

Regional Development Strategy in Kazakhstan: State and Prospects

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Abstract. This article discusses the conceptual foundations of the formation of a regional innovation system (RIS). Various approaches to understanding RISK are considered. The issues of the formation of the regional structure of NIS as an independent subsystem of innovation management are considered. The author's definition of RIS is given as the concentration of innovative business structures and institutions within certain territorial boundaries with the appropriate organization of structural links between them and the formation of a system of relationships throughout the scientific and production cycle. The results of SWOT-analysis of RIS are presented (on the example of Central Kazakhstan). The problems that need to be addressed to complete the process of building the RIS innovative infrastructure have been identified.

Keywords: regional innovation systems, conceptual approaches, structural elements, models of building innovations in Kazakhstan, competitiveness of regions, regionalization of the economy, business climate, quality investments, directions of entrepreneurship development, monitoring of legislation.

Introduction

The priority task of the country's development for the coming period will be the formation of a new economic structure based on increasing its self-sufficiency, a competitive non-primary sector, high-quality investments and integration into regional and global value chains. In the territorial context, the growth of the region's economy is determined by the level of demand both in the domestic and foreign markets, and depends on a number of factors, including the growth of investment in industrial and infrastructure projects, foreign direct investment (FDI), and the implementation of government programs. Serious attention is required to internal factors that also affect the growth rate of the region's economy – these are the innovative activities of enterprises, the modernization and competitiveness of the region's economy, and the natural resource potential. The integrated development of the regions is aimed at using the competitive advantages of each region. Such competitive advantages of the regions as geographical location, human resources, natural resources, industrial infrastructure contribute to the acceleration of intensification and ensure industrial development. The relevance of the study conducted by the authors lies in the assessment of the economic situation in the regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the course of fulfilling the tasks defined in the program documents.

Research Methodology

The purpose of the study is to assess the situation and analyze the results of state regulation of territorial development in the Republic of Kazakhstan to ensure the integrated development of regions and the formation of a comfortable life for the population.

The objects of the study were officially approved legal acts regulating the development of regions in the Republic of Kazakhstan, including the formation of a favorable business environment. Methods of systemic and structural-logical analysis were used, and in addition, general scientific methods were used, including network theory, classification of species, method of comparison, methods of quantitative analysis and some others.

The theoretical basis of scientific research was the theoretical concepts and methodological developments of domestic and foreign scientists on the problems of regionalization of the economy.

Periodical, statistical, analytical and translated literature in the field of research was used as information resources.

Implementation of the state program for the development of regions in the Republic of Kazakhstan

One of the main goals formulated in the State Program for the Development of Regions for 2020-2025 is to increase the economic competitiveness of the regions and improve the quality of life of the

population through controlled urbanization [1]. The assessment of the achievement of the goal is carried out according to three indicators: Level of urbanization; GRP per capita gap between regions; Growth rates of real money income of the population.

The interim report on the implementation of the State Program provides information on the progress of the program at its initial stage (Table 1, 2).

According to preliminary data, as of January 1, 2021, the level of urbanization was 59.1%, while the plan was 59.5%. Compared to 2019, the level of urbanization increased by 0.9%, and the increase in the urban population amounted to 451.5 thousand people. The non-fulfillment of planned indicators was a consequence of the impact of the pandemic on the processes of external and internal migration of the population. The highest rates of housing commissioning were observed in the cities of Nur-Sultan and Shymkent, Karaganda, North Kazakhstan and Zhambyl regions [2].

The deviation of the indicator values is present in almost all regions, with the exception of the Aktoobe region. The excess of the actual value of the indicator is noted in all regions, except for Almaty, Mangystau, in the cities of Nur-Sultan and Almaty. The development gap in terms of GRP per capita between the regions was 2.5 times against the plan of 3.1 times. At the same time, it can be stated that in comparison with 2019, the indicator has improved by 0.4 times.

In the current conditions, the following dynamics

are observed in the regions of the country in terms of economic development, employment and income support. So, at the end of 2021, for most indicators, there is a positive growth rate in 10 regions. These are Akmola, East Kazakhstan, Turkestan, Aktoobe, Almaty, Zhambyl and Kostanay regions, as well as the cities of Nur-Sultan and Shymkent. 4 regions completed the year with results at the level of average republican values, these are Karaganda, Pavlodar, Mangystau regions and the city of Almaty [6].

If we evaluate the rates of regional development, then we should consider the indicator «Increase in the volume of attracting investments in fixed assets (excluding budgetary funds) in agglomeration centers» (Table 3).

The performance indicator was not achieved, while the volume of attracting investments in fixed assets (excluding budgetary funds) in the cities of Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Shymkent amounted to 2.0 trillion tenge, or 96.5% of the plan. In comparison with 2019, there is an increase in the volume of investments in the centers of agglomerations by 150.9 billion tenge, or 108.4%.

In terms of private investment, 9 regions showed growth. The highest growth rates were noted in the Turkestan, Akmola and North Kazakhstan regions and in the cities of Nur-Sultan and Shymkent. There is a high growth in the manufacturing industry in Kostanay, Akmola, North Kazakhstan regions, as well as in the city of Almaty [6].

Monitoring of legislation to identify norms that

Table 1 – «Level of urbanization» by regions of Kazakhstan, %

№	Region	Execution at the end of 2020		
		Base (initial) value	Plan	Fact
1	Republican average	59,5	59,5	59,1
2	Akmola region	48,6	48,6	47,5
3	Aktoobe region	70,7	70,7	71,7
4	Almaty region	24,5	24,5	21,9
5	Atyrau region	53,3	53,3	54,4
6	The East Kazakhstan region	62,8	62,8	62,4
7	Zhambyl region	40,9	40,9	39,9
8	West-Kazakhstan region	53,7	53,7	52,7
9	Karaganda region	80,8	80,8	79,9
10	Kostanay region	55,6	55,6	58,4
11	Kyzylorda region	45,1	45,1	44,8
12	Mangystau region	43,3	43,3	40,0
13	Pavlodar region	71,8	71,8	70,6
14	North-Kazakhstan region	47,0	47,0	46,6
15	Turkestan region	20,1	20,1	20,4
16	Nur-Sultan	100	100	100
17	Almaty	100	100	100
18	Shymkent	100	100	100

Table 2 – Evaluation of the implementation of the goal «Improving the economic competitiveness of regions and improving the quality of life of the population through managed urbanization» according to indicators 2 and 3

№	Region	Execution at the end of 2020		
		Base (initial) value	Plan	Fact
Target indicator 3: Growth rates of real money income of the population, %				
1	Republican average	12,0	12,0	16,6
2	Akmola region	23,8	23,8	26,6
3	Aktobe region	18,2	18,2	18,2
4	Almaty region	27,4	27,4	9,5
5	Atyrau region	1,8	1,8	20,9
6	The East Kazakhstan region	19,2	19,2	33,6
7	Zhambyl region	12,7	12,7	30,8
8	West-Kazakhstan region	7,6	7,6	12,3
9	Karaganda region	13,8	13,8	29,1
10	Kostanay region	25,5	25,5	24,1
11	Kyzylorda region	12,3	12,3	18,8
12	Mangystau region	8,8	8,8	-2,6
13	Pavlodar region	13,4	13,4	16,6
14	North-Kazakhstan region	13,2	13,2	23,7
15	Turkestan region	4,8	4,8	34,9
16	Nur-Sultan	6,4	6,4	-4,0
17	Almaty	7,6	7,6	3,6
18	Shymkent	5,1	5,1	17,5
Target indicator 2: Development gap in terms of GRP per capita between regions, times				
	All over Kazakhstan	3,1	3,1	2,5

Table 3 – Increase in the volume of attracting investments in fixed assets (excluding budgetary funds) in agglomeration centers, million tenge

№	Region	Execution at the end of 2020		
		Base (initial) value	Plan	Fact
1	Republican average	2 070 439	2 070 439	1 998 015
2	Nur-Sultan	700 000	700 000	870 832
3	Almaty	655 674	655 674	767 868
4	Shymkent	584 312	584 312	170 070
5	Aktobe	130 453	130 453	189 245

impede the development of competition made it possible to identify the following stages:

- Stage I (2017): in May 2018, a law was adopted to eliminate 35 barriers to the development of competition;

- Stage II (2019): a package of amendments has been prepared providing for the elimination of 73 barriers to competition (in accordance with the instruction of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated May 24, 2019), which is included in the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative

Acts of the Republic Kazakhstan on improving the business climate»;

- Stage III (2020-2021): within the framework of the instructions of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, voiced in the Address to the people of Kazakhstan dated September 1, 2020 «Kazakhstan in a new reality: time for action», developed and enshrined in the new Plan for the territorial development of the country until 2025 years new approaches to territorial and spatial development. According to the new State Planning System, in the implementation of the Country's Territorial

Development Plan, the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 12, 2021 approved the national project «Strong Regions as a Driver for the Development of the Country», which provides for the integrated development of cities and rural settlements [4]. The goal of the project is to create a comfortable environment by ensuring equal access of the population to basic services, improving housing and communal conditions and developing housing construction, as well as transport connectivity and increasing the transport and transit potential of the country. It is designed until 2025, and its implementation provides for increase in the level of urbanization from 59.1% to 62.6%; an increase in the population in agglomerations and regional centers (as well as the city of Semey) by 1.7% annually; attracting more than 21 thousand specialists in the field of healthcare, education, social security, culture, sports, and the agro-industrial complex, as well as civil servants of the administrations of akims of villages, towns, rural districts to rural settlements (SNP); ensuring the improvement of living conditions of 236.7 thousand families at the expense of all sources of financing; ensuring 100% access to water supply services in cities and villages; increasing the level of employment of migrants and candidates, including the development of entrepreneurial initiative from 79% to 87%.

As a result, in the medium term, the level of investment in fixed assets will increase from 18.1% in 2019 to 30% of GDP by 2025. The volume of annual gross foreign direct investment will increase from 24.1 billion US dollars in 2019 to 30 billion US dollars by 2025. 7 567 408 245 tenge is provided for the implementation of the national project. At the same time, 53.15% will be allocated from the republican budget, 10.38% from local budgets, and the rest is private investment. In general, the economic effect of the project should be expressed through an increase in the GRP of the capital and cities of republican significance by 3.9% annually; increase in transit cargo flows from 22.7 to 30 million tons.

Results

One of the directions of the regional development strategy is the creation of a strong entrepreneurial class. Entrepreneurship is the basis for sustainable, dynamic development of the economy, as well as a key source of income and employment. Therefore, it is necessary to launch a new cycle of business activity, to take systematic and effective measures to stimulate the development of entrepreneurial activity. In the context of this direction, it is necessary to change the focus from making a profit to developing competition, creating conditions for the entry of private business into new sectors of the economy, including those currently dominated by the state. Work should continue to unleash the potential of private capital. To do this, it is necessary to eliminate the excessive presence of the state in the economy and the interference of state bodies in business activities, improve the effectiveness of state

regulation, entrepreneurial literacy and digitalization of business services.

Another important area of the territorial development strategy in Kazakhstan is attracting high-quality investments. In terms of private investment, nine regions showed growth. The highest growth rates were noted in the Turkestan, Akmola and North Kazakhstan regions and in the cities of Nur-Sultan and Shymkent. There is a high growth in the manufacturing industry in Kostanay, Akmola, North Kazakhstan regions, as well as in the city of Almaty [2]. In 2021, 144 projects worth a total of 1.3 trillion tenge were put into operation in Kazakhstan under the Industrialization Map [7]. These enterprises created 12.9 thousand permanent jobs.

Discussion of results

To improve the business climate and introduce regulation «from scratch», it is necessary to develop a regulatory framework for the activities of small and medium-sized businesses [9]. To this end, it is proposed to conduct a radical review of the entire array of state regulation by changing the basic approaches in regulatory policy and creating a new comprehensive and effective regulation in order to prevent the adoption of regulatory instruments that do not meet the principles of protecting the health of citizens and the environment.

Changing approaches involves taking a number of measures:

- firstly, revision of business requirements, reporting, permits;
- secondly, the cancellation in 2025 of non-automated information obligations of the business, in the absence of their automation and integration with the information system for registering inspections;
- thirdly, the transfer of state control of 8 areas to preventive control (SES; taxation; nuclear energy; fire safety; circulation of poisons, weapons, military equipment and certain types of weapons; industrial safety; medical services; circulation of medicines);
- fourthly, the maximum refusal of certifications, accreditations, permits in areas where licensing has been introduced [11];
- fifthly, improvement of procedures and mechanisms for regulatory impact analysis.

An important aspect of the development of small and medium-sized businesses is the simplification of taxation. To optimize the number of taxes, it is proposed to combine the property tax and the land tax, the abolition of the land tax for multi-apartment residential buildings (2.7 million taxpayers), the introduction of a single payment with a payroll (IPN, pension contributions, combined social payments).

It is also advisable to work out the introduction of a retail tax on a voluntary basis, the single rate for which will be 6-8% with VAT exemption [9]. This will reduce the tax burden, simplify the payment of taxes and payments, as well as increase the share of SMEs in GDP from 31.7% in 2019 to 35% in 2025. At the same time, the number of employees can reach 4

million people.

The implementation of new approaches to create a strong entrepreneurial class and further improvement of the business environment will allow Kazakhstan to enter the top 20 countries with the most favorable business conditions in the world.

Strengthening global competition for capital against the backdrop of trade and sanctions confrontations entails a revision of established supply chains [10]. In order to attract quality investments, it is necessary to focus from a passive, investor-friendly approach to working directly with each capital holder at all stages of the value chain. Systematic support measures are needed for each investor based on priority and potential effect on the economy as a whole.

In order to stimulate the inflow of investments, it is introduced to ensure the stability of the legislative conditions and the conditions of state programs. These are concessional financing, partial loan guarantees, export support mechanisms.

For large projects, it is proposed to extend preferences in free economic zones, guaranteed purchases from the state, quasi-public sectors and subsoil users, reimbursement of part of capital costs against taxes by offsetting tax liabilities arising after the end of the tax grace period. The circle of potential investors will expand and the conditions for financing the Kazakh economy will be improved.

To improve the investment climate, measures will be taken to develop the level and accessibility of basic infrastructure facilities. This will be possible due to the reimbursement of investors' expenses for the development and/or construction of engineering and communication infrastructure (roads, sewerage, heat and water supply, gas supply, telephone and electric networks). The developed infrastructure will allow diversifying the investment portfolio for public-private partnership projects and improve the quality of projects. Investors implementing PPP projects will be offered «package solutions» with an individual approach.

Measures will be taken to attract targeted strategic investors and create new ecosystems in the sectors of

the economy.

Strategic investors implementing investment projects that are significant for the economy will be given the opportunity to conclude an investment agreement that provides for special conditions and procedures for granting benefits and preferences, which will be regulated, among other things, by AIFC law (cognizance of disputes by the AIFC court and arbitration). Taking into account the world experience, the offset policy (international tenders, off-take contracts) used in many advanced countries of the world will be applied. A minimum list of services provided to investors in the regional front offices will be developed and determined.

Conclusion

The main thing to be done is completion of the revision of regulatory barriers that impede competition and ensure their exclusion at the legislative level; analysis of the effect of changes made to the legislation in the field of competition protection following the results of its bringing into line with OECD standards and fulfillment of obligations to submit OECD assessment questionnaires (preparatory process), the quality of which determines the decision of the OECD Competition Committee to conduct the 2nd Peer Review OECD in Kazakhstan in 2025; conclusion of an agreement with the OECD on the conduct of the second OECD Peer Review «Competition Law and Policy in Kazakhstan» and the second OECD Peer Review «Competition Law and Policy in Kazakhstan» in order to increase the status of Kazakhstan in the OECD Competition Committee.

The government needs to continue to work on adapting the economy to the new economic realities that are being formed in the context of major megatrends in world markets. At the same time, it should be noted that the focus on ensuring self-sufficiency in the growth and development of economies is increasing. A large role in this process is given to the issues of ensuring long-term food security, realizing the potential of internal growth reserves, including through domestic demand and the resource base.

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Қазақстандағы өңірлік даму стратегиясы: жағдайы мен болашағы

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Аңдатпа. Аймақтық инновациялық жүйені (АИЖ) қалыптастырудың концептуалды негіздері қарастырылады. Тәуекелді түсінудің әртүрлі тәсілдері сипатталған. Инновациялық менеджменттің дербес ішкі жүйесі ретінде ҰИЖ аймақтық құрылымын қалыптастыру мәселелері қарастырылған. АИЖ авторлық анықтамасы олардың арасындағы құрылымдық байланыстарды тиісті ұйымдастыру және бүкіл ғылыми-өндірістік цикл бойына қарым-қатынастар жүйесін қалыптастыру арқылы белгілі бір аумақтық шекараларда инновациялық бизнес құрылымдары мен институттарының шоғырлануы ретінде берілген. Тәуекелдердің SWOT-талдауының нәтижелері берілген (Орталық Қазақстан мысалында). АИЖ үшін инновациялық инфрақұрылымды құру процесін аяқтау үшін шешуді қажет ететін мәселелер анықталды.

Кілт сөздер: өңірлік инновациялық жүйелер, тұжырымдамалық тәсілдер, құрылымдық элементтер, Қазақстанда инновациялар құру модельдері, өңірлердің бәсекеге қабілеттілігі, экономиканы өңірлендіру, бизнес-климат, сапалы инвестициялар, кәсіпкерлікті дамыту бағыттары, заңнама мониторингі.

Стратегия регионального развития в Казахстане: состояние и перспективы

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Аннотация. Рассматриваются концептуальные основы формирования региональной инновационной системы (РИС). Описаны различные подходы к пониманию риска. Рассмотрены вопросы формирования региональной структуры НИС как самостоятельной подсистемы управления инновациями. Дано авторское определение РИС как концентрации инновационных бизнес-структур и институтов в определенных территориальных границах с соответствующей организацией структурных связей между ними и формированием системы взаимосвязей на протяжении всего научно-производственного цикла. Представлены результаты SWOT-анализа рисков (на примере Центрального Казахстана). Определены проблемы, которые необходимо решить для завершения процесса создания инновационной инфраструктуры РИС.

Ключевые слова: региональные инновационные системы, концептуальные подходы, структурные элементы, модели построения инноваций в Казахстане, конкурентоспособность регионов, регионализация экономики, бизнес-климат, качественные инвестиции, направления развития предпринимательства, мониторинг законодательства.

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