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The role of state programmes to support startups in the development of the innovative economy

Abstract. The article is devoted to a comprehensive study of the role of state programmes to support startups in the formation and development of an innovative economy in the context of globalisation, digital transformation and increased international competition. It is substantiated that startups are a key element of the modern innovation ecosystem, ensuring the creation of new technologies, the development of high-tech sectors, the increase in labour productivity and the formation of added value in the national economy. It has been proved that effective state support is a strategic prerequisite for the activation of startup entrepreneurship, commercialisation of scientific results and acceleration of structural modernisation of the economy.

The paper carries out a systematic analysis of the mechanisms of financial, institutional and regulatory support for startups in Ukraine and abroad. The instruments of grant financing, tax incentives, state guarantees, preferential lending programmes, development of innovative infrastructure (business incubators, accelerators, technology parks, science parks), as well as mechanisms for supporting venture investment and public-private partnership are considered. The international experience of implementing the programmes of state stimulation of innovative entrepreneurship, in particular in India, the countries of the European Union, Germany and OECD member states, has been analysed, which has made it possible to identify effective models of integration of the state, business and the scientific environment in the process of the development of startup ecosystems.

Special attention is paid to assessing the current state of the startup support system in Ukraine, its institutional features, financial constraints and regulatory barriers are determined. It has been revealed that, despite the presence of some positive developments and the functioning of specialised funds to support innovations, the level of state funding, the access to venture capital and the scale of integration into international innovation programmes remain insufficient to ensure a full-fledged technological breakthrough.

The importance of state programmes in the formation of a favourable innovation environment, the development of entrepreneurial culture, stimulation of investment activity and the increase in the global competitiveness of the economy has been substantiated. Directions for improving the state policy of supporting startups, in particular, the expansion of financial instruments to stimulate innovation,

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the improvement of legal regulation of venture activities, the development of digital platforms for interaction of stakeholders and the strengthening of international cooperation in the field of innovation, are proposed.

It is concluded that the formation of an effective system of state support for startups is a necessary condition for the transition to an innovative model of the economy based on knowledge, digital technologies and a high level of intellectual capital

Keywords: innovative entrepreneurship, financial support instruments, international regulatory experience, venture financing, public policy, technological development, digital transformation

Introduction

The current stage of the development of the world economy is characterised by the transition to a model based on knowledge, digital technologies and innovations. In these conditions, startups play a key role as flexible, high-tech business entities capable of quickly transforming research results into competitive products and services. It is through the development of technological entrepreneurship, the commercialisation of intellectual capital and the formation of startup ecosystems that the structural modernisation of national economies takes place and their integration into the global innovation space is ensured.

The problems of state support for startups and its impact on the formation of an innovative economy are in the focus of attention of Ukrainian and foreign scientists. Modern research traces an integrated approach to assessing the role of the state as an institutional regulator, financial donor, strategic coordinator and catalyst of innovation processes.

The article is aimed at a comprehensive theoretical and applied analysis of the role of state programmes to support startups in the formation and development of the innovative economy, as well as substantiation of priority areas for improving the mechanisms of state stimulation of innovative entrepreneurship in Ukraine in the context of digital transformation and structural modernisation of the economy.

Achieving this goal involves a systematic generalisation of modern scientific approaches to determining the essence of startups as key subjects of innovation activity and important drivers of economic growth. Within the framework of the study, special attention is paid to clarifying the role of the state in the formation of a favourable institutional environment that provides conditions for the creation, scaling and commercialisation of innovative developments. The analysis of the interaction of the state, business, scientific institutions and investors as components of a single startup ecosystem is an important aspect.

The article also sets the task of analysing modern instruments of state support for startups, in particular financial mechanisms (grant programmes, budget financing, tax incentives, state co-financing, support for venture funds), institutional instruments (development of business incubators, technology parks, accelerators, clusters), as well as regulatory frameworks for regulating innovation activities. Special emphasis is placed on assessing the effectiveness of existing support programmes and identifying their strengths and weaknesses.

Considerable attention is paid to the study of international experience in the implementation of state policy in the field of startup support, in particular the practices of the European Union, Germany, India and OECD countries. The purpose of such an analysis is to identify the most effective models of stimulating innovative entrepreneurship that can be adapted to Ukrainian conditions, taking into account national economic, institutional and legal characteristics.

In the applied dimension, the study is aimed at identifying topical problems of the functioning of the system of state support for startups in Ukraine, in particular, limited financial resources, insufficient coordination between institutions, complexity of regulatory procedures and low level of integration of science and business. Based on the analysis, strategic directions for improving state policy aimed at increasing the efficiency of the use of budget funds, intensifying venture

investment, developing innovative infrastructure and forming a sustainable startup ecosystem are substantiated.

Thus, the purpose of the article was not only to theoretically understand the role of state programmes to support startups, but also to form practical recommendations for their improvement as a tool for ensuring long-term innovative development and increasing the competitiveness of the national economy.

Literature review

According to researchers R. Bilyk *et al.* (2024), state and international support for small businesses and startups is an important factor in increasing the competitiveness of the economy, stimulating innovation activity and creating a favourable institutional environment for the development of entrepreneurship. In modern conditions, it is the state that acts as a catalyst for innovation processes, creating regulatory, financial and organisational prerequisites for the functioning of the startup industry.

At the same time, the effectiveness of state support for innovative projects remains debatable. According to the results of E. Kulikova's (2025) research, there is a certain fragmentation of financial mechanisms for stimulating innovative financial projects in Ukraine, which limits their scaling and long-term effectiveness. Insufficient coordination between government programmes, complex bureaucratic procedures and limited access to venture capital reduce startups' potential for rapid growth. The development of innovative infrastructure is an important area of support for startups. For example, T. Serhiienko (2025) emphasises that the effective functioning of business incubators, accelerators, technology parks and science parks creates conditions for the formation of full-fledged innovation ecosystems, within which the interaction of science, business and the state is ensured. At the same time, in Ukraine, such infrastructure is at the stage of formation and needs systemic state stimulation. The support of high-tech startups in the field of ICT, which form the basis of the digital transformation of the economy is of particular importance. K. Protsykevych (2023) substantiates the need to improve the mechanisms of state policy to stimulate IT startups through tax benefits, special legal regimes and the development of venture financing. In turn, I. Lytvyn and S. Myskiv (2024), using the example of the European Union countries, prove that systemic state support for startups involves a combination of grant programmes, investment funds and integration into international innovation networks.

The relevance of the study is also due to the need to improve the legislative framework. The analysis of legislative aspects of supporting SMEs and startups in Ukraine indicates the presence of regulatory gaps and insufficient coherence of regulatory mechanisms. O. Zhurba (2025) emphasises that state support for venture investments is a key tool for intensifying innovation activity, but its scale remains limited. International experience confirms the strategic role of the state in the development of startup ecosystems. In particular, research by A. Wasnik and A. Jain (2023) demonstrates that the state programme "Startup India" has become a catalyst for the development of innovative entrepreneurship and attracting investments. OECD analytical materials emphasise that startups are the engine of innovative growth and increasing the productivity of the economy. At the same time, N. Kriuchkova *et al.* (2024) prove that startups are an important factor in stimulating innovative economic growth through the creation of new technological solutions and increasing the level of competition. S. Pavlovskiy *et al.* (2025) emphasise the importance of state support for innovative entrepreneurship in ensuring sustainable development.

Materials and methods

Theoretical approaches to the role of the state as a catalyst for innovation are revealed in the work of T. Whetsell *et al.* (2020), where it is proved that the government can act as a network coordinator, contributing to the self-organisation of strategic industries. In addition, T. Sadraoui and N. Ben Zina (2009) substantiate the complementarity of public and private investments in R&D as a

condition for long-term economic growth. In Ukrainian realities, the problem of developing the startup ecosystem remains relevant. I. Hubarieva (2023) notes that the national startup ecosystem is characterised by the presence of potential, but faces a number of systemic limitations – financial, institutional and personnel ones. Similarly, the works of N. Liba *et al.* (2025) emphasise the need to introduce innovative strategies for business development as the basis for economic modernisation.

A study by A. Ibyzhanova *et al.* (2023) demonstrates that the effectiveness of state support for technological entrepreneurship depends on the transparency of funding mechanisms and the effectiveness of programme monitoring. Special attention should be paid to the support of startups in strategic industries, in particular in the energy sector, which is becoming especially relevant in the context of energy transformation and European integration of Ukraine.

Therefore, despite the presence of a significant array of scientific research and individual state initiatives, the problem of forming an effective system of state support for startups in Ukraine remains insufficiently comprehensively worked out. It requires an in-depth analysis of the integration of financial, institutional and regulatory support mechanisms into a single holistic model capable of ensuring the sustainable development of the innovative economy, the activation of venture capital investment and the increase of the global competitiveness of the state. Thus, the relevance of the study is due to the need for scientific substantiation of the role of state programmes to support startups as a strategic tool for the formation of an innovative model of economic development of Ukraine in the context of digital transformation and global challenges.

Results and discussion

State support for startups is a complex multi-level system of economic, financial, institutional and regulatory measures aimed at creating a favourable environment for the start-up, development and scaling of innovative enterprises. In the modern innovation economy, the state acts not only as a regulator, but also as an active participant in the formation of the startup ecosystem, ensuring coordination between scientific institutions, business, investors and society. According to OECD analytical materials, state support for startups contributes to the creation of new jobs, increased labour productivity and the development of high-tech sectors of the economy, which together form the basis of long-term economic growth. Startups, as N. Kriuchkova *et al.* (2024) note, act as catalysts for innovative development, as they provide rapid commercialisation of scientific developments and form new markets. Financial instruments constitute the basic element of the state support system. We are talking about grant programmes, subsidies, state co-financing, preferential lending, guarantee mechanisms and support for venture investment. Ye. Kulikova (2025) emphasises that the effectiveness of such mechanisms depends on the transparency of selection procedures, the clarity of evaluation criteria and the systematic monitoring of project implementation results. Tax incentives, which provide for reducing the tax burden on innovative enterprises, introducing special tax regimes and tax holidays, are no less important. K. Protsykevych (2023) emphasises that in the field of ICT, such incentives create additional advantages for attracting investments and the development of technology companies. The institutional component of state support covers the development of innovation infrastructure, namely: business incubators, accelerators, technology parks, clusters, technology transfer centres. T. Serhiienko (2025) substantiates that it is through the formation of an effective innovation infrastructure that the integration of science and business is ensured, which is a prerequisite for the creation of competitive startups. Regulatory regulation forms the legal basis for the functioning of startups, determines the procedure for registration, licensing, protection of intellectual property and access to government programmes. The analysis of legislative aspects of state support for SMEs and startups in Ukraine indicates the need to improve the regulatory environment and harmonise it with European standards. The strategic management of the development of the startup ecosystem is also an important component of state support. According to R. Bilyk *et al.* (2024), effective public policy should combine national and international support instruments, which allows integrating

Ukrainian startups into global innovation networks. Thus, the comprehensive application of financial, institutional and legal mechanisms aimed at minimising the risks of innovation activity, stimulating entrepreneurial initiative and forming a competitive innovation economy is the essence of state support for startups.

International practice shows that the successful development of startup ecosystems largely depends on the active and systematic participation of the state. The experience of different countries demonstrates that comprehensive programmes to support innovative entrepreneurship ensure an increase in the number of startups, an increase in the level of investment activity and the formation of high-tech sectors of the economy. The experience of India, where the government's initiative "Startup India" has become one of the key tools for stimulating entrepreneurial activity, is indicative. According to A. Wasnik and A. Jain (2023), the programme provides for tax benefits, simplification of regulatory procedures, creation of support funds and development of innovation infrastructure, which contributed to a significant increase in the number of technology startups and attraction of foreign investment. Germany is an example of effective public policy in the field of startup financing. Federal programmes to support innovative businesses include grant funding, preferential lending, development investment funds and support for technology parks (Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, 2025). This approach ensures the stability of the innovation sector and contributes to the development of high-tech industries.

In the context of strategic management of innovation networks, the conclusions of T. Whetsell *et al.* (2020) are important, proving that the state can act as a network catalyst, stimulating the self-organisation of strategic industries through the creation of platforms for interaction between business, science and investors. This approach makes it possible to form innovation clusters and ensure long-term technological development. Assessment of the effectiveness of state support for technological entrepreneurship shows that the effectiveness of programmes largely depends on the clarity of strategic goals, transparency of funding mechanisms and systematic evaluation of results.

Ukrainian researchers also focus on the possibility of adapting international experience. In particular, S. Hryb (2025) substantiates the expediency of implementing European tools to support startups in Ukraine, taking into account the national characteristics of economic development. A. Chupryna (2025) emphasises the importance of using international legal experience in supporting startups in the energy sector as a strategic direction of economic modernisation.

Thus, international experience demonstrates that effective state support for startups should be comprehensive, systemic and focused on long-term results. The combination of financial incentives, institutional infrastructure, favourable regulatory environment and strategic coordination of innovation networks creates prerequisites for the formation of a competitive innovation economy. In Ukraine, state support for startups is gradually forming as a separate direction of economic policy, focused on stimulating innovative entrepreneurship, developing the technology sector and integrating the national economy into the global innovation space. The support system covers grant programmes, the activities of the Innovation Development Fund, initiatives to support small and medium-sized businesses, as well as certain legislative changes aimed at creating a more favourable regulatory environment. The available tools do not always provide full support for startups at different stages of their development, from idea to scaling. The institutional component of support is also at the stage of formation. The development of innovation infrastructure is a prerequisite for the formation of an effective startup ecosystem. However, their activities are often local in nature and are not integrated into a single national strategy. The Ukrainian startup ecosystem is characterised by high human potential and creative capital, but it faces institutional barriers, limited funding and insufficient coordination between innovation actors.

The imperfection of the legislative framework and fragmentation of regulatory regulation remain a significant problem. The analysis of legislative aspects of state support for SMEs and

startups indicates the need to harmonise Ukrainian legislation with European standards and simplify administrative procedures. In this context, it is advisable to use the experience of EU countries, where support for startups is systemic in nature and is based on clear coordination between financial, institutional and regulatory instruments. Limited access to venture capital is another important challenge, and an effective combination of public and private investments in the field of R&D contributes to the growth of innovation activity (Sadraoui & Ben Zina, 2009). In Ukraine, such complementarity is still not implemented enough, which reduces the potential for scaling startups. In addition, the weak integration of science and business limits the possibilities of commercialisation of scientific developments.

Thus, the Ukrainian model of state support for startups is in the process of transformation. Despite the presence of some positive developments, systemic problems, namely: insufficient funding, limited access to venture capital, imperfect regulatory framework and weak integration of science and business, remain. Overcoming these challenges requires a comprehensive approach, which involves improving financial mechanisms, developing innovation infrastructure, harmonising legislation and strengthening the role of the state as a strategic coordinator of the startup ecosystem. The formation of an effective system of state support for startups in Ukraine requires a comprehensive update of economic policy instruments, taking into account international experience and national characteristics of the development of the innovative economy. Improvement of public policy should be carried out on the basis of the principles of consistency, transparency, complementarity of public and private resources and strategic orientation to long-term technological development.

First of all, the expansion and diversification of financial instruments to support startups is relevant. State programmes for financing innovative projects should provide not only initial grant funding, but also mechanisms for further support and scaling of successful projects. It is advisable to introduce co-financing models, within which the state distributes risks together with private investors.

The creation of a favourable legal environment for venture investment is an equally important area. The experience of Germany demonstrates that a stable regulatory framework, transparent rules for the functioning of investment funds and tax incentives for investors contribute to the active development of the startup sector. Therefore, in Ukraine, it is necessary to improve legal mechanisms for protecting investors, ensure effective protection of intellectual property rights and simplify the procedures for registering innovative companies.

Conclusions

Government startup support programmes play a strategic role in shaping an innovative economy and ensuring long-term economic growth. In modern conditions, startups are key subjects of technological entrepreneurship that ensure the commercialisation of research results, the formation of new markets, increasing the level of digitalisation and modernisation of production processes. It is through effective mechanisms of state incentives that prerequisites are created for minimising the risks of innovation activity, intensifying entrepreneurial initiative and attracting investment resources. As part of the study, it has been found that state support for startups is comprehensive and covers financial instruments (grants, subsidies, preferential lending, co-financing), tax incentives, development of innovation infrastructure, regulatory regulation and support for venture investment. The effectiveness of these tools depends on their coherence, transparency of procedures and strategic orientation towards long-term innovative development. The analysis of international experience has demonstrated that countries, which implement systematic and consistent programmes to support startups, achieve significant results in the development of high-tech sectors, productivity growth and integration into global innovation networks. An integrated approach that combines financial incentives, institutional support, a favourable regulatory environment and public-private partnerships is a determining factor in the success of national startup ecosystems.

At the same time, the study of the Ukrainian experience shows the presence of systemic problems, including: insufficient funding for innovative projects, limited access to venture capital, fragmentation of regulatory and legal regulation and weak integration of science and business. Despite the presence of some positive initiatives, the national startup support system needs further improvement and structural modernisation. For Ukraine, it is strategically important to form a holistic model of state support for startups, which will be based on the expansion of financial instruments, the intensification of public-private partnerships, the improvement of tax policy for innovative companies and the creation of a favourable legal environment for venture investment. Therefore, state programmes to support startups should be considered as a strategic tool for the transition to an innovative model of economic development. Their effective implementation can ensure the structural transformation of the economy, increase the technological level of production, the formation of new competitive advantages of the state and strengthen its position in the global innovation space.

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Conflict of interest

None.

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Роль державних програм підтримки стартапів у розвитку інноваційної економіки

Анотація. Статтю присвячено комплексному дослідженню ролі державних програм підтримки стартапів у формуванні та розвитку інноваційної економіки в умовах глобалізації, цифрової трансформації та посилення міжнародної конкуренції. Обґрунтовано, що стартапи виступають ключовим елементом сучасної інноваційної екосистеми, забезпечуючи створення нових технологій, розвиток високотехнологічних секторів, підвищення продуктивності праці та формування доданої вартості у національній економіці. Доведено, що ефективна державна підтримка є стратегічною передумовою активізації стартап-підприємництва, комерціалізації наукових результатів і прискорення структурної модернізації економіки.

У роботі здійснено системний аналіз механізмів фінансової, інституційної та нормативно-правової підтримки стартапів в Україні та за кордоном. Розглянуто інструменти грантового фінансування, податкового стимулювання, державних гарантій, програм пільгового кредитування, розвитку інноваційної інфраструктури (бізнес-інкубаторів, акселераторів, технопарків, наукових парків), а також механізми підтримки венчурного інвестування та державно-приватного партнерства. Проаналізовано міжнародний досвід реалізації програм державного стимулювання інноваційного підприємництва, зокрема в Індії, країнах Європейського Союзу, Німеччині та державах-членах ОЕСР, що дозволило виокремити ефективні моделі інтеграції держави, бізнесу й наукового середовища у процесі розвитку стартап-екосистем.

Окрему увагу приділено оцінюванню сучасного стану системи підтримки стартапів в Україні, визначено її інституційні особливості, фінансові обмеження та нормативно-правові бар'єри. Виявлено, що, попри наявність окремих позитивних зрушень і функціонування спеціалізованих фондів підтримки інновацій, рівень державного фінансування, доступ до венчурного капіталу та масштаби інтеграції до міжнародних інноваційних програм залишаються недостатніми для забезпечення повноцінного технологічного прориву.

Обґрунтовано значення державних програм у формуванні сприятливого інноваційного середовища, розвитку підприємницької культури, стимулюванні інвестиційної активності та підвищенні глобальної конкурентоспроможності економіки. Запропоновано напрями вдосконалення державної політики підтримки стартапів, зокрема розширення фінансових інструментів стимулювання інновацій, удосконалення правового регулювання венчурної діяльності, розвиток цифрових платформ взаємодії стейкхолдерів та посилення міжнародної кооперації у сфері інновацій.

Зроблено висновок, що формування ефективної системи державної підтримки стартапів є необхідною умовою переходу до інноваційної моделі економіки, що ґрунтується на знаннях, цифрових технологіях і високому рівні інтелектуального капіталу

Ключові слова: інноваційне підприємництво, фінансові інструменти підтримки, міжнародний досвід регулювання, венчурне фінансування, державна політика, технологічний розвиток, цифрова трансформація