by Kazakhstan, Armenia – 60th, Belarus – 72nd, and Kyrgyzstan – 96th.

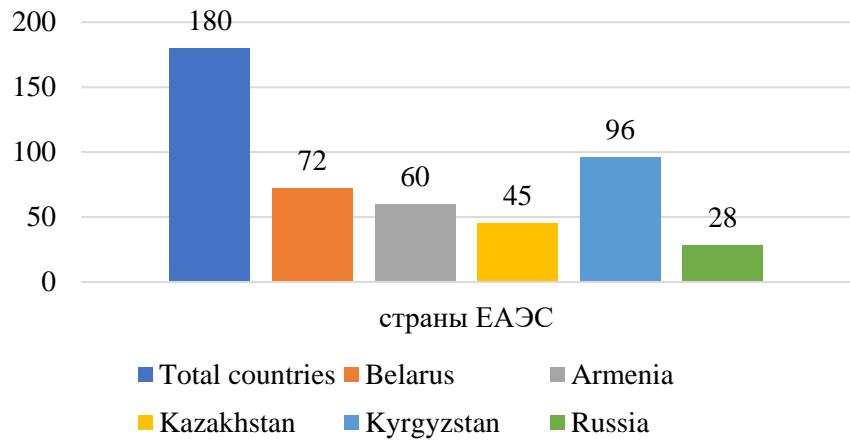


Fig. 3. Rating of EAEU countries by level of digital implementation.
Source: [1].

4. Rating according to the level of development of E-Government based on the calculation of the E-Government development index (UN Global E-Government Development Index – EGDI) (fig. 4).

EGDI assesses the level of use of ICT in a country to provide public services to citizens. EGDI includes indicators aggregated into three sub-indices: the possibility and quality of online services (the environment for ICT development), the development of telecommunications infrastructure (the actual use of ICT), human capital (the level of education of the population).

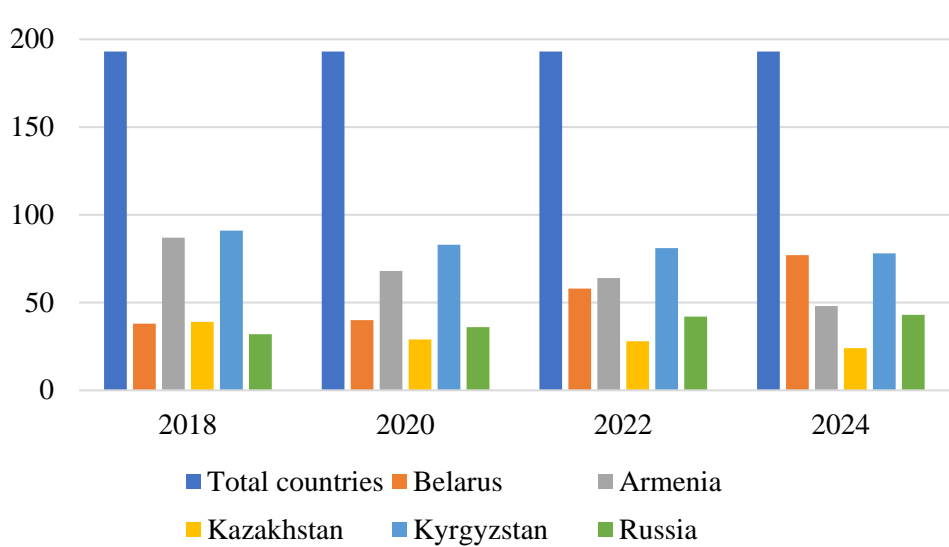


Fig. 4. Rating of EAEU countries by level of E-Government development from 2018 to 2024.
Source: [1]

In 2024, the Republic of Belarus is in 77th place according to the Electronic Government Development Index.

The E-Government development index is too specific, however, it is a synthetic index based on two others – the ICT development index and the human capital development index.

5. Ranking by level of digital participation based on the calculation of the electronic participation index (E-Participation Index – EPART) (fig. 5).

EPART complements EGDI and serves to assess the level of development of digital communication services between citizens and the state.

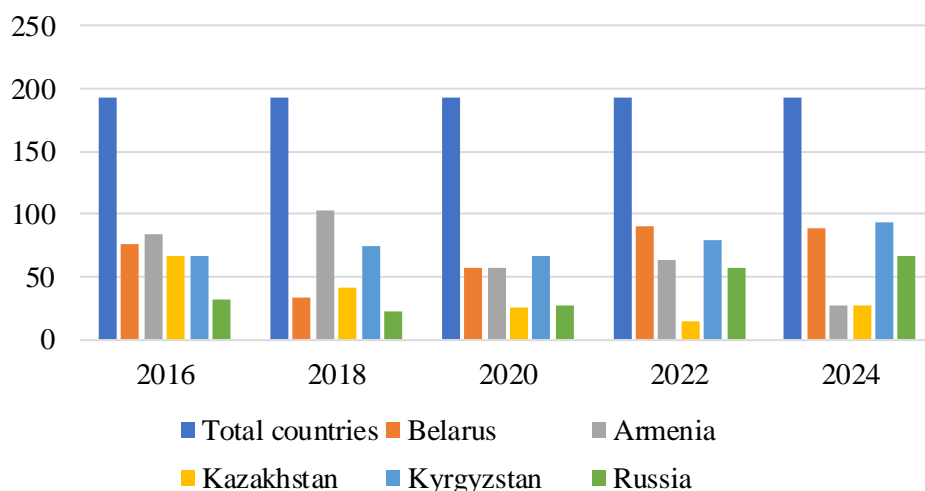


Fig. 5. Rating of EAEU countries by level of digital participation from 2016 to 2024.

Source: [1]

6. Cybersecurity rating based on the global cybersecurity index calculation (Global Cybersecurity Index – GCI) (table).

The rating is based on 83 indicators, which are combined into 5 blocks: legal measures, technical measures, organizational measures, capacity building, cooperation. For each block, the country receives a certain number of points, which can be used to determine in which aspects the country lacks development.

Rating by level of cybersecurity based on the calculation of the global cybersecurity index (Global Cybersecurity Index – GCI)

Year	Total countries	EAEU countries				
		Belarus	Armenia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Russia
2017	193	39	110	82	96	10
2020	180	77	98	38	100	8
2024	194	T3	T4	T2	T3	T2

Compiled according to: [1].

The table shows that the level of cybersecurity in Belarus and Kyrgyzstan was rated as average (Tier 5 – lowest, Tier 1 – highest), Russia with a high level of the index.

Based on the analysis of the features of the digital development of the EAEU states, we can conclude that the EAEU is a sustainable entity that has shown its feasibility and effectiveness. Countries are at a decent level in digital rankings, but there are problem areas that hinder digital transformation. Among the presented ratings characterizing the digitalization process, Russia is the leader in the bloc of EAEU countries. In four out of six ratings, Russia and Kazakhstan occupy a

leading position among the EAEU member countries. In the ranking of countries in the world by the level of ICT development, Belarus is the leader. The unstable dynamics of the republic's places in the rankings over the years was not due to the weakening of Belarus' position in terms of the assessed parameters, but due to the strengthening of the positions of other states. The worst position among the EAEU states in terms of digital development ratings is in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.

If we compare the average value of indices in the ratings for the EAEU with the world average, then the integrated indicator for the EAEU in IDI, DAI, EGDI, EPART, GCI is higher than the world average.

An analysis of the features of digitalization in the EAEU according to international expert ratings revealed that the countries of the Eurasian integration project have significant resources for creating a digital economy.

The current stage of the technological revolution and digital transformation is unfolding against the backdrop of "unprecedented disunity" of countries due to international political tension and numerous cross-sanctions.

However, in modern complex conflict-prone geopolitical and geo-economic conditions, cyberattacks and prohibited media manipulation technologies are becoming one of the most significant threats. They can be considered as a kind of «weapon» used not only in the technological, but also in the socio-economic and political planes [2, p. 121]. Moreover, the scale of cybercrime is growing. Belarus plays a significant role in preventing and combating various types of cyber violations at the regional and global level and can become a kind of core of security in the Eurasian digital space.

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