

Local innovation systems deployment: investigation of the gaps limiting high performance innovation development in Ukraine

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The past and current years in Ukraine have emphasized the importance of continuing the struggle for progress on the world stage. The model of reviving the economy of Ukrainian regions during the martial law and in the post-war period will be the result of a choice among many scenarios that are considered today within the framework of political and scientific discourse. A promising way to transform and restore the local economies is the development of innovative ecosystems and the creation of a community of talented inventors, engineers, and managers. At the 2022 World Economic Forum, the development of startups was recognized as a critical factor in economic recovery and responsible growth. They are aimed at satisfying those needs on the market that are not yet covered by the existing offer or are just emerging; provide a double regional effect of growth - the scaling of one's own business causes the growth of related industries; investments are attracted and jobs are created; the product is manufactured in accordance with the requirements of sustainable development; a local community of talents is created and entrepreneurial culture spreads; knowledge is generated and socio-economic inequality is reduced. The extended access to the European research and innovation funding boosted the deployment of local innovation ecosystems in Ukraine. However, there are several obstacles limiting the implementation capacity of the ecosystems, in particular, regarding the state research institutions and state universities engagement. They imply institutional environment - national IP legislation and protection of investments, staffing for technology transfer processes and commercialization of innovations ensuring, ecosystem infrastructure development, safety of the territory, cohesion of the local community, etc. On the other hand, the international experience demonstrates the possibility of growth of innovation ecosystems embedded in local socioeconomic and institutional conditions, built on "bottom-up" approaches. Thus, the research is aimed at uncovering the gaps the Ukrainian local ecosystems have and ways and approaches to bridge them. The results can be useful for other post-conflict countries experiencing difficulties in establishing institutional conditions and a favorable business climate.