

The development of "green" economy in the Republic of Belarus

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Scientific progress and the impact of anthropogenic factors have aggravated the ecological situation in the world. The problem of environmental conservation is a necessity for the preservation of human civilization. Over the past two decades, a new direction in the global economy has been formed - the so-called "green" economy, or an ecological economy, that ensures sustainable development of states by investing in environmentally friendly and socially equitable solutions and can become a means to significantly reduce environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

According to the National Action Plan for the Development of the Green Economy in the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2020, "green" economy is a model of the economy organization aimed at achieving the goals of social and economic development and whilst substantially reducing environmental risks and environmental degradation [4]. There is no internationally agreed definition of green economy and at least several separate definitions were identified. So, UNEP has defined the green economy as "one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities" [7].

Thus, the concept of "green" economy is oriented to provide a harmonious unity and consistency of the three main characteristics - social, environmental and economic. "Green" economy is primarily aimed at efficient use of natural resources, preservation and growth of environmental capital, reduction of pollution, low carbon and low emissions, creation of decent work and green jobs, poverty reduction, well-being, livelihoods, social protection and access to essential services [1]. International organizations consider "green" economy as a strategic method for solving systemic problems of environmental degradation as well as tasks to ensure safe use of natural resources, employment and competitiveness of organizations.

Today "green" economy is a primary means for catalysing renewed national policy development, international cooperation and support for sustainable development for many governments seeking effective ways to lead their nations out of crises whilst also taking into account ecological limits. Among them are Germany, Denmark, Sweden, South Korea, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and many others. The Republic of Belarus does not stand apart from the current global and development trends and it is steadily moving towards the "greening" of the economy, that involves application of innovative technologies and rational and prudent use and management of available resources.

The adherence of the Republic of Belarus to the principles of "green" economy is enshrined in the national documents, including the National Strategy for Sustainable Social and Economic Development for the period up to 2030 [3]. In order to fulfill the international commitments on the transition to a "green" economy that were formulated in the Declaration of the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference and the "Rio+20" outcome document, the system of measures to strengthen technological potential of the national economy is being currently executed [6].

Today, certain steps have already been made to "green" the existing economy. For example, we introduce modern energy-efficient technologies, we use such renewable energy sources as solar, wind, geothermal sources, biogas, we apply environmentally safe technologies for agricultural

production; we promote “green” housing development and improve waste management systems, etc. There are also a technological system of waste collection, sorting and disposal, as well as a system of oil waste collection and processing [2].

However, the Republic of Belarus has much to improve. We can come to this conclusion considering foreign experience and practices, according to which, starting from 2008, every two years, researchers calculate the index of environmental efficiency of countries. In 2014, Belarus ranked 32nd, in 2016 and 2018 the Republic ranked 35th and 44th correspondently of the 180 countries covered [5]. The leaders are as usual countries of Western Europe: Sweden, Finland, Denmark, France, and Malta.

Источники и литература

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