

MODERN CLUSTERS IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY ARE AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: *This article is dedicated to the analysis of clusters as a new unique factor of increasing competitiveness in modern economy. The author examines various approaches towards examination of the concept of clusters, determines their characteristic features and generated effects. The description is given to common and specific features of clusters. Particular attention is paid to the presence of synergetic effects in cluster due to its special structure. Based on the Triple Helix Model, the author reveals the mechanism for generating innovations as a result of interaction of the key economic agents within the framework of the cluster. The author presents an original definition of clusters. The conclusion is made that the characteristic features of clusters and the emerging within them synergetic effects increase competitiveness between the separate members of cluster and the cluster as a whole, as well as competitiveness of the region, in which the cluster is located, thereby leading to increased competitiveness of national economy.*

Keywords: *cluster, main features of clusters, system approach, synergistic effect of clusters, Triple Helix Model, innovation process, competitiveness, regional policy, government support of clusters, self-organizing system.*

Maintaining the competitiveness of the national economy is one of the main tasks of any state. In the modern world, economic processes take place under the influence of destabilizing factors at the micro and macro levels, which encourages economic entities to look for new forms of economic activity in order to adapt to changing conditions and maintain their competitiveness. Currently, many countries are implementing investment and innovation policies based on the concept of cluster development, as well as regional economic policy, the essence of which is to increase the competitive advantages of geographically close economic entities. The competitive potential of such geographically close economic entities is based on their effective interaction with each other, the joint use of technologies, innovations, highly qualified personnel, specialized services, infrastructure, etc. Within the same cluster. Clustering of the economy is becoming an important tool both for regional development in general and for stimulating innovative development. Some scientists define the cluster as "the fundamental structure of the innovation economy" [1].

In 2018, with the full support of the state, the expert council "great future" was created,

To achieve its goals, the Great Future implements the following tasks:

Development of the concept of the Development Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Assistance in the implementation of the long-term development model of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2035.

To develop a detailed plan for the implementation of a long-term development model of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2035.

Comprehensive, expert support of the ongoing reforms within the framework of the development strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021 in five priority areas.

For the first time in the history of the country, with the support of several hundred scientists and practitioners, an extremely important document entitled "the concept of the development strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2035" was prepared in the shortest possible time.

The strategy presents 4 scenarios for the development of Uzbekistan until 2035:

* evolutionary scenario - external positive conjuncture in case of unsuccessful reforms;

* pessimistic scenario-external negative conjuncture and external crises in case of unsuccessful reforms;

* dynamic scenario - the reform takes place during the external positive conjunctures and a large volume of investments;

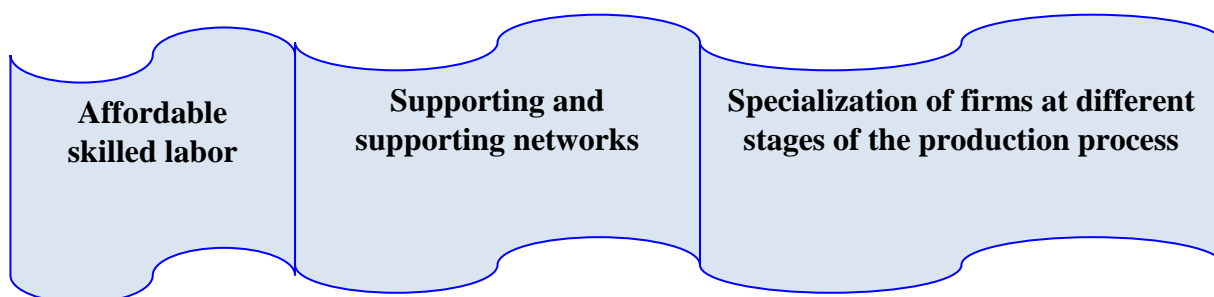
* progressive scenario - reforms are carried out during external negative conjunctures and external crises.[2;3]

The adoption of the Concept of long-term socio-economic development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for starting and conducting entrepreneurial activities for young people, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 16.10.2017 No. 834, became the starting point for the beginning of clustering of the economy as a new development paradigm. Among the main directions of the transition to an innovative socially-oriented type of economic development, it provides for "the creation of a network of territorial production clusters that realize the competitive potential of the regions." However, both in theory and at the level of normative legal acts, methodological shortcomings of this issue remain. The real process of supporting the creation and development of clusters in the Republic of Uzbekistan was launched by the Ministry of Economic Development in 2017. The Republic of Uzbekistan has started implementing a program to support innovative territorial clusters, and in parallel, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been leading the vector of support for industrial clusters since 2015, choosing the appropriate clusters on a competitive basis. However, there is still no basic law on cluster policy in Uzbekistan. Thus,

the development of the theoretical foundations of clusters is relevant both from a methodological point of view and from the point of view of the selection of clusters for state support of their development (subsidies, provision of tax benefits, etc.).

Groups of organizations with cluster characteristics existed in some countries more than 100 years ago. However, it was only in the early 90s of the twentieth century that the concept of cluster development received methodological formalization. In the XXI century, clusters became widespread as geographical concentrations of firms that bring economic benefits due to their close geographical location, mutual cooperation and competition, and began to play a key role in shaping regional policy. In the modern world, clusters are a new unique factor of competition. One of the authors of the concept of post-industrial society, E. Toffler, called clustering a "new wave of development of capitalism" [4], considering it as a new vector of development of the world system. Currently, clustering covers more than 50% of the world's leading economies, covering about 40% of the workforce of these countries.

Clusters are an effective tool for socio-economic development and a factor in increasing innovation and investment activity both for the cluster participants themselves and for the territories in which they are located. However, it should be noted that in the modern world, countries use clusters not only as a tool of regional policy to solve local socio-economic problems, but also as an active mechanism for integrating national producers into global value chains, which in a strategic perspective contributes to achieving global competitiveness.



Drawing 1: principles of ting a Porter cluster

The cluster differs from other integrated spatially organized structures in that internal cooperation is combined with internal competition within the cluster. consolidation of the competitive advantages of the cluster members leads to the achievement of the competitive advantage of the cluster as a whole. Active inter-firm cooperation, free exchange of information contribute to the increase of innovative activity of cluster participants, the creation and dissemination of innovations in the form of rapid innovation through the channels of suppliers and consumers. Internal competition, in turn, is an active incentive for improving the activities of firms and increasing their innovation activity. The dialectical combination of cooperation and competition in a compartment with the above

characteristics leads to a synergistic effect in the cluster. A cluster is a system that, in addition, is a self-organizing system that itself causes synergistic effects.

Cluster is the concentration of firms capable of synergistic influence due to their geographical proximity and interdependence, although their employment rate may not be clear or significant.

Industrial clusters in the most general form can be defined as a group of commercial enterprises and non-profit organizations, for which group membership is an important element of the individual competitiveness of each member of the firm. Cluster buy-and-sell deals or common technologies, common buyers or distribution channels, or related to labor poverty.

A cluster is a group of firms that are functionally connected vertically and horizontally. The functional approach emphasizes the quality of existing relationships between cluster-supporting firms and institutions, and such relationships are determined through the market.

Clusters are defined as geographical concepts of firms engaged in similar and relevant activities.

Clustering is defined in general form as the process of placing firms and other actors of a concentrated geographical area together, collaborating around a specific functional begging and establishing close relationships and working alliances to strengthen their collective competitiveness.

Draw 2: Source: Markov L.S. Economic clusters: concepts and characteristic features.

The main essential properties of clusters are studied in the works of Russian economists. The following approaches can be traced in their scientific works. So, Levchenko T.A. and Tungusova E.V. note that in understanding clusters, it is advisable to distinguish two main approaches: geographical and sectoral. In their opinion, these are geographical and industry principles, which are the main features of clusters. The following arguments are given. Firstly, the cluster members are united by the proximity of their geographical location -the organizations are located separately in the same region. Secondly, related to the same field of activity-participants may belong to the same industry or sector of the economy or be linked into a single value chain.[10;11]

Cluster Levchenko T.A. and Tungusova E.V. the definition within the framework of the approach seems narrow, since it is based on only two characteristic features. They can be distinguished as the most common features inherent in other similar spatial and organizational structures (for example, industrial agglomerations, industrial areas, etc.), while clusters have their own characteristics.

Many authors describe the presence of a synergetic effect as a feature of clusters as a special form of integration of economic entities and as one of the main advantages of the

cluster form of integration of organizations. Some economists even single out the synergetic effect in clusters as a motive for the formation of the cluster itself: "the main motive for the creation of economic clusters is the emergence of a fantastic synergetic effect that allows increasing the pace of innovation development, providing wider market coverage, reducing costs and improving the efficiency of production of products and services, increasing the flexibility of enterprises and organizations". [9;11]

The main goal of the countries of the world in the development of their economy is to increase the competitiveness of their national economy and increase its share in the world market. The strategic task in developing a cluster model on a regional scale is to change the psychology of entrepreneurs, explaining to them that economic cooperation between members of a cluster association is effective for all participants. Because representatives of the private sector like independence in economic activity and may consider clustering as a restriction of their freedom. Clustering policy requires modernization of the social reproduction network, technological and institutional structure at the macro level.

A developed economy with a cluster structure will have the following characteristics:

- * Availability of competitive enterprises;
- * Availability and effective use of competitive advantages in the regions;
- Territorial consolidation of enterprises and organizations within clusters that are not remote from each other;
- * A wide range of cluster members;
- * High level of continuous organic communication and interaction between the participants.

Developed, successfully functioning clusters eventually acquire another important property, namely stability. In this sense, the task of the state cluster policy is to transfer cluster structures to the stage of sustainable development using various support mechanisms. In other words, to stimulate the development of the cluster, to contribute to the emergence of synergetic effects in it, which, in turn, stimulate the qualitative transition of the cluster as a system to a new level of development, in which it can function independently without state support. In connection with global processes and a new paradigm of economic development, when building a knowledge-based economy comes to the fore, the creation of new and the development of existing clusters acquires a new direction, that is, innovative. A distinctive feature of a modern cluster is the spread of innovations throughout the product creation chain, or "the ability to create an innovative component as the basis of competitiveness in the markets"

Internal cooperation The special structure of the cluster, combined with internal competition, contributes to the creation of innovations by cluster participants. Innovations develop most effectively when competition is carried out on equal economic, social and legal conditions, and unfair behavior is restrained by the state.

This also explains the transition of priority areas of state policy from the creation and development of industrial clusters to innovative clusters (innovative territorial clusters in Uzbekistan). [12;13;14]

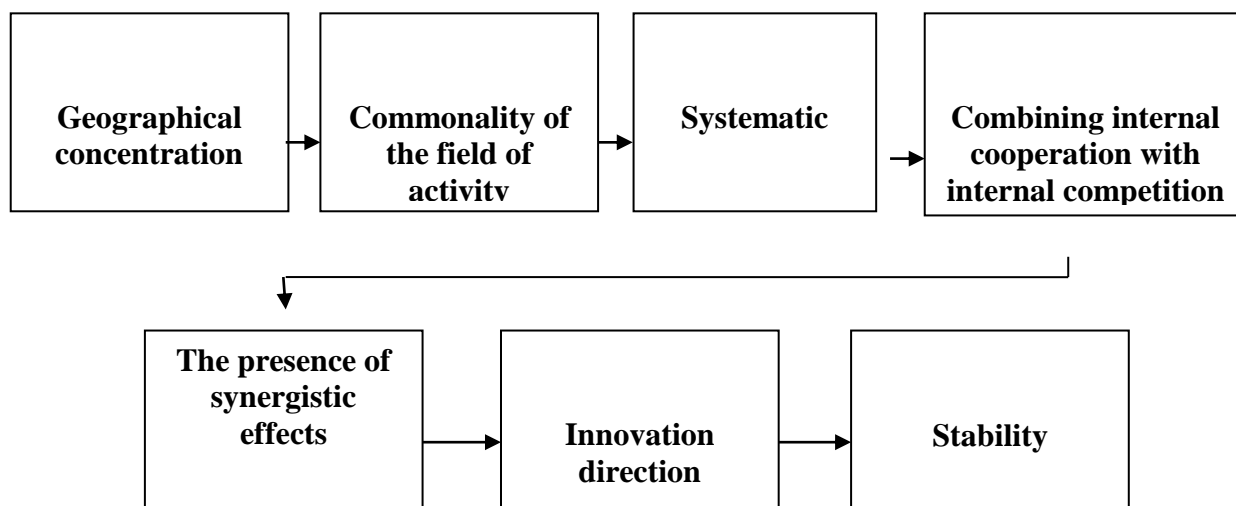
The model reflects the interaction of the state, business and higher education institutions, which are the main participants in innovation at all stages of creating an innovative product, as well as the means of influencing these institutions on each other.

In the process of interaction of these economic agents, their functional spheres converge, a kind of dynamic connection is formed - a spiral – a “critical mass for synergetic effects”.

As you know, the innovation process is a triad of idea-investment-innovation. The cluster contributes to the implementation of all these stages: it stimulates the development of new ideas, helps to reduce the cost of research and development of innovations, creates a mechanism for their financing and, as a result, the introduction of innovations. All this makes it possible to reach cluster members faster and maintain high competitiveness for longer. The study of the essential properties of clusters allows us to identify a set of specific properties of clusters.

Based on the identified characteristic features of a modern cluster, the following definition can be proposed: a cluster is the desire of economic entities concentrated on one territory for stability, the interconnection of functional links between its elements, the presence of a synergetic effect generated by interaction and competition, as well as a high level of innovation activity. Thus, the main characteristic features of modern clusters are highlighted.

The study of the essential properties of clusters allows us to identify the specifics of clusters.



It is noted that the synergetic effects arising in the cluster stimulate the innovative activity of the cluster participants, as well as contribute to the achievement of sustainable development by the cluster. The author's definition of the term "cluster" is formulated,

defining the definitions existing in theory and having significance from the point of view of developing criteria for selecting clusters for state support (subsidies, tax incentives, etc.). Due to the above characteristics, the competitiveness of individual cluster participants and the cluster as a whole increases, as well as the competitiveness of the region in which the cluster is located, and, ultimately, the national economy. In this regard, clusters can be considered as a new factor of increasing competitiveness in the modern world.

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