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CURRENT STATE AND TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMPONENTS OF UKRAINE'S INNOVATION INFRASTRUCTURE

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Abstract. *The article offers an in-depth examination of the present condition of Ukraine's innovation infrastructure and justifies strategic priorities for its advancement within the framework of post-war reconstruction. Ukraine's standing in global innovation rankings is assessed to contextualize its current performance. Particular attention is devoted to business accelerators as a key component of the innovation ecosystem. The study highlights systemic challenges, including excessive concentration in the capital, reliance on donor funding, insufficient cooperation with venture capital investors, and a lack of experienced mentors. It also outlines the transformations triggered by the full-scale war, such as a shift toward defense-oriented technologies, increased digitalization of programs, and the launch of recovery-focused initiatives.*

Keywords: innovation infrastructure, business accelerators, industrial parks, venture financing, startup ecosystem, innovative entrepreneurship.

Innovation infrastructure is a basic component of the national innovation system and the innovation potential of society. It acts as the main tool and mechanism of the innovation economy, capable of ensuring the effective transformation of scientific ideas into commercially successful products and services. Performing resource, organizational, communication, institutional and service functions, innovation infrastructure allows [1; 2]: to create conditions for innovators to access financial, material and technical, information and human resources, to promote interaction between all participants in the innovation process (science - education - business - state), to establish effective connections between knowledge generators (universities, scientific institutions) and their consumers (enterprises, the market), to form legal, economic and social norms that regulate innovation activities, to provide specialized services (consulting, marketing, legal support, patenting, certification).

Ukraine's positions in international innovation development rankings indicate ambiguous dynamics. In 2025, Ukraine ranked 66th out of 139 countries in the Global Innovation Index published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) [3]. In 2024, Ukraine ranked 60th (down from 55th in 2023) out of 133 countries and 34th (35th in 2025) out of 39 European economies [3]. This decline is primarily due to the negative effects of a full-scale war.

In 2025, Ukraine ranked highest in terms of knowledge and technology (47th), business (56th), human capital and research (65th). It ranked lowest in terms of institutions (108th), market development (85th), and infrastructure (75th) [3].

At the same time, the Ukrainian startup ecosystem is demonstrating impressive resilience. According to the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2025 [4], Ukraine rose four places to 42nd out of 100 countries in the world, demonstrating the highest growth rate of the startup ecosystem (26.22%) among the countries ranked 41st to 50th. The map for Ukraine includes a sample of 633 technology companies, 2 startups of which exceeded the $1 billion valuation and received unicorn status.

The most dynamic sectors of the Ukrainian startup ecosystem in 2024 were [5; 6]:

1. Defense tech and cybersecurity - a sector that received a strong impetus due to the war. Ukraine ranks second in Eastern Europe and 17th in the world in the SaaS industry.
2. Foodtech - demonstrates an increase in the number of startups by more than 40%.
3. Hardware & IoT - growth of over 40%, reflecting the need for technological solutions for defense and recovery.
4. Energy & Environment - growth of over 40%, related to the need for energy independence and restoration of destroyed energy infrastructure.

5. Edtech - the only industry that shows a decline of 2.3%, which is explained by the migration of talents and reorientation to critical sectors.

Considering the existing elements of innovation infrastructure in Ukraine, the following should be noted. According to the Strategy for the Development of the Innovation Sector for the Period Until 2030, the following operate in Ukraine [7]: industrial parks; science parks; technoparks; centers of innovation and technology transfer; innovation centers; commercialization centers; innovative business incubators, investment and technology clusters; innovation and production associations; other startup schools (business entities that provide theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the field of creating and operating startups); incubation programs (programs for newly created enterprises aimed at developing startups); intellectual property centers (business entities that ensure the implementation of educational and professional, educational and scientific and scientific programs, as well as advanced training of employees in the field of intellectual property); venture and investment funds; centers of scientific, technical and economic activity, etc.

However, the efficiency of these facilities remains critically low. By international standards, if the share of innovative products in a country's GDP is less than 20%, national products lose their competitiveness. In Ukraine, this figure is less than 1% [6].

It is industrial parks that have proven their effectiveness in international practice. In the global economy, they play the role of a catalyst for attracting investment, modernization of production, and decentralized growth. In Ukrainian realities, industrial parks are a potentially powerful tool for regional and national development, providing ready-made engineering, transport and administrative infrastructure that allows new enterprises to start production without significant capital costs for site preparation. This significantly reduces entry barriers for business, stimulates foreign direct investment and the development of technologically oriented industries.

Systemic objects of innovative infrastructure reflect the real state of development and existing basic problems

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