



FOREIGN PRACTICE OF FORMING AND DEVELOPING REGIONAL CLUSTERS IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Dadajonova Martabokhon Mahmudovna

Candidate of Economic Sciences, Associate Professor.

Department of "Organization of industrial production" of the Andijan Machine-Building Institute

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Annotation.

Clusters formation in today's economy provides favorable climate for creating, conditions for work and introducing high technologies. The author examines foreign practice of forming and developing regional clusters in Italy, France, Great Britain, the USA and Japan.

Key words. Regional computability, regional cluster, cooperation.

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Studying clusters is especially relevant in the economic crisis, when there is a need to find a new organizational form that increases the competitiveness of enterprises. Based on the cluster policy, networks are formed and developed based on specific regions and their characteristics. In order to increase the competitiveness of the region, it is necessary to form clusters focused on innovative development and ensure their effective operation. Regional clusters play an important role in the economic development of the world's leading countries and regions. The development of clusters helps to increase labor productivity, the formation of new companies, the creation of new jobs, the increase of the innovative potential of the region, competitive advantages, and the formation of the image of the region that increases the flow of investments.

The practice of using the cluster scheme in the organization of production activities is now being implemented in Uzbekistan. In many foreign countries with developed economies, its use began in the last century. This clusters were formed in almost all sectors of the economy in the countries, and their scope sometimes exceeded the borders of the countries and reached the regional and international level. Clusters have become an effective tool for

regional and intersectoral integration. Therefore, studying foreign experience, using its positive aspects, and researching negative experiences will help to conduct an effective economic policy in the country.

In the economic development of advanced countries, a general pattern is revealed, manifested in the most successful development of communities of small and medium-sized enterprises, grouped around leading large firms on the basis of industrial, scientific, technical and commercial ties within geographically limited territories. This phenomenon was studied in detail by M.Porter in the study of the conditions for the development and operation of the 100 most competitive groupings of enterprises located in different countries of the world [1].

Since the 90s. 20th century there is a revision of the foundations of industrial policy, which has become fundamentally different from the previously dominant models of centralized management. The new approach is characterized by the increased role of local organizations in shaping territorial development strategies, a significant focus on the quality of local competitive advantages and attention to regional production systems; clusters are firmly becoming the slogan of development policy, they are considered as an object of a new type



of industrial policy, the main goal of which is to increase the competitiveness of a country or territory.

The cluster concept of entrepreneurship development focuses on the relationship between corporate structures, investment, intermediary, scientific, educational, public organizations in the region. The essence of the cluster concept lies in the realization of the consolidated potential of the regions, the economic territory of which is the basis for the development of European cooperation, and the solution of the problems of the regional economy is one of the main activities of the European community [2].

A feature of clusters organized according to the regional principle is the uniqueness of the internal environment, infrastructure, macrosystem level inherent in this region, as well as the ability to realize competitive advantages in the territories through integration. The cluster acts as an incentive for economic development, and regionality is a kind of fulcrum for the sustainable development of the cluster, which is important when choosing priority areas for investment in the region, as it reduces the risks of uncertainty when evaluating investment projects. The effectiveness of investment through clustering is due to the strengthening of relationships between economic entities - members of the cluster in order to simplify access to new technologies, the distribution of risks in various forms of joint economic activity, including joint entry into foreign markets, and the organization of joint R&D.

The main goals of clustering are to form and increase the competitiveness of cluster members through the introduction of new technologies, reduce costs and improve the efficiency of knowledge-intensive services due to the synergy effect and unification of approaches in logistics, engineering, information technology, quality management [3].

It can be argued that the regional cluster is a stable territorial and sectoral partnership of enterprises and entities united by an innovative program for the introduction of advanced technologies in order to increase the sustainable development of the region and the competitiveness of these entities. In Russian conditions, a huge interest in regional clusters arose as a result of successful experiences in the development of industrial regions in those countries that began to apply the cluster approach.

The defining features of the formation of regional clusters are: the diversity of regional resources; the need for prevention and recreation of the ecological profile of the region's economy; the need for regional programs for the development of economic entities that are part of the cluster; self-sufficiency of resources for the development of a regional cluster.

The formation and development of the Italian model of regional clusters is largely due to the successful development of industrial regions (industrial districts). In the country of classic small business, only 2% out of 4 million firms are considered large (1000 or more employees are employed) [1]. All industrial districts, as a rule, are located in small towns and are characterized by a high degree of concentration of small handicraft firms, which employ several workers.

Handicraft firms are highly competitive in the world market, achieved through the cooperation of small producers, the creation of collective institutions and the maximum use of the potential for product differentiation, high innovative activity of firms, their flexibility and quick response to new consumer demands.

It should be noted the significant role of the state in the formation and development of regional clusters, which is manifested in providing discounts for exports, supporting and attracting investors, in consulting, which made it possible to produce competitive products both in the domestic and foreign markets.



A feature of the formation of regional clusters in France is that here the transition to new forms of development was much more difficult than in other countries. This can be explained by the fact that in this country the centralized public sector has traditionally been strong.

Only with the adoption of the Program on the organization and development of territories, an organization for managing the development of territories and a fund for their development were created. Later, about 100 draft programs for the development of regions, united by a system of production clusters, were developed and approved. It was in the course of this activity that a network system was formed through the cooperation of enterprises, which contributed to the concentration of about 30 largest companies, and the concentration of small and medium-sized businesses is also taking place.

France paid attention to strengthening links between universities and industry in order to develop small innovative businesses. In accordance with this, an innovation law was adopted, aimed at creating a new innovative business. It should be noted that all research in the field of innovation was commissioned by the national planning agency, i.e., had state support. The law provided for increasing the mobility of the scientific staff of public research centers and giving them greater freedom to organize their own companies and provide advice to private industrial firms.

Thus, clusters are created mainly through partnerships between local industrial groups, universities and research institutes; cluster development is carried out jointly by local authorities and regional branches of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry.

According to the concept of regional development, the UK will best provide economic recovery through local development, therefore, there is a need to bring regional policy closer to local decision-making centers. Territorial planning was initiated by the central

government, which carries out only general coordination and financing, while regional and municipal authorities actually manage the projects.

In the economic development of the territories, entrepreneurship has begun to play a unique role, with special emphasis on improving the level of its competitiveness in the field of advanced technologies, biotechnology, information technology and telecommunications. One of the directions in the field of promoting entrepreneurship is the formation of industrial clusters.

Taking into account the development of the direction, the government implements programs of targeted regulation and stimulation of entrepreneurship. For over 10 years, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the North East of England have demonstrated successful regional dynamism in the automotive, electronics, chemicals and some more traditional sectors such as food and beverage, apparel and textiles.

In the 1980s the expansion of forms of interaction between business and higher education is put forward as a key direction, various programs of state funding of research are beginning to operate, resulting in the growth of science parks and technology transfer agencies.

In the United States, the cluster approach is the basis of the strategy for the development of regional economies [4]. Characteristic of American clusters is that their activities are based on the principles of partnership and are focused on the commercialization of R&D. The task of forming and strengthening regional innovation clusters in the United States was put among the most important national priorities. The state, through the federal contract system, grants corporations-contractors (executors of R&D programs) the following rights [5]: free use of industrial equipment and scientific laboratories of the state; benefits in the acquisition of raw materials and materials from government



departments and from government funds; tax incentives; early depreciation of fixed assets; gratuitous lease of state land property; subsidizing companies' own developments, etc.

An active state policy towards universities (especially research universities) and strong financial support provided them with a privileged position and served as an impetus for development. It was under the influence of the nationalization of scientific activity that the conditions for the functioning of science in the business sector changed. In many industries, corporations created and developed scientific divisions, but only to fulfill government orders.

A striking example of a cluster that operates in the United States is Silicon Valley. This cluster is based on close cooperation between research centers and venture capital. It is they who represent the material, tangible basis of the cluster, as they have an influence on the rest of its members. Research centers and venture capital generate the necessary infrastructure, stimulate the formation of new players in the cluster. As a result of interaction, innovations are reproduced.

From this we can conclude that in the United States, cooperation between universities and private companies was formed, therefore, it became possible to profit from the commercialization of the results of ongoing research and the need to find additional sources of funding for fundamental research. It should be noted that the US clusters are characterized by active independent development of innovations, as well as the active participation of states in the development of scientific research, the transfer of part of the powers to the regional level.

All public authorities at all its levels and branches within their competence are involved in solving the issues of the country's innovative development. In relations between the state and business, there is an intensive partnership, rather, even cooperation.

Gradually, the task of forming and strengthening regional innovation clusters in the United States was put among the most important national priorities [6].

One example of the process of creating clusters is the experience of Japan. The main distinguishing feature of a cluster in Japan is the leading role of a large company that realizes internal economies of scale and is at the forefront of new technologies. The regional cluster represents a system of links between a certain number of large and a network of medium and small enterprises, and there is a strict hierarchy in the network.

The emergence and formation of clusters was facilitated by an active policy pursued by the state, the latter pays great attention to the development of science. All adopted laws on science, engineering and technology were strategic programs for the development of the scientific and innovative sphere of the country for the long term, among the most important was the provision on the need to intensify the position of regional authorities in relation to science. The state played an exceptionally active role in the overall coordination of research work in the country.

The attention of the regional administration was focused on the importance of promoting the development of science, strengthening cooperation between local industry, higher education and state scientific organizations. In the future, the regional administration set a course for innovation clusters, which should be formed on a local initiative. The state financial plan for science and technology provided for the enhancement of the competitiveness of industrial technologies through the cooperation of corporations, government and the academic sector.

The Emerging Cluster Support Initiative was developed and facilitated the formation of administrative teams to coordinate collaborative research. The creation of centers for cooperative research at national universities



was supported, on the material and technical basis of which R&D is carried out under joint contracts with industry. One of the tasks of these centers is to coordinate the topics of their own research and development with the goals of local industry.

Japan borrowed innovations from other countries and continued to improve them on its territory, moving on to the independent development of certain technologies. Therefore, we can say that the development of clusters was mainly carried out taking into account foreign experience, primarily American, but there are also differences. Clusters in Japan are created to promote the most modern scientific and technical areas (development and production of large integrated circuits, nanotechnology, robotics).

Particular importance is attached to mixed industries: biomanufacturing, environmental and bioinformatics. The main difference between clusters in Japan and similar clusters in Europe is that in Japan clusters prevail in mixed industries, while in Europe they prevail in traditional industries.

The advantage of the cluster approach is that it allows a comprehensive, systematic way to consider the situation in a group of interconnected enterprises belonging to different industries. In addition, the cluster approach makes it possible to use initiatives put forward and implemented by business leaders as the "core" of the cluster development strategy, which are thus guaranteed to be successfully implemented.

At the same time, the success (especially long-term) of cluster projects largely depends on the effective management of the cluster activation processes and, in addition, the awareness by business leaders of the urgency and need for change, the activity and "strategic vision" of local leaders (authorities and/or business) and the availability of a strategy cluster development

Based on the foregoing, it is necessary to emphasize the role of clusters in the

development of the region's competitiveness, which focuses on solving the main problems of the national economy [7]:

- firstly, in the implementation of cluster policy, first of all, there is a need to develop a competitive market, support competition as a driving force for the competitiveness of companies;

- secondly, the cluster policy pays special attention to microeconomics - the analysis of local markets and companies on the basis of not inherited, but primarily created factors of production. The microeconomic approach to cluster policy makes it possible to take into account the local features of development and develop effective targeted programs to accelerate the development and increase the competitiveness of companies;

- thirdly, the implementation of the cluster policy is based on the organization of interaction between state authorities and local governments, business and scientific and educational institutions to coordinate efforts to increase the innovativeness of production and the service sector, which contributes to mutual improvement and increase in efficiency in work;

- fourthly, the implementation of the cluster policy is aimed at stimulating the development and increasing the innovative potential, primarily of small and medium-sized businesses, which form the bulk of clusters and cluster initiatives and are the main objects of the cluster policy.

In general, based on the experience of foreign countries, we can say that the regional cluster can be seen as a point of growth, as the core of an innovation-oriented economy. And the economy, in which regional clusters play the main role, has every chance of becoming competitive and, importantly, attractive for investment.

The regional cluster acts as a tool, stimulates the development of the region, creates a special favorable environment for the development of small, medium and large



businesses and has a multiplier effect that not only has a positive impact on the development of industry, but also helps to improve the level and quality of life of the region's population.

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