

**ANALYSIS OF THE LEVEL OF DIGITALIZATION
OF THE ECONOMY OF THE BELARUS
AMONG THE BRICS PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
BY THE ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT INDEX**

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This article measures the level of digitalization in the Belarus among BRICS countries using a development index, using the government's analysis of dynamic indicators. It finds that Belarus belongs to a promising group of countries in terms of the government's development direction, and its performance on the key international indicator for economic digitalization is considered average.

Keywords: digitalization; e-government development index; online services index; telecommunications infrastructure index; human capital index; e-participation index; BRICS member countries.

**АНАЛИЗ УРОВНЯ ЦИФРОВИЗАЦИИ
ЭКОНОМИКИ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ
СРЕДИ СТРАН-УЧАСТНИЦ БРИКС ПО ИНДЕКСУ РАЗВИТИЯ
ЭЛЕКТРОННОГО ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВА**

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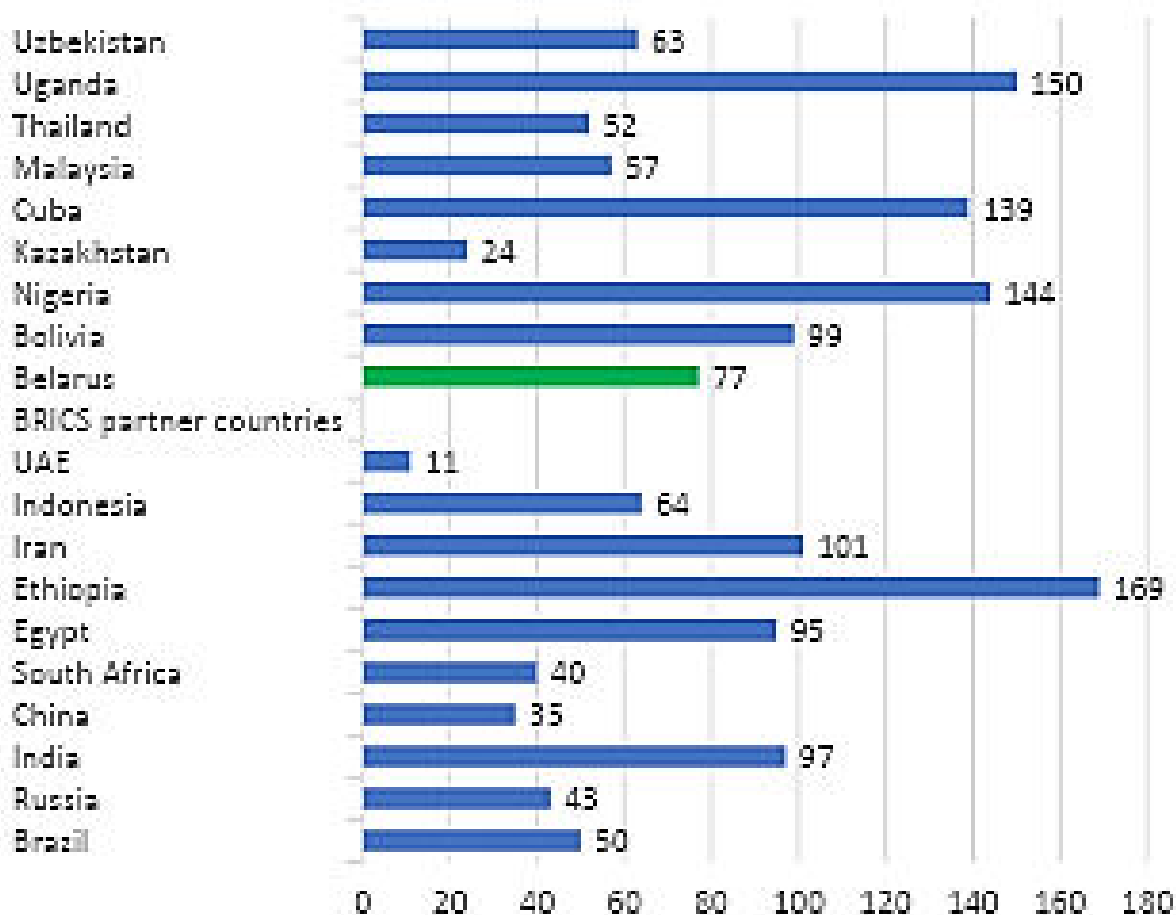
В статье оценивается уровень цифровизации в Республике Беларусь среди стран-участниц БРИКС по индексу развития электронного правительства посредством анализа динамика показателей. Установлено, что Беларусь относится к перспективной группе стран по уровню развития электронного правительства, а ее положение по основным международным показателям в области цифровизации экономики определено как среднее.

Ключевые слова: цифровизация; индекс развития электронного правительства; индекс онлайн-услуг; индекс телекоммуникационной инфраструктуры; индекс человеческого капитала; индекс электронного участия; стран-участниц БРИКС.

Rapid advances in blockchain, artificial intelligence, cloud computing and big data analytics technologies have driven the rapid growth and transformation of the global digital economy.

Multidimensional digitalization indices are aimed to assess various aspects of digital competitiveness, allowing to evaluate progress in ICT development and application of digital technologies, which helps to understand how successfully digital solutions are being implemented in the economy and public sphere; to identify shortcomings in digital infrastructure and ICT, which helps to correctly determine priorities in planning and implementing digital investments; to compare one's achievements with other regions or countries, which opens up opportunities for sharing experiences, identifying best practices in digital development and stimulating increased efficiency of digitalization.

In our study, we use the E-Government Development Index (EGDI) to assess the level of digitalization of the public sector in the Belarus (fig). The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs conducts the study every two years. Mathematically, EGDI is a weighted average of normalized scores for the three most important e-government parameters: Online Service Index; Telecommunications Infrastructure Index; Human Capital Index.



Positions of BRICS member countries in the e-government development index for 2024.

Source: [1]

According to the Electronic Government Development Index (EGDI), Belarus ranks 77th out of 193 countries in the 2024 global ranking, scoring 0,7445 points, ahead of Iran, India, Egypt, and Ethiopia in this index.

An analysis of the chart data reveals that the EGDI ignores important country characteristics, implicitly assuming that they are all in the same situation. Specifically, it fails to account for physical geography, which would be of significant importance.

In recent years, the country has moved from the Very High EGDI group to the High EGDI group. Although the quality of online services and digital infrastructure have improved, the human capital index has decreased, which has affected the overall decline in the ranking. But among the BRICS countries, Belarus has high indicators for the Human Capital Index component in the EGDI e-government development index, and receives a score of 0,7419, ahead of India, Indonesia, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Iran (table) [1].

The table shows that the main advantage of Belarus among the BRICS countries according to the EGDI index is the high level of human capital, which is an important factor for the development of the government.

Dynamics of the Belarus's indicators in the e-government development index EGDI 2024

Indicators	2024	Place	2022	Place	2020	Place	2014	Place
Online Services Index	0.5760	97 ↑	0.5302	99 ↓	0.7059	66 ↓	0.3228	104 ↓
Telecommunications Infrastructure Index	0.9156	51 ↑	0.8426	32 ↑	0.8281	31 ↑	0.6069	40 ↑
Human Capital Index	0.7419	75 ↓	0.9011	30 ↑	0.8912	27 ↑	0.8861	18 ↑
Electronic Participation Index	0.4932	89 ↑	0.4318	90 ↓	0.7500	58 ↓	0.3529	92 ↑

Source: [1].

The completed research allowed to assess the position of the Belarus in the EGDI rating, which occupies a middle place in the global economic system. The digital gap between the BRICS countries and the leaders of global development remains obvious. To achieve the leading levels of digital states, further increase in investments, improvement and more effective use of innovative technologies in the field of government management are required.

References

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