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# ECONOMIC AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF PROVIDING INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY IN THE CONDITIONS OF INCREASED INFLUENCE OF FACTORS OF A MILITARY NATURE: THE EXPERIENCE OF UKRAINE AND THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the article is to analyze the state of innovative development of the economy of Ukraine and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and to identify the problems of its provision in the conditions of martial law. The results of the study prove that factors of a military nature have an ambiguous effect on stimulating the innovative development of the country's economy. It has been established that economic evolution through innovation is a prerequisite for strengthening its competitiveness in countering modern challenges and threats. The results of the empirical study made it possible to find out that during the large-scale aggression of Russia on the territory of Ukraine in 2022, a decrease in the level of innovative economic development was also observed in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It was established that in 2023, the countries of the analyzed group managed to increase the indicators of innovative activity of business entities and the parameters of the innovative development of the economy. Important problems in ensuring economic progress through innovative activity have been identified: (1) shortcomings of the legislation regulating the innovation sphere; (2) lack of formation of a unified innovation infrastructure; (3) significant tax burden; (4) lack of an effective system of taxation and provision of tax benefits and preferences; (5) lack of effective investment mechanisms in the field of innovation; (6) low level of technological capacity of production facilities; (7) imperfection of the education system; (8) low level of financing of research activities; (9) focus on the export of raw materials and dependence on high-tech imports. In order to ensure sustainable innovative development of the country's economy, it is necessary to create appropriate conditions for the development of innovative potential, activate the creation of cross-border innovation clusters, and strengthen the country's investment attractiveness.

**Keywords:** innovative development, innovations, economic development, Global Innovation Index, competitiveness, economic growth, Global Competitiveness Index

**JEL Classification:** O17, O38, O57

## INTRODUCTION

The intensification of the latest challenges and threats causes the instability of the world economic system and negatively affects the development of national economies, provoking the emergence of significant development disparities and destructive changes, intensifying crisis phenomena of a financial nature and significantly slowing down the pace of innovative development. In the conditions of uncertainty and crisis conditions, the problem of ensuring the radical structural transformation of processes and phenomena in the economy is actualized, which requires reaching a qualitatively new level of management systems of finance and economy of countries and stimulating innovation, creativity, increasing the level of high technology, as well as activating the attraction of innovations in order to increase the competitiveness of the economic system, which is

especially important in the conditions of the destabilizing influence of the factors of Russia's war against Ukraine. It is obvious that provision of the progress in the field of innovation will contribute to a faster response to the challenges and threats of modern times, to assess the real state of the economy and to form a set of measures to ensure its sustainable development and growth in a strategic perspective. However, the achievement of the desired results becomes impossible without the introduction of innovations and an effective combination of the achievements of science and practice, therefore, ensuring the innovative development of the country's economy is transformed to the forefront and requires an orientation to ensure leadership positions in the field of scientific developments, the implementation of large innovative projects, in particular, in the military-industrial complex and the security and defence sector, creation of a favourable innovation and investment climate, as well as effective regulation of innovation infrastructure and adaptation of positive world experience in achieving scientific and technical progress. This actualizes the topic of the research and requires a thorough study of difficulties in guaranteeing the progressive development of the economy through innovation in conditions of increased influence of factors of a military nature.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The aspirations of Ukraine to integrate into the world economic space, acquire membership in the European Union and position itself in the international arena as a developed and democratic state necessitate the formation of stable and multi-format relations with the international community and the achievement of priorities of participation in the distribution of resources. However, the achievement of the desired parameters of the country's development is significantly impeded by the presence of significant destabilizing factors of a military nature, crisis phenomena in the economy and society, as well as the inability of the economy to withstand the challenges and dangers of globalization, mega-regionalization and persistent instability. It is obvious that overcoming these negative factors is impossible without ensuring a sufficient level of the country's competitiveness, which can be achieved thanks to the intensification of innovative development, ensuring economic growth on the basis of innovation and creativity, as well as the activation of innovative activities of domestic business entities, which is emphasized by M. Kopytko and M. Vinichuk [1].

Challenges in the aspect of analyzing the progress of the economy through innovation under the conditions of increased influence of military factors became particularly relevant and of exceptional importance during Russia's large-scale military aggression against the territory of Ukraine and the annexation of significant Ukrainian territories by the aggressor country, as a result of which not only the economy of Ukraine suffered a significant destructive impact, but also the international economy as a whole. Destabilizing changes are particularly noticeable in countries that border Ukraine and have close relations with it. It is obvious that the military and political situation in Ukraine had a significant impact on the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and the consequences were felt by the entire world community.

The intensification of crisis states necessitates the search for effective ways out of an unprecedented situation and ensuring sustainable economic growth requires intensification of efforts including both internal and external levels. D. Audretsch, M. Keilbach, and E. Lehmann [2], having quite significant achievements in this direction, be sure that this will not provide sustainable economic growth of the country's economy without strengthening the country's competitiveness and attracting innovations to the business sector. In fact, scientists are of the opinion that the stimulation of innovative progress of the country's economy represents the ability to provide a quick solution to the existing problems of a financial and economic nature and ensure the growth of indicators from a strategic perspective. Moreover, M. Kopytko, M. Vinichuk, O. Guk, L. Shenderivska, and H. Mokhonko [3] claim that stimulating the modern development of the economic system can ensure financial stability in the country and achieve high rates of sustainable economic growth. However, Jakúbek P., Guzonova V., Rudenko O., Zahurska-Antoniuk V. and Filipova N., in their other work [4] emphasize that ensuring sustainable innovative development of the country's economy is not possible without ensuring optimal indicators of the level of economic security of innovative enterprises directing their activities to the testing of innovations and their involvement in practical activities. It becomes obvious that the provision of sustainable innovative development of the economy will increase the country's innovation and investment attractiveness and strengthen its position in the international arena [5].

A. Rybchuk and R. Pavliukh hold a similar position [6, p. 89], proving that it is an innovative activity that is the driving force for providing the sustainable development of national economies, as it acts as an effective tool for the commercialization of scientific developments and achievements, technological progress and technology improvement, which, in turn, stimulates the increase in competitiveness indicators. Within the limits of these studies, the remark of K. Aka [7] is correct, which proves that in modern economic conditions, it is extremely difficult to ensure sustainable innovative development of the economy, which is connected with limited resources both in each individual country and at the global level. Therefore, the scientist emphasizes the need to form strategies for the innovative development of the economy and claims that the volume of innovation must be forecast taking into account the expected trends of sustainable development of regions and

territories. It is obvious that this position of the scientist is well-founded and justified, which is confirmed by the current state of regional development in European countries, which are suffering from the consequences of the war in Ukraine and are forced to reformat their activities taking into account factors of a military nature.

Hoa Pham Xuan, Xuan Vu Ngoc, Thu Nguyen Thi Phuong and Huong Le Mai [8] also consider stimulating the development of the economy on the basis of innovation to be one of the directions of economic growth in the near future. However, scientists note the significant dependence formation of the economic system of the state based on innovation its financial capacity and the amount of budgetary and non-budgetary financing of the sphere of innovation. Therefore, Yu. Shushkova [9, p. 22] insists on intensifying the innovation integration processes in the economy, claiming that they are the most important factor in ensuring the stability and effective growth of the economy.

At the same time, V. Buttici, F. Caviggioli, C. Franzoni, J. Scellato, P. Stryszowski and N. Thumm [10] insist on the need for a systematic assessment of the level of formation of the economic system on the basis of innovation, which will allow one to timely detect relevant abuses regarding the use of innovations and illegal use of digital technologies in economic processes, as well as to determine the consequences of such actions on the activities of subjects of economic activity regarding the attraction of innovations.

In addition, some scientists, in particular A. Hernandez-Vivanco, M. Bernardo and K. Cruz-Cázares [11] are inclined to the opinion that the process of provision of the sustainable development of the economy is impossible without the activation of innovative activity, therefore, they consider the effective implementation of innovations to be the key to economic growth and the priority direction of the state economic policy. At the same time, scientists believe that guaranteeing the innovative growth of the economy is important, and is a component of increasing the competitiveness of the country's economy and its image in the international arena.

L. Huseynova and A. Huseynov [12] believe that in the conditions of globalization, which currently accompany the development of the international economic systems, the intensification of the need for the formation of the economic system based on innovative principles is substantiated significant technical progress and the transition to the knowledge economy and digital society, as a result of which there are radical changes in the national economy, the destabilizing influence of which cannot be overcome without the introduction of innovative technologies. However, scientists point out that an innovative breakthrough can lead to aggravation of competition between countries, and the strengthening of globalization processes will lead to the merger of individual national economies.

M. Al-Shammati, W. Aziz and S. Jasimuddin [13] regard the introduction of innovations and stimulation of innovative economic development as external facilitators of the activation of economic processes and the effectiveness of entrepreneurial activity, and they insist on the need to form effective mechanisms for managing the innovative development of the economy at various levels. Empirical research by A. Sarangi, R. Pradhan, T. Nath, H. Roy, and R. Maradana [14], in which the dependence of economic development and economic growth on innovation is proven on the example of the G20 countries, is a confirmation of this thesis. At the same time, the results of the calculations made it possible to identify short-term and long-term cause-and-effect relationships, which prove the importance of innovations in economic progress and their ability to ensure the competitiveness of the economy even in non-standard and crisis situations. The scientists' research was deepened by the calculations of M. Naeem, M. Subhan, Sh. Alam, M. Al-Faryan and M. Yameen [15], who, using the panel regression method and data with countries with different levels of socioeconomic development, found a close relationship between the economic growth of countries and financial innovations. The scientists came to the conclusion that provision of the sustainable innovative development of the economy is impossible without sufficient amounts of financial resources and optimal mechanisms of their management.

The proven positive impact of innovations on economic growth proves their important role in ensuring the economic development of the economy. However, agreeing with the stated thesis, some authors, in particular M. Ranga and S. Kim [16], claim that in response to the complex challenges of modern times, each country should form its own innovation policy capable of ensuring a transition to a dominant focus of technological, organizational and marketing innovations in order to focus on the competitiveness of the economy and on economic growth by stimulating educational and research activities and the development of entrepreneurship.

M. Rasheed and L. Jianhua [17] propose to evaluate key innovative principles of economic system formation in the context of the formation of individual clusters and claim that the clustering with countries with different levels of socio-economic development will allow to identify common and distinctive features of the introduction of innovations and the effectiveness of their management, as well as to identify patterns of changes in economic growth and the problems of ensuring innovative development.

It is an absolute fact that provision formation of the economic system on the basis of innovation is a priority direction for achieving the goals of sustainable development of the countries of the world and ensuring economic growth. Taking into account the mentioned problems, the research acquires exceptional importance and requires in-depth study.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of scientific intelligence is to analyze the state of innovative development of the economy of Ukraine and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as to identify the problems of its provision in the conditions of the increased influence of factors of a military nature. To ensure the solution of the set goal, it is necessary to carry out the following tasks determining the essence of the innovative development of the country's economy and identifying the features and problems of its provision in Ukraine and in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in situations where there is instability, uncertainty and an increased threat of a military nature; the outline of the main aspects of the economic and legal regulation of the innovative development of the economy; assessment of the state and trends of changes in the parameters formation of the economic system on the basis of innovation in Ukraine and in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe; determination of the main priority areas of innovative development of the economy in a strategic perspective.

## METHODS

The research methodology is based on general scientific methods of economic analysis and special methods of scientific research. For example, to understand the essence of "innovative economic development" methods of scientific abstraction, comparative and systematic analysis were used. The observation method and the functional-systemic approach were also used to analyze the economic and legal regulation of innovative development in Ukraine and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Comparison methods, statistical and cluster analysis were used to assess the state of innovative development of the economy. Generalization and systematization were used to form research results and conclusions.

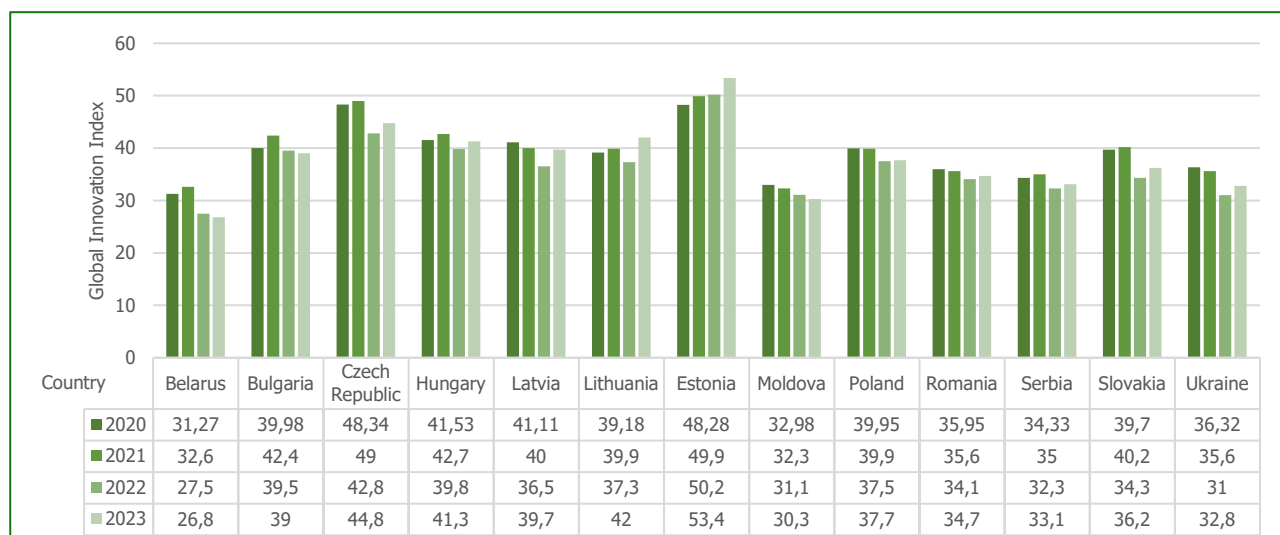
## RESULTS

The presence of significant destabilizing factors in the development of the economy and the strengthening of financial, economic and socio-political instability in Ukraine and in the bordering countries is due to the full-scale invasion of Russia on the territory of Ukraine and the long process of transformational reconstruction. It is obvious that a way out of the crisis situation in modern conditions cannot be ensured without the development of effective modern mechanisms for countering challenges and dangers. Under such circumstances, the transition to an innovative type of economic development is fully justified, because it involves the most effective use of resource potential, in particular, scientific, scientific-technological, intellectual and innovative, which, in aggregate, will allow to achieve not only the renewal of the principles of the implementation of economic processes, but also ensure the growth of indicators of competitiveness of the country's economy.

The experience of the leading highly developed countries of the world proves that the innovative development of the economy depends significantly on the country's ability to ensure the proper conditions for the modernization of production potential, to form effective management mechanisms, to develop effective tools for adaptation to the dynamic conditions of the external environment. Speaking about the effectiveness of the state's economic development strategy, it is important to note that ensuring the innovative progress of the economy requires a careful balance between real economic needs and opportunities for scientific and technological progress in the country. This proves the considerable role of the state in this process as a coordinator of scientific developments and the introduction of innovations. It should be recognized that innovative activity is high-risk, therefore, state support of the innovation sector is extremely important.

If we talk about the possibilities and prospects of the innovative development of Ukraine and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, then it is necessary to note the presence of certain problems in the implementation of innovative activities. First of all, they lie in the lack of an initiative to develop innovations, in the lack of financial resources to support innovative activities, and in making analogies in the use of innovative experiences of countries that are insiders in this direction. Moreover, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Ukraine face the problem of the "outflow" of highly qualified specialists capable of creating an innovative product, due to the lack of prospects for the development of innovations and low wages for their creation.

It is possible to thoroughly analyze the level and process of development of the economic system based on the innovation of Ukraine and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe based on the analysis of the Global Innovation Index, which is an international indicator that allows you to evaluate 82 variables that reflect different levels of innovative development of the state's economic system, reveal gaps in innovative indicators, analyze the level of expenses for carrying out scientific research works and access to financing of innovative activities and innovations. Figure 1 shows the main principles and processes of the level of dynamics in changes in the Global Innovation Index in Ukraine and in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe for the period of 2020–2023.



**Figure 1. State and dynamics of changes in the Global Innovation Index in Ukraine and in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in 2020–2023.** (Source: calculated on the basis of: [18, p. 33–34; 19, p. 6; 20, p. 19; 21, p. 19])

The conclusions of the performed analysis prove the sufficiently low values of the Global Innovation Index in Ukraine and in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the analyzed period. The highest among those states that we have chosen for the study belongs to Estonia, whose Global Innovation Index is recorded in the range of 48.28–53.40, and the Czech Republic, whose Global Innovation Index is in the range of 48.34–49.00. At the same time, the lowest values of the Global Innovation Index belong to Belarus (26.80–32.60) and Moldova (30.30–32.98). In the countries with the lowest degree of formation of the economic system on the basis of innovation throughout the entire analyzed period, downward trends regarding the decrease in innovative activity are observed. Moreover, a sharp decrease in the value of the Global Innovation Index in 2022 under the influence of Russia's war against Ukraine is noted in all analyzed countries except Estonia.

It is worth noting that in 2023 the situation improved somewhat, as evidenced by the gradual increase in the value of the Global Innovation Index, and the provision of innovative development of countries' economies is explained by their adaptation to unstable conditions and to the destabilizing influence of factors of a military nature. It is obvious that the war in Ukraine intensified the need to develop the latest developments in science and technology, primarily for military purposes, which stimulated an innovative breakthrough. However, the sanctions imposed by the international community against Russia and Belarus caused an even greater crisis in the development of innovations in Belarus, which is evidenced by the decrease in the value of the Global Innovation Index in this country to 26.8 in the conditions of 2023 against the background of its insignificant growth in all other countries. Therefore, it is impossible to unequivocally state that the war in Ukraine has a negative effect on the innovative development of the economy, since it, to a certain extent, stimulates it.

In order to identify common and different trends in the provision of the formation of economic systems based on the innovation of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Ukraine, we consider it expedient to group these countries according to the Global Innovation Index for the period of 2020–2023. All calculations will be performed within the scope of the cluster analysis method (k-means method PP Statistica 8.0), and the results are systematized in Table 1.

**Table 1. Grouping of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Ukraine according to the Global Innovation Index in 2020–2023.**  
(Source: calculated on the basis of: [18, p. 33–34; 19, p. 6; 20, p. 19; 21, p. 19])

Global innovation index							
2020		2021		2022		2023	
Country	Cluster number	Country	Cluster number	Country	Cluster number	Country	Cluster number
Estonia	1	Estonia	1	Estonia	1	Estonia	1
Czech Republic		Czech Republic		Czech Republic		Bulgaria	
Bulgaria	2	Bulgaria	2	Bulgaria	2	Czech Republic	
Hungary		Hungary		Hungary		Hungary	
Latvia		Latvia		Latvia		Latvia	
Lithuania		Lithuania		Lithuania		Lithuania	
Poland		Poland		Poland		Poland	
Slovakia		Slovakia		Romania		Slovakia	
Belarus	3	Belarus	3	Slovakia	3	Belarus	3
Moldova		Moldova		Belarus		Moldova	
Romania		Romania		Moldova		Romania	
Serbia		Serbia		Serbia		Serbia	
Ukraine		Ukraine		Ukraine		Ukraine	

The conducted research reveals that three clusters were formed among the countries of Central and Eastern Europe during 2020–2023, which are endowed with general features of economic progress based on innovation. In particular, the first group during 2020–2022 steadily includes Estonia and the Czech Republic, whose value of the Global Innovation Index is the highest. However, in 2023, the Czech Republic weakened its position and fell into the second cluster, where Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia are located, and in 2022, Romania also rose to it, in which the level of innovation economic development is somewhat lower than in Estonia, however, due to the active support of the European Union, they are able to effectively implement innovative projects and ensure progressive innovative development of the economy. The third cluster is stable during 2020–2023: Belarus, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine, where the lowest rates of innovation development of the economy are recorded, chronic underfunding of the innovation sphere is observed, and available resources and innovation potential are used irrationally. In 2023, the situation regarding the provision of innovative economic development of the countries of the analyzed group improved somewhat, with the exception of Belarus and Moldova.

Simultaneously, research results show a higher level of innovative development of the economy of those countries that are part of the European Union, while countries of the transitive type are characterized by lower rates of innovative economic development and higher rates of technological backwardness.

It should be recognized that the main issue of guaranteeing and implementing the development of the economic system based on innovation in the conditions of increased influence of factors of a military nature in most of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and in Ukraine are:

- the imperfection of the current legislation in the field of innovation and provision of the innovative development of the economy;
- lack of formation of a unified innovation infrastructure;
- significant tax burden on small business entities;
- lack of an effective system of taxation and provision of tax benefits and preferences to ventures;
- lack of effective investment mechanisms in the field of innovation;
- low level of technological capacity of production facilities and outdated material and technical base;
- the imperfection of the education system;
- low level of financing of research and development activities and institutes;
- raw material export specialization and dominance of high-tech imports.



It becomes obvious that under the influence of factors of a military nature, the formation of the economic system on the basis of innovation of Ukraine and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe is significantly changing and acquiring a new meaning, and the problems of its provision are connected with modern challenges and dangers of a global and regional nature.

## DISCUSSION

Conclusions of the analysis into the economic and legal aspects of providing development of the economic system based on innovation of Ukraine and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe under conditions of increased influence of factors of a military nature give grounds for asserting that the existing challenges and dangers intensify the need to stimulate innovative activity, create and introduce innovations, and condition the need to strengthen the state support and development of the sphere of innovation. It has been established that ensuring sustainable development of the economic system based on innovation of Ukraine and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe requires:

- radical restructuring of the economy and development of energy-efficient production technologies;
- attraction of additional investment resources in the field of innovation;
- formation of effective instruments of state support for the infrastructure of innovative activity;
- formation of the national innovation system;
- development of formal and informal institutions of coordination of innovative economic development.

The implementation of the mentioned measures will make it possible to create the right conditions for the development of innovation potential, intensify activities in the direction of creating cross-border innovation clusters, and strengthen the country's competitiveness.

## CONCLUSIONS

Summing up, the analysis confirmed that ensuring the innovative development of the economy of Ukraine and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in conditions of increased influence of military factors allows us to state that the innovative development of the country's economy contributes to ensuring its competitiveness and is one of the tools for ensuring sustainable development and economic growth. It was established that providing sustainable innovative development requires the consolidation of a significant amount of resources and the formation of high-quality financial, methodological and technological support. The results of the conducted empirical studies proved that countries with a higher level of socio-economic development are able to provide higher indicators of innovative economic development, while countries of the transitive type, to which Ukraine belongs, are unable to counteract in time the existing challenges and dangers of modernity. It was revealed that Russia's war against Ukraine significantly destabilized the processes of innovative economic development of both Ukraine and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and had a particularly negative impact on the level of innovative economic development in Belarus. The expediency of the development of favourable principles and principles of motivation for the formation of the economic system at the innovative level in Ukraine has been substantiated, and, therefore, it has been established that this is a perspective for conducting further research in the future.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

*The Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.*

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## ЕКОНОМІКО-ПРАВОВІ АСПЕКТИ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ ІННОВАЦІЙНОГО РОЗВИТКУ ЕКОНОМІКИ В УМОВАХ ПОСИЛЕННЯ ВПЛИВУ ВОЄННИХ ЧИННИКІВ: ДОСВІД УКРАЇНИ ТА КРАЇН ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЇ І СХІДНОЇ ЄВРОПИ

Мета наукової розвідки полягає в проведенні аналізу стану інноваційного економічного розвитку України та країн Центральної і Східної Європи, а також виявлення проблем його забезпечення в ситуаціях пов'язаних зі зростанням впливу воєнних факторів. Висновки проведеного дослідження свідчать про те, що фактори воєнного характеру неоднозначно впливають на інноваційний розвиток економіки країни та не лише спричиняють значні деструктивні зміни, а й мають домінуючий вплив на стимулювання інноваційної діяльності з метою забезпечення потреб воєнного характеру та швидкої адаптації до змінних і нестабільних умов зовнішнього й внутрішнього середовища. Установлено, що інноваційний розвиток економіки є передумовою зміцнення її конкурентоспроможності й здатності протистояти викликам і небезпекам сучасності та, водночас, є одним із інструментів забезпечення сталого розвитку й економічного зростання. Результати емпіричних досліджень дозволили з'ясувати, що в період повномасштабного вторгнення російської федерації на територію України у 2022 році спостерігається зниженням рівня інноваційного розвитку економіки не лише України, а й країн Центральної і Східної Європи. Установлено, що 2023 року країнам аналізованої групи вдалося забезпечити підвищення показників інноваційної активності суб'єктів господарювання та параметри інноваційного розвитку економіки. Виявлено вагомі проблеми забезпечення інноваційного розвитку економіки, серед них виокремлюються: (1) недосконалість чинного законодавства в царині інновацій; (2) несформованість єдиної інноваційної інфраструктури; (3) великі податкові тягарі для малих підприємств; (4) відсутність ефективної системи оподаткування та надання податкових пільг і преференцій венчурам; (5) відсутність ефективних механізмів інвестування в царину інновацій; (6) низький рівень технологічної спроможності виробничих потужностей; (7) недосконалість системи світи; (8) низький рівень фінансування діяльності науково-дослідних і дослідно-конструкторських робіт та інститутів; (9) сировинна експортна спеціалізація та домінування високотехнологічного імпорту. З метою забезпечення сталого інноваційного розвитку економіки країни необхідними є створення належних умов для розвитку інноваційного потенціалу, активізація діяльності в напрямі створення транскордонних інноваційних кластерів та посилення інвестиційної привабливості країни.

**Ключові слова:** інноваційний розвиток, інновації, розвиток економіки, Глобальний інноваційний індекс, конкурентоспроможність, економічне зростання, Індекс глобальної конкурентоспроможності

**JEL Класифікація:** O17, O38, O57