# Priorities and partners

One of the seven state priorities of the Republic of Belarus, the fifth one, which was laid down not only in the previous years but also for the next five years - until 2030, concerns strong regions. The main instrument of our country's regional development is the implementation of investment projects, which, with the help of new production facilities, strengthen the regional framework of sustainable development of the Belarusian state. We would like to remind you that in the previous five-year period in Belarus a special emphasis was placed on the initiative "One District - One Project". During this period, more than a hundred projects were implemented and almost five thousand new jobs were created. A new program for Belarusian regions - "Regional Initiative", which is characterized by a simplified procedure of decision-making administration, will be launched in 2026. The financing instrument is the credit product "Investment Development", which includes new financial instruments - "Strong Regions", "Tourism Potential", "Technological Self-Sufficiency". How do these initiatives affect the regions of Belarus? What problems do they have to face when implementing specific projects? The answers to these questions can be found in this study.



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# Priorities and partners

*Expanding International Economic Opportunities for Belarus: Domestic and External Contours*

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# Belarus: the priority of strong regions – new production facilities, new jobs

One of the seven state priorities of the Republic of Belarus – the fifth, which was established not only in previous years but also for the coming five years – concerns strong regions. The main instrument of regional development in our country is the implementation of investment projects which, through new production facilities, strengthen the regional framework for the sustainable development of the Belarusian state. It is worth recalling that during the previous five-year period in Belarus**,** particular emphasis was placed on **the 'One District – One Project'** initiative**.** During this period, 'over a hundred projects were implemented, creating around 4,900 new jobs'[1] . Let us now look at the specific Belarusian regions that have managed to fulfil the challenging tasks of this initiative.

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In 2025, **the Minsk Region** led the way in terms of the number of "One District – One Project" initiatives**.** There, 51 projects were planned, with investments exceeding two billion Belarusian rubles and the creation of over two thousand jobs. By early November of last year, 26 projects had already been implemented. In 2025, 10 projects were successfully completed, and by the end of the year it is planned to implement a further 10 or so, possibly even more"[2] . By the end of the year, 29 investment projects had been implemented, to which a further five will be added. "The total value of all projects is approaching the Br700 million mark. Around 1,200 jobs have been created at the new production facilities"[3] .

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[1] Chebotar: The investment policy of the new five-year plan is aimed at strengthening the economic potential of the regions [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/chebotar-investitsionnaja-politika-novoj-pjatiletki-natselena-na-ukreplenie-ekonomicheskogo-753749-2025/

[2] How many projects under the "One District – One Project" initiative have been implemented in the Minsk Region? [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/skolko-proektov-po-initsiative-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-realizovano-v-minskoj-oblasti-747396-2025/

[3] More than 180 investment projects are planned for implementation in the Minsk Region in 2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/v-minskoj-oblasti-v-2026-godu-planirujut-realizovat-bolee-180-investproektov-755635-2025/

Pharmaceutical production has emerged as the most attractive sector within this programme. It is in this sector that the largest projects have been implemented in the Nesvizh and Cherven districts. In particular, a modern pharmaceutical plant in the Nesvizh district – the foreign unitary enterprise "Medinterplast" – is already yielding tangible results. "A large-scale business plan worth 27.5 million has been implemented in just over two years – from the initial idea and architectural design to completion"[4] . Meanwhile, in the Soligorsk district, a project is underway to create an innovative closed-cycle quail farm with automated collection and packaging of commercial eggs. The total quail population currently stands at 600,000. "Once the facility is fully operational, it is planned to produce at least 175 million quail eggs annually"[5] . The facility will create around 50 new jobs.

In **the Grodno Region,** the list drawn up under the 'One District – One Project' initiative comprises 29 investment projects with a total value of around 1.2 billion Belarusian rubles, which are expected to create 1,153 new jobs. By the start of 2026, 19 of these had already been completed. Notable among these are investment projects "to establish glass container production in Grodno, build a wood processing plant in the Svisloch District, produce plastic products in the Grodno District, organise the production and processing of poultry meat products in the Lida District, and set up a laminated plywood production facility in the Smorgon District"[6] .

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And in November 2025, as part of this initiative, a modern medical centre specialising in eye microsurgery was opened in Grodno. "The medical centre, covering an area of 1,200 square metres, is equipped with state-of-the-art,

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[4] District-scale project: by autumn, around 30 new medicines will be produced in Nesvizh [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/proekt-rajonnogo- masshtaba-k-oseni-okolo-30-novyh-lekarstvennyh-preparatov-budut-vypuskat-v-nesvizhe-729173-2025/

[5] Quail farm, innovations in production. The Soligorsk poultry farm has set a course for modernisation [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/perepelinaia-ferma-innovatsii-v-proizvodstve-soligorskaia-ptitsefabrika-vzjala-kurs-na-modernizatsiju-729012-2025/

[6] 19 investment projects have been implemented in the Grodno Region under the "One District – One Project" programme [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/v-grodnenskoj-oblasti-realizovano-19-investproektov-po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-763481-2026/

high-tech equipment that meets international quality and safety standards. The opening of the facility has provided employment for around 50 specialists, with the prospect of further staff expansion"[7] . The medical facility is equipped with innovative imaging systems, laser and ultrasound technology, as well as digital platforms for storing and analysing medical data, enabling accurate diagnosis and effective treatment in the shortest possible time. The clinic is packed with technology. This includes diagnostic technologies – comprehensive examinations of the eyes, diagnostics ranging from the most basic issues to in-depth diagnosis of retinal pathologies and problems with intraocular pressure, as well as laser treatment methods. Several unique lasers have been installed here, including one of the most advanced excimer lasers currently available on the market. The centre's operating theatre is also equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

Between 2026 and 2028, a further nine projects will be completed in the Grodno region as part of this initiative. Notable among these are major projects such as the construction of a dry baby food production facility at OJSC "Bellakt" in Volkovysk, the refurbishment of the production facility at OJSC "Oshmyany Meat Processing Plant", and the construction and operation of a container terminal near the Svisloch railway station in the Svisloch District. During the same period, "at Smorgon Aggregate Plant OJSC, a project will be implemented to introduce advanced technologies and organise an efficient process for applying protective and decorative coatings, whilst at the Ostrovetskaya Indayka farm, a poultry meat processing plant will be established"[8] .

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In **the Gomel Region** over the past five-year period, thanks to the implementation of the "One District – One Project" initiative, "24 projects were implemented in 21 districts of the region. More than 1,430 new jobs were

[7] An eye microsurgery centre has opened in Grodno thanks to the "One District – One Project" initiative [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/tsentr-mikrohirurgii-glaza-pojavilsja- v-grodno-blagodarj a-initsiative-odin-raj on-odin-proekt-747364-2025/

[8] Wood processing, glassware production, poultry meat processing. What investment projects have been implemented in the Grodno Region [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/derevoobrabotka-proizvodstvo-steklotary-pererabotka-miasa-ptitsv-kakie-investproekty-realizovany-v-759418-2026/

created, and over Br1.2 billion was invested"[9] . For example, in the urban settlement of Lelchitsy, a young construction company – LLC "LelStroyGarant" – "opened a sawmill providing 20 jobs and, over the past [2025] year, earned over $400,000 from supplying planks and timber abroad, accounting for 12.5% of the region's exports"[10] . Over the past year, the company increased its output by 28 per cent, and exports to Russia, Uzbekistan and Georgia by almost 17 per cent. In 2027, it plans to expand its business further by constructing a workshop for metal structures for buildings and other constructions, also geared towards exports. Meanwhile, the Khoyniki Hydraulic Equipment Plant, part of MTZ-HOLDING, completed the 'One District – One Project' programme last year with a project that 'will be able to largely meet the domestic market's demand for covers and brackets. Furthermore, participation in the project enabled the creation of 10 additional jobs at the plant"[11] . The cost of this project – – is almost three and a half million Belarusian rubles.

Another example. At the branch "Dobrush Paper Mill 'Hero of Labour'" of OJSC "Management Company of the 'Belarusian Wallpaper' Holding", "a production facility for coated packaging board has been established, up to 90% of whose output is exported abroad – to Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and other countries. The raw materials are local – aspen and birch pulp"[12] . A cardboard production facility has been set up from scratch, with over $350 million invested and 260 jobs created. Today, one in three factory workers is involved in the production of innovative products, and the salary is one of the

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[9] Over 1,400 jobs created under the "One District – One Project" programme in the Gomel Region over five years [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/bolee-14-tys-rabochih-mest-sozdano-po-programme-odin-raion-odin-proekt-v-gomelskoi-oblasti-za-piat-let-761683-2026/

[10] District-scale project: a small enterprise in Lelchitsy has become one of the region's five largest exporters [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/proekt- rajonnogo-masshtaba-chastnaj a-lesopilka-v-lelchitsah-obespechila- 125-eksporta-regiona-761647-2026/

[11] The Khoyniki Hydraulic Equipment Plant will complete the "One District – One Project" programme by the end of August [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/hojnikskij-zavod-gidroapparatury-zavershit-programmu-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-do-kontsa-avgusta-728677-2025/

[12] District-scale project: Dobrush Paper Mill triples production volumes over five years [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/proekt-rajonnogo-masshtaba-dobrushskaja-bumazhnaja-fabrika-za-pjatiletku-utroila-objemy-proizvodstva-765377-2026/

highest in the region. In 2024, having invested 1.7 million Belarusian rubles, the enterprise commissioned an additional format cutting machine to increase the output of sheet cardboard, thereby expanding its customer base.

Meanwhile, at the Rechitsa Metalworks Plant, as part of the 'One District – One Project' programme, an investment project was implemented to create additional capacity for the production of metal products, which was carried out in two phases. The first phase began in 2023, and the project was completed in its entirety by the end of 2025. "The first phase involved expanding the production of fasteners using existing facilities. In effect, this meant increasing output to boost export volumes. It was successfully completed in 2023. The second phase is entirely new; it enables the production of a new type of product"[13] . The plant began producing fasteners with diameters ranging from 18 to 24 millimetres. The project created an additional 20 jobs. The plant's new capacity allows for the export of products to countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In **the Mogilev Region,** over the past five-year period, as part of this initiative, "25 projects were implemented, 1,100 jobs were created and around 1 billion Belarusian rubles of investment were utilised"[14] . Among the completed projects are the modernisation of technical carbon production at OOO "Omsk Carbon Mogilev", the launch of fish production at UP "Rybkhoz Paluzh", the construction of modern facilities for rainbow trout farming, and the installation of fish farming complexes in the Khotimsky, Cherikovsky and Krasnopolsky districts. In addition, KMB-Vostok LLC, as part of the 'One District – One Project' initiative, has completed the construction of a fibre-cement panel production facility. Meanwhile, Meta Mining Alfa, a resident of the High-Tech Park, has successfully implemented a project to build a mining farm. The facility

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[13] New types of fasteners and equipment fleet. An import substitution project has been implemented at the Rechitsa Metalworks [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/novye-vidy-krepezha-i-park-oborudovanija-importozameschajuschij-proekt-realizovali-na-rechitskom-766298-2026/

[14] Over the five-year period, 25 projects were implemented in the districts of the Mogilev Region under the 'One District – One Project' initiative [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/za-pj atiletku-v-raj onah-mogilevskoj -oblasti-po-initsiative-odin-raj on-odin-proekt-realizovano-25-764218-2026/

has already been commissioned, creating more than 20 jobs"[15] .

As for **the Brest Region,** by the start of 2026, 19 out of 29 planned projects had been implemented as part of the 'One District – One Project' initiative. In particular, in Mikashevichi, Luninetsky District, "a second automated production line for paving slabs, concrete kerbs and blocks using the vibro-pressing method has been installed, with a capacity of 25,000 cubic metres of products per year. It offers dozens of options for shapes, colours and unique combinations thereof, known as 'colour mix'[16] . Meanwhile, in the agricultural settlement of Olshany in the Stalinsky District, a greenhouse complex was built under the 'One District – One Project' programme to enable year-round tomato cultivation. "The 4.2-hectare greenhouse complex <...> was built at the 'OlshanyAgro' peasant farm. The possibility of installing a supplementary lighting system in the greenhouses is being explored. Other farmers in the Stalinsky District are also interested in this"[17]

Finally, 35 investment projects were planned for implementation in **the Vitebsk Region**. As of 1 January 2026, 24 had been implemented. These include "the launch of production facilities for food flavourings in Beshenkovichi, lubricating oils in the Glubokoe District, electrical engineering products in the Braslav District, perfumery and clothing in the Dokshitsy District, and fish products in

"Chashniksky"[18] . The same list includes projects to modernise the woodworking

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[15] Ministry of Economy: The implementation of promising investment projects creates new drivers of regional economic growth [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-realizatsija-perspektivnyh-investproektov-sozdaet-novye-tochki-rosta-ekonomiki-regionov-727331-2025/

[16] District-scale project: production of three-colour tiles is being launched in Mikashevichi, whilst a milk drying plant is being built in Luninets [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/proekt-raionnogo-masshtaba-vypusk-trehtsvetnoi-plitki-osvaivaiut-v-mikashevichah-a-v-lunintse-stroiat-751164- 2025/

[17] A tomato growing facility has been built in Olshany under the "One District – One Project" programme [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/kompleks -dlj a-vyraschivaniia-tomatov-postroili-v-olshanah-po-programme-odin-raion-odin-proekt-752199-2025/

[18] The "One District – One Project" programme continues to be actively implemented in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://sdgs.by/regional-news/v-belarusi-prodolzhaetsya-aktivnaya-realizacziya-programmy-odin-rajon-odin-proekt/

facilities at the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve in the Lepel District, the introduction of

based on "Industry 4.0" by the Novopolotsk Plant of Technological Metal Structures, the organisation of production of new product types at OJSC "Obolska Ceramic Plant", and the production of dairy products at OJSC "Postava Dairy Plant".

In addition, a business plan for the advanced processing of local raw materials was implemented in Dubrovno. In the summer of 2025, a second automated production line was launched to produce 1,300 tonnes of cottonised flax fibre per year. "Thus, at OJSC 'Dubrovno Flax Mill', the latest stage of modernisation was completed, having begun in 2022 with the commissioning of the first cottonisation line with a capacity of 1,100 tonnes, which enabled the enterprise to increase its revenue by a third and paid for itself within a year"[19] . Meanwhile, in Sharkovshchina, a new enterprise for the production of cold-pressed juices has been opened. The enterprise was established, once again, under the 'One District – One Project' initiative. 'Implementation of the investment project "Multidisciplinary Food Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plant" began in 2022. During construction, unused property was put to productive use. The plant has created 20 new jobs"[20] . It is planned to export 65 per cent of the output, with the remainder going to the domestic market. For the time being, apples are being processed, but next year the plant will use berries, and in the spring – birch sap. In the future, the plant will also produce dried fruit and healthy fruit products with honey. Over the next two years, the completion of a further three phases of the project is planned. Once the entire project is complete, more than 50 new jobs will be created.

Let us now turn to the new programme for Belarusian regions – **the**

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[19] District-scale project: in Dubrovno, flax is being turned into cotton and they are making a decent profit from it [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/proekt-rajonnogo-masshtaba-v-dubrovno-len-prevraschaiut-v-hlopok-i-neploho-na-etom-zarabatyvajut-756602-2025/

[20] Pushnyakova, A. Up to 65% of production is for export. A fresh-pressed juice production plant has opened in Sharkovshchina / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/do-65-produktsii-na-eksport-predprijatie-po-proizvodstvu-sokov-prjamogo-otzhima-otkrylos-v-747316-2025/

**"Regional Initiative"**, which is replacing the "One District – One Project" scheme and features a simplified decision-making process. The selection criteria for these investment projects are as follows: "implementation outside the capital and regional centres, high significance for the socio-economic development of the region, the creation of new or modernisation of existing production facilities, and the creation of at least five new jobs"[21] . The financing instrument is the "Investment Development" loan product, which includes new financial instruments – "Strong Regions", "Tourism Potential", "Technological Self-Sufficiency".

Since the start of 2025, around 350 applications have been received under this initiative, of which around 50 were submitted in January–February of this year. "180 applications with a total value of around 4 billion Belarusian rubles have been approved. <...> Most of the 'Regional Initiative' projects are production-oriented. These include, in particular, the food industry, wood processing, the production of building materials, machinery and equipment, and chemical manufacturing"[22] . Seven business ideas in the service sector have also been included in the pool: leisure and entertainment organisations, and medical services. 47 investment projects included in the "Regional Initiative" list have already received the necessary financing from banks, whilst active work is underway with organisations regarding the remainder.

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Among the leaders in this context is **the Minsk Region,** where the "Regional Initiative" project already "includes 45 investment projects worth 1.8 billion Belarusian rubles. The creation of 1,500 modern jobs is envisaged"[23] . Investment projects will be implemented in the food industry, wood processing,

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[21] From wood processing to tourism. Which investment projects have been included in the "Regional Initiative" pool [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/ot-derevoobrabotki-do-turizma-which-investment-projects-have-been-included-in-the-regional-initiative-pool-731331 -2025/

[22] Ministry of Economy: 180 projects have been included in the "Regional Initiative" pool [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-180-proektov-stali-chastjju-pula- regionalnoj -initsiativy-766082-2026/

[23] In the Minsk Region, 45 investment projects will be implemented in 2026 as part of the "Regional Initiative" [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/v-minskoj-oblasti-v-2026-godu-realizujut-45-investproektov-v-ramkah-regionalnoi-initsiativy-767319-2026/

machinery manufacturing, the production of building materials, and chemical production. For example, two projects have already been included in the Starodorozhsky District. There are also projects in the Kopyl and Myadel districts. "The latter is known for its tourism, so a tourism-related project has been included as part of the initiative. The same can be said of the Nesvizh district, which also has a tourism focus – three projects have already been included"[24] . And in the Dzerzhinsk district, as part of the "Regional Initiative", a private company plans to open a medical centre. By mid-March, two investment projects had already been implemented: a paving slab production facility has been set up in the Soligorsk district, and a vegetable vacuum-packing plant in Starye Dorogi.

An important fact: between four and seven projects are planned in many Belarusian regions. "The undisputed leader among the districts is **Bobruisk** with 13 projects. Another telling example is **Pinsk,** where eight projects will be implemented. The construction of an industrial park has largely contributed to this level of activity"[25] . However, in one in three Belarusian districts, no such initiatives have yet been observed. Let us hope that this situation will change in the near future, as the Ministry of Economy receives around 50 applications every month. So the scope of the "Regional Initiative" will very soon expand dramatically to every corner of our country. And then the fifth priority of the Programme for the Socio-Economic Development of Belarus for 2026–2030 – "Strong Regions" – will take on a new dimension, balancing the development of all Belarusian regions and boosting their economic potential.

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[24] How many projects in the Minsk Region have already been included in the pool for implementation under the "Regional Initiative" [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/skolko-proektov-v-minskoi-oblasti-uzhe-vkljucheno-v-pul-dlia-realizatsii-po-regionalnoi-initsiative-748991-2025/

[25] The Ministry of Economy has revealed which region leads in investment projects [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/kakoi-iz-regionov-lidiruet-po-investproektam-rasskazali-v-minekonomiki-768001-2026/

## The "Minsk" Free Economic Zone: investment, new residents, infrastructure development

In 2025, residents of the "Minsk" Free Economic Zone exported 80 per cent of their output to more than 30 countries, whilst foreign direct investment in the FEZ reached $212 million, coming from more than 15 countries. The main sources of investment were Russia, China, the United Arab Emirates, Cyprus and Switzerland, which enabled the creation of over 600 jobs. In addition, last year the SEZ welcomed seven new residents engaged in 'the production of complete administrative, domestic and residential modules, electric lorries and components, the manufacture of household chemicals, paper packaging materials using gravure printing technology, and sandwich panels'[26] . Let's take a look at some of them.

In particular, last summer an interesting resident joined the SEZ – **LLC "Morskaya Gavan",** which announced the implementation of an investment project to set up a fish processing facility. Another key area of development for "Morskaya Gavan" is environmental sustainability. "The company plans to actively use environmentally friendly technologies and processing methods, which will increase the competitiveness of its products on the market"[27] . The project is expected to create new jobs and increase tax revenues for the budget.

In September 2025, a new tenant **at PKKM-Pro LLC**— , a Belarusian manufacturer of a wide range of liquid laundry detergents in capsules, both under its own brands and for private label clients—announced an investment project to set up a household chemicals production facility. "The investment in fixed assets will amount to around €900,000, with a total investment of approximately €4 million. The project will create 36 new jobs. The company's products are

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[26] The Minsk Free Economic Zone welcomed seven new residents in 2025 with a total investment of $13 million [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/sez-minsk-v-2025-godu-prinjala- sem-novyh-rezidentov-s -obschim-objemom-investitsij - 13-mln-761520-2026/

[27] A new resident linked to the fisheries sector has joined the Minsk SEZ [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/v-sez-minsk-pojavilsja-novyj-rezident-svjazannyj-s-rybohozjajstvennym-kompleksom-718805-2025/

import-substituting and have high export potential; 45% of the output will be exported"[28] . Production is scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2026, with the plant reaching its design capacity as early as 2029. Industrial output will amount to over eight million euros per year. Naturally, this project will stimulate the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the FEZ engaged in the production of raw materials, logistics and other related services.

Last October, work began in the Minsk SEZ on the production of paper packaging using gravure printing technology. The new resident – **VM Print LLC –** will implement an investment project for the tobacco industry. The fact is that today virtually the entire volume of similar paper packaging consumed on the Belarusian market is imported from China and Russia. So the new resident will be engaged in the production of import-substituting products. "The company will supply 80% of the packaging it produces to the domestic market and 20% for export. The declared investment in fixed assets will amount to approximately $775,000. The project will create 36 jobs"[29]. It is expected that the project will reach its design capacity – 45 tonnes of finished products per month – by the end of the second quarter of 2026.

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Last November, the SEZ registered **the joint venture ZAO "MAZ-MAN"** as a resident**;** this is a manufacturer of European-class heavy-duty vehicles for regional and international transport, as well as construction and specialised machinery. This "enterprise will establish a modern, high-tech production facility for truck cabs, as well as electric trucks with a gross vehicle weight of 8 tonnes, meeting global trends in environmental friendliness and energy efficiency" [30] . The fact is that the growing demand for

[28] New resident of the Minsk SEZ to implement an investment project for the production of household chemicals [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-sez-minsk- zaj metsj a-realizatsiej -investproekta-po-proizvodstvu-bytovoj -himii-737732-2025/

[29] Paper packaging production using gravure printing technology to begin operations in the Minsk Special Economic Zone [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/v-sez-minsk-nachnet-rabotu-proizvodstvo-bumazhnoi-upakovki-s-ispolzovaniem-tehnologii-glubokoi-pechati - 746248-2025/

[30] "MAZ-MAN" to set up electric lorry production in the "Minsk" SEZ [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/maz-man-sozdast-proizvodstvo-elektrogruzovikov-v-sez-

environmentally friendly lorries, particularly for urban and regional transport, combined with a shortage of domestic manufacturers in the region, creates favourable conditions for entering the markets of the Eurasian Economic Union with new products. The declared volume of investment in fixed assets will amount to approximately two million Belarusian rubles. It is planned to create 40 new jobs during the implementation of the project.

And in December 2025, another new resident joined the SEZ – **OJSC "KOMPLEKT"**. The company plans to implement an investment project for the production of sandwich panels, which are intended for the construction of prefabricated buildings and structures. The majority of the output is planned to be produced for the needs of Belarusian construction organisations. "The declared volume of investment in fixed assets will amount to over Br5.6 million. The project will create 10 jobs. Production is scheduled to start in April of next [2026] year. Full production capacity is expected to be reached in 2029"[31] .

As early as January this year, the list of residents of the Minsk SEZ was expanded by two new participants. Firstly, the investment project to build **a** new **printing plant, 'Belarusian House of Printing',** will be the largest in the history of this SEZ. 'The declared investment volume will amount to over Br700 million. Production is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2028, with the plant reaching its design capacity by 2030. The project is expected to create around 190 jobs"[32] . Resident status will enable the publishing house to actively develop its export markets. Almost 70 per cent of the products manufactured are planned to be exported.

Secondly, the Belarusian company **Selmax Group PK LLC,** which specialises in the production of polycarbonate, greenhouse frames, gazebos, garden furniture and metal structures, will begin manufacturing products from

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[31] New resident of the Minsk SEZ to produce sandwich panels [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-sez-minsk-zajmetsja-proizvodstvom-sendvich-panelej-754438-2025/

[32] Printing company and polymer products. What the new residents of the Minsk SEZ will be doing [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/poligraficheskoe-predprijatie-i-produktsija-iz-polimerov-chem-zajmutsja-novye-rezidenty-sez-minsk-758921-2026/

polymers and metal. The declared investment in fixed assets will amount to at least three million euros. Production is scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2029. The company will create at least ten jobs. The investment project involves the creation of a high-tech, full-cycle production complex geared towards both the domestic and foreign markets. More than a quarter of the output will be exported.

Finally, in February of this year, another resident joined the Minsk SEZ – **Neocraft LLC**, which will implement a socially significant investment project to organise the production of rehabilitation equipment – wheelchairs. Modern production of rehabilitation aids involves the use of lightweight and durable materials – aluminium alloys and carbon fibre – as well as cutting-edge developments in the fields of ergonomics and control systems. The project's relevance stems from the continuous introduction of innovations aimed at enhancing user comfort, reducing the weight of products and improving their manoeuvrability. "The volume of investment in fixed assets will exceed €500,000. The implementation of the project will create new jobs. Production is scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2026. Once the project reaches its design capacity, annual production volume will amount to approximately €1.5 million"[33] . It is important to note that this marks the first instance of cooperation between the administration of the Minsk SEZ and a resident regarding the transfer of ready-to-use leased premises for the implementation of a new project on the "Zapad" site in the Fanipol district, where investors have access to more than 20 plots ranging in size from 1 to 5 hectares. These are not just plots, but fully prepared business sites where a company can focus on its core project, minimising the time and money spent on infrastructure development"[34] .

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The Minsk SEZ also has plans to create a 17-hectare industrial site in the area of the village of Privolny. In addition, systematic work is underway to create

[33] A new resident, Neokraft LLC, has been registered in the Minsk SEZ [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://www.fezminsk.by/news/v-sez-minsk-zaregistrirovan-novyy-rezident-ooo-neokraft/

[34] Business locations. What sites does the Minsk Special Economic Zone offer investors? [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/territorija-dlia-biznesa-kakie-ploschadki-predlagaet-investoram-sez-minsk-765994-2026/

industrial rental space, which is also in high demand. In particular, "there is an agreement under which an entire factory with industrial buildings will be transferred to us [in the FEZ] for management, so that we [in the FEZ] can develop proposals for new industrial residents and start-ups"[35] . As we can see, the Minsk SEZ, taking into account the main interests of investors in sectors such as medical equipment, pharmaceutical products, construction materials and industrial equipment, is creating attractive conditions for future residents who will engage in high-tech manufacturing, supply products for export and ensure import substitution in the domestic market.

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[35] Residents of the Minsk SEZ export 80% of their output [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/rezidentv-sez-minsk-postavliaiut-na-eksport-80-produktsii-748959-2025/

## The "Grodnoinvest" Free Economic Zone: from attracting foreign investment – to boosting foreign trade

In 2025, the "Grodnoinvest" Free Economic Zone (FEZ) successfully fulfilled its objectives for the development of this business hub in the Grodno Region. This is all the more significant given that the activities of the FEZ's residents have a considerable impact on the key economic indicators of western Belarus.

Take **foreign investment,** for example**.** Last year, the residents of this FEZ attracted $119 million to finance investment projects, which is 37 per cent higher than the 2024 figure. The bulk of this came from the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the European Union. These funds were directed mainly towards agricultural production, the chemical industry, woodworking and furniture manufacturing, the production of building materials, and metalworking. "Residents of the 'Grodnoinvest' SEZ with foreign capital are implementing investment projects in Grodno, Grodno, Lida, Mosty, Svisloch and Smorgon districts. Around 6,000 people are employed at these enterprises"[36] . In 2025, these enterprises accounted for 60 per cent of the total industrial output of this SEZ, with nearly 70 per cent of goods being exported.

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Let's look at **exports.** In 2025, residents of the "Grodnoinvest" SEZ conducted foreign trade in goods with 74 countries worldwide. "The trade surplus amounted to $466 million. SEZ enterprises exported goods worth $1,075 million. Export deliveries were made to markets in 53 countries in the near and far abroad"[37] . The key trading partners were the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and Asia. SEZ residents exported a wide range of products in

[36] Residents of the "Grodnoinvest" FEZ attracted $119 million in foreign investment last year [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/rezidenty-sez-grodnoinvest-privlekli-v-proshlom-godu- 119-mln-inostrannyh-investitsij -760199-2026/

[37] Residents of the "Grodnoinvest" FEZ exported goods worth over $1 billion in 2025 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/rezidenty-sez-grodnoinvest-v-2025-godu-eksportirovali-produktsii-na-bolee-1 -mlrd-765321-2026/

sectors such as woodworking and furniture manufacturing, the chemical industry, mechanical engineering and metalworking, light industry, the production of building materials, and the agro-industrial complex.

All these facts show that for this FEZ, the concept **of "international cooperation"** is not just an empty phrase. There are many examples from the past year when the administration of the "Grodnoinvest" FEZ took concrete steps for the future to establish new contacts at various business forums. For example, in April 2025**,** representatives of the SEZ took part in **the Belarus-Pakistan Business Forum,** where talks were held with the leadership of Pakistan's largest association of timber traders, **the All Pakistan Timber Traders Association,** regarding the prospects for developing supplies of woodworking products from Grodnoinvest SEZ residents "Grodnoinvest" to the Pakistani market, as well as with "the board **of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry** on issues concerning the development of trade and economic cooperation between Pakistani enterprises and SEZ residents"[38]. It should be noted that Faisalabad is Pakistan's third-largest city and the largest industrial centre in the province of Punjab.

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In September 2025, representatives of the Grodnoinvest SEZ took part in **the 27th International Exhibition of the Furniture Industry, Components, Fittings, materials for furniture production, forest products and wood processing technologies, Intermob 2025,** in **Istanbul, Turkey.** It is worth noting that this international platform is shaping the future of the furniture industry. "It showcases the most innovative developments and solutions in the field of materials for furniture production, components, fittings, processing technologies and design. In 2025, the exhibition attracted 857 exhibitors from 35 countries and over 45,000 visitors from more than 110 countries worldwide"[39] .

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[38] The Belarus-Pakistan Forum took place with the participation of the Grodnoinvest SEZ [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/belorussko-pakistanskii-forum-sostoyalsya-pri-uchastii-sez-grodnoinvest/

[39] A delegation from the Grodnoinvest SEZ took part in the 27th Intermob 2025 international exhibition [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/delegaciya-sez-grodnoinvest-

Representatives of the SEZ held talks with international companies from various sectors related to woodworking on issues of developing cooperation and implementing investment projects within its territory. This is all the more significant given that a resident with Turkish capital – **Europlastex Invest LLC** – is already operating in the Grodnoinvest SEZ, implementing investment projects in Smorgon to set up production of cotton yarn and steel pipes.

In September of last year, a meeting was held in this SEZ with representatives of the **Indian** business community, during which the parties discussed prospects for expanding bilateral cooperation and increasing trade turnover. This is all the more relevant given that the parties already have experience in this area. "Trade turnover between SEZ residents and India in the first half of 2025 amounted to US$9.1 million, of which US$8.7 million *was* exports of Belarusian goods. Compared with the same period in 2024, exports increased 5.8-fold"[40] .

Last November, a delegation **of Georgian** business representatives visited the FEZ, expressing interest in "the project to create the 'Grodno' industrial park, where, in the future, companies with Georgian capital, among others, will be able to locate their production facilities" [41] . The parties also discussed the prospects for expanding bilateral cooperation and increasing supplies of products from residents of the 'Grodnoinvest' SEZ to the Georgian market and other countries of the South Caucasus.

Finally, in December 2025, a delegation of **Kazakhstani** entrepreneurs visited this FEZ to discuss the prospects for expanding bilateral cooperation and increasing trade turnover between businesses in the Grodno region and this Central Asian country. Discussions on this issue revealed that there are prospects for the parties. And they are considerable. Just one fact: 'Trade turnover between

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prinyala-uchastie-v-27-i-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-intermob-2025/

[40] The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India visited the "Grodnoinvest" SEZ [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/chrezvychajnyj-i-polnomochnyj-posol-respubliki-indiya-posetil-sez-grodnoinvest/

[41] A delegation of Georgian business representatives visited the Grodnoinvest SEZ [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/delegaciya-gruzinskix-delovyx-krugov-posetila-sez-grodnoinvest/

SEZ residents and Kazakhstan in 2025 amounted to over 50 million US dollars, of which 48 million US dollars were exports of Belarusian goods"[42]. So the opportunities for industrial cooperation and the supply of products by SEZ residents to Kazakhstan in 2026 will only increase.

Let us return to the residents of the Grodnoinvest SEZ. There are currently 77 of them. In 2025, a number of interesting enterprises joined their ranks. For example, in March of last year**, Sovremennaya Gigiena LLC** was registered there with an investment project to establish the production of sanitary and hygiene products. This project involves a new production facility with the acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment. It "will be implemented on an industrial site previously owned by RUP 'Grodnotextil', which was acquired by the investor with the aim of modernising it and putting it to commercial use. The total area of the industrial facility is approximately 30,000 square metres"[43]. Innovative materials, both in terms of their properties and quality standards, are planned to be used for the production of sanitary and hygiene products. The enterprise plans to create just under fifty new jobs.

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In June, a new SEZ resident – **Armada-Stroy LLC** – announced the implementation of an investment project to build a modern complex for the provision of manufacturing and construction services in Smorgon, involving the acquisition of a wide range of technological equipment and construction machinery. "The total investment in the project will amount to approximately $3 million, with plans to create at least 30 new jobs"[44]. In this context, it is worth noting that this industrial site within the Smorgon SEZ is home to major players in the furniture cluster, as well as enterprises from other industrial sectors.

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[42] The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan visited the Grodnoinvest SEZ [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/chrezvychajnyi-i-polnomochnyj-posol-respubliki-kazaxstan-posetil-sez-grodnoinvest/

[43] New resident of the "Grodnoinvest" SEZ to establish a modern production facility for sanitary and hygiene products [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/novyi-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-sozdast-proizvodstvo-sanitamo-gigienicheskoi-produkcii/

[44] Around $3 million and 30 jobs. A new resident of the Grodnoinvest SEZ is planning a project in Smorgon [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/porjadka-3-mln-i-30-rabochih-mest-novyj-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-planiruet-proekt-v-smorgoni-722491-2025/

Armada-Stroy LLC has become the 11th resident registered in the Smorgon district. Within the boundaries of this site, SEZ enterprises have already invested around $550 million in the creation and development of production facilities.

In September 2025, another new FEZ resident – **Maxter Bicycles LLC –** plans to set up production of a wide range of bicycles for the mass market in the Grandichy district of Grodno. "The production facilities will be located on premises leased from OJSC "Radiovoln", which is also a resident of the "Grodnoinvest" SEZ. To set up the production process, the company plans to purchase high-performance technological equipment. The total investment volume for the project will amount to approximately €3 million"[45] . The range of bicycles will comprise at least 15 models: city and leisure bikes, entry-level mountain bikes, hybrid bikes, and bikes for teenagers and young adults. All these bicycles will be manufactured using innovative components that ensure a balance of strength, reliability and cost. All of the company's products will be import-substituting. In the medium term, the products of Maxter Bicycles LLC will be supplied primarily for export.

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Finally, in November last year, **GroViAr LLC** entered the SEZ with an investment project involving 'the creation of an industrial and warehouse complex for the production of a wide range of decorative metal products. The implementation of the project will create around 14 new jobs' [46] . The manufactured products will be exported to neighbouring countries. The main products will be multi-purpose metal structures suitable for use in industrial facilities and private housing construction. High-quality metal materials will be used in their production, the key features of which are enhanced wear resistance and corrosion resistance. The finished products will be supplied in kits for self-assembly.

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[45] New resident to set up a modern bicycle manufacturing plant in the "Grodnoinvest" SEZ [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://grodnoinvest.by/press-center/novyj-rezident-sozdast-predprivatie-po-proizvodstvu-velosipedov-v-sez-grodnoinvest/

[46] Jobs and products for export: a new resident has been registered in the Grodnoinvest SEZ [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/rabochie-mesta-i-produktsija-na-eksport-v-sez-grodnoinvest-zaregistrirovan-novyj-rezident-747995-2025/

In 2026, the Grodnoinvest SEZ continues to seek new residents to join the ranks of this free economic zone. In particular, in early March**, "Bumaga Zapad" LLC** set up operations here**;** it will establish a modern enterprise, " ", in the "Grandichey" district of Grodno to produce paper sanitary and hygiene products: toilet paper, paper towels, table and cosmetic napkins, and paper handkerchiefs. "The implementation of the project will create around 30 jobs, and the products manufactured will be supplied both to the domestic market of the Republic of Belarus and for export <...>. Total investment costs will amount to over €5 million"[47] . To organise the production process, the company plans to purchase modern production lines and other necessary equipment. The products will be made from cellulose fibre and are intended for single use.

Let us summarise. 2025 was a productive year for the Grodnoinvest SEZ, during which fairly large-scale projects were implemented in the fields of woodworking and furniture manufacturing, mechanical engineering and metalworking, the food and light industries, and agriculture. This year, plans have already been drawn up for the further implementation of investment projects by the SEZ's residents, with a view to boosting exports and increasing opportunities for import substitution, thereby maintaining the overall positive growth trajectory of the resident enterprises.

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[47] New resident of the Grodnoinvest SEZ to set up a personal hygiene products manufacturing facility [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-sez-grodnoinvest-sozdast-proizvodstvo-sredstv-lichnoj-gigieny-767297-2026/

## The "Gomel-Raton" Free Economic Zone: technological sovereignty and import substitution

**The (FEZ) "Gomel-Raton"** is not merely a business platform, where 60 enterprises with foreign capital from ten countries currently operate, but also a system with a comprehensive service infrastructure, where investors receive support at every stage – from professional business planning and marketing to efficient customs clearance. Suffice it to say that in 2025, around 500 new jobs were created at resident enterprises within this SEZ, ensuring "technological sovereignty and import substitution, which have become a reality thanks to <...> the production lines [of SEZ residents]"[48] . At the same time, the volume of industrial production in the SEZ grew by almost seven per cent compared to 2024 levels.

And the share of exports last year stood at just under 58 per cent. "Today, the products <...> of residents are in demand in more than 45 countries worldwide. A positive trend in exports has emerged, laying the foundation for scaling up in 2026"[49] . Furthermore, exports of goods by FEZ residents already account for more than 40 per cent of the total export volume of the entire Gomel Region. For example, at **the Dobrush paper mill "Hero of Labour",** part of OJSC "Management Company of the 'Belarusian Wallpaper' Holding", a "production facility for coated packaging board was established in 2025, with up to 90% of its output being exported" [50] . They also set up a cardboard manufacturing plant from scratch, investing over $350 million to create 260 jobs. There are other interesting examples as well.

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[48] Around 500 new jobs were created at resident enterprises of the "Gomel-Raton" FEZ in 2025 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/okolo-500-novyh-rabochih-mest-sozdali-na-predprijatijah-rezidentah-sez-gomel-raton-v-2025-godu-769209-2026/

[49] Products from residents of the 'Gomel-Raton' SEZ are in demand in more than 45 countries worldwide [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/produktsiia-rezidentov-sez-gomel-raton-vostrebovana-bolee-chem-v-45-stranah-mira-769203-2026/

[50] A resident of the "Gomel-Raton" SEZ has tripled its production volumes over the five-year period [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://gomelraton.com/press-center/news/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-za-pyatiletku-utroil-obemy-proizvodstva/

In particular, in June last year, a resident of this SEZ – **Gomelsteklo OJSC** – completed the construction of a production line for polished glass. This marked the final stage of an investment project to modernise the company's equipment. "The state-of-the-art furnace with automated control has certain design features that ensure economical operation and efficient use of heat"[51] . The company received its first batch of glass as early as August. The commissioning of the production line – one of the most modern in the world – will significantly increase production efficiency and strengthen Gomelsteklo OJSC's position in the international market, enabling it to compete successfully with European companies.

Last summer, another SEZ resident **– OJSC "Raton" –** modernised its range of automotive mirrors. One of the product types recently developed by the company is designed for OJSC "BELAZ" mining dump trucks operating in northern conditions. "Mirror products are only a small segment of our multi-faceted production, but a unique one"[52] **.** Car mirrors first appeared in the company's product range in the 1970s. Since then, the company has not only maintained its achievements but has also expanded its potential by retaining its own design bureau.

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And this year, another SEZ resident – **Gomelagrokomplekt OJSC** – plans to commission a new workshop where it will produce feed dispensers, seed drills, silage cutters, and trailers for transporting cattle and pigs. "Prototypes are already being tested on the holding's farms; the opening of the new facility will allow for an increase in production volumes"[53] . Furthermore, in March 2026, a

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[51] Gomelsteklo OJSC, a resident of the Gomel-Raton SEZ, has completed the construction of a production line
polished glass [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL:
https://www.gomelraton.com/press-center/articles/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-oao-gomelsteklo-zakonchilo- stroitelstvo-linii-po-proizvodstvu-polirovannogo/

[52] A resident of the "Gomel-Raton" SEZ is modernising its range of car mirrors for heavy goods vehicles [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL:
https://www.gomelraton.com/press-center/articles/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-moderniziruet-lineyku-avtozerkal-dlya-bolshegruzov/

[53] Gomelagrocomplet OJSC, a resident of the Gomel-Raton SEZ, plans to commission a new workshop in 2026 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://gomelraton.com/press-center/news/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-oao-gomelagrokomplekt-v-2026-godu-planiruet-vvesti-v-

new SEZ resident – **SapAero LLC** – announced the establishment of a centre for the maintenance and repair of aviation equipment in Belarus. The aim of the investment project is to establish and subsequently operate a centre for the maintenance and repair of aviation equipment or aircraft based at Gomel Airport. "The investment volume amounts to €1.52 million. The investment project is expected to create 22 jobs"[54] .

As for the infrastructure of this SEZ, work continued in 2025 to lay the foundations for the development of its residents. Firstly, in December last year, a new distribution substation on Lepeshinskogo Street was commissioned in Gomel. "This facility will become a reliable source of energy for production and another step towards modernising our city's electricity grid infrastructure"[55] . Secondly, in September, work began here on the road reconstruction project on 3rd Vitebskaya Street, where a modern four-lane road with new lighting and storm drainage will soon replace the narrow two-lane carriageway. The facility is scheduled to be commissioned in the fourth quarter of 2026.

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And there is more. In 2025, the "Gomel-Raton" SEZ began developing a roadmap for the development of this business site up to 2030, which is intended to "ensure a qualitative leap: define new investment priorities, take infrastructure to a new level and strengthen the competitiveness of residents in global markets"[56] . And this year, a decision was taken in this SEZ to implement a key project for the near future – a multimodal industrial park. This will not be just another construction project. Here, they are designing "an ecosystem that will combine new production areas with warehouse, office and exhibition

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[54] A resident of the "Gomel-Ration" Free Economic Zone is to establish an aviation maintenance centre at Gomel Airport [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://gomel-region.gov.by/ru/economics-ru/view/rezident-sez-gomel-raton-sozdast-tsentr-texobsluzhivanija-aviatexniki-na-baze-gomelskogo-aeroporta-55441-2026/

[55] Energy security, convenient logistics. How the infrastructure of the 'Gomel-Raton' SEZ is developing [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/energeticheskaia-bezopasnost-udobnaja-logistika-kak-razvivaetsia-infrastruktura-sez-gomel-raton-769213-2026/

[56] Enhancing competitiveness in foreign markets. What challenges will the development strategy address [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/povysit-konkurentosposobnost-na-vneshnih-rynkah-kakie-zadachi- reshit-strategija-razvitija-sez-gomel-725680-2025/

infrastructure"[57] . For new businesses and start-ups, the park will provide a fast start. After all, there will be ready-to-use production facilities where manufacturing can be set up quickly. For existing residents, this means new opportunities for the storage, delivery and distribution of their products. The implementation of this project will lay the foundations that will enable the "Gomel-Raton" SEZ to remain a magnet for the most advanced businesses.

It remains only to add that the targets set for this SEZ in 2026 are ambitious. "Thus, export growth is expected to reach 4%, and investment in fixed assets at constant prices – 8%. Wages are expected to rise by 13%"[58] . These goals can be achieved if the activities of the FEZ's residents reach new heights, so that they remain competitive both within the Gomel Region and across Belarus as a whole.

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[57] Plans to create a multimodal industrial park in the "Gomel-Raton" SEZ [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/multimodalnyj-promyshlennyj-park-planirujut-sozdat-v-sez-gomel-raton-769221-2026/

[58] Growth in exports, investment, and increased wages. The head of the "Gomel-Raton" SEZ has outlined the targets for 2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/prirost-eksporta-investitsii-uvelichenie-zarplat-rukovoditel-sez-gomel-raton-nazval-zadachi-na-2026-god-769219-2026/

## Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange: from expanding the range of commodities to increased trading turnover

In 2025, more than a thousand new foreign companies from 34 countries participated in electronic auctions held by the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE). This was the result of measures taken by the BUCE to remove barriers to entry into the Belarusian exchange market. These measures included the introduction of a simplified accreditation procedure for foreign importers, free training courses, a reduction in the exchange fee rate, and the option to conclude transactions either independently or with the assistance of exchange brokers. All this has increased the attractiveness of the exchange mechanism and contributed to an increase in the pool of participants from abroad. As a result, 'as of 1 January 2026, 9,031 foreign companies from 82 countries were represented on the BUTB'[59] .

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It is also worth noting the growth in the number of accredited companies from a number of **Asian** countries**.** In particular, last year, residents **of Indonesia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Myanmar** came to the Belarusian exchange platform for the first time with the aim of purchasing agricultural and forestry products**.** There are also interesting trends in the development of cooperation between BUTP and partners from other Asian countries.

Take **India, for example.** In 2024, sawn timber from Belarus entered the Indian market via the exchange mechanism when the first transaction was completed. Since then, a pool of Indian importers has formed at BUTB, who regularly participate in auctions. "This ensures the regularity of supplies of Belarusian sawn timber and the necessary level of competition"[60] . It should be

[59] Over 1,000 new foreign companies joined the BUTB stock exchange in 2025 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/bolee-1-tys-novyh-inostrannyh-kompanij-stali-uchastnikami-birzhevyh-torgov-butb-v-2025-godu-759700-2026/

[60] The potential for stock market trading between Belarus and India is presented at an international forum in Mogilev [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/potentsial-birzhevoj-torgovli-belarusi-i-indii-predstavlen-na-mezhdunarodnom-forume-v-mogileve-728192-2025/

noted that in 2024, the Indian market was mainly supplied with woodworking products, whilst raw materials for the textile industry were imported into Belarus. By mid-February 2026, 14 residents from that country had already been accredited on the BUTB, six of whom used the Belarusian exchange platform for the first time in 2025.

This year, the main areas of development for trade between Belarus and India will be the supply of agricultural, wood-processing and chemical products. Attention will be paid equally to both export and import transactions, ensuring a balance of interests between the parties and a steady flow of goods from Belarus to India and vice versa. It should be noted that "in 2025, the value of exchange transactions concluded by Indian traders amounted to just under $5 million, which is three times higher than the corresponding figure for 2024" [61] . Transactions involving the sale of materials and raw materials for the textile industry made a significant contribution to the increase in exchange trade turnover with this country. In particular, Belarusian manufacturers supplied cottonised flax fibre to the Indian market, whilst pure wool and polyester top were imported into Belarus. With a view to further expanding the range of goods traded on the exchange, Indian food suppliers have already announced their intention to sell their products through the BUTB. This concerns items in high demand in Belarus, such as rice, nuts, tea, coffee and dried fruit. It is expected that the sale of these products at exchange auctions, bypassing intermediaries, will ensure transparent pricing and reduce costs for Belarusian consumers. As for exports to India, in addition to sawn timber and
flax fibre, a promising niche is feed additives, which are sold abroad in significant volumes through exchange trading.

Now let's look at **Turkey.** Back in June 2025, products from Belarusian flax mills were sold on the BUTB exchange for the Turkish market in the form of

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[61] Belarus and India have identified areas for growth in the field of stock market trading [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-indiia-oboznachili-tochki-rosta-v-sfere-birzhevoi-torgovli-764863-2026/

flax shives, amounting to $1.3 million. “During the trading session, a Turkish buyer concluded three deals totalling 300 tonnes, which was the highest sales figure since flax processing products were introduced to the exchange platform”[62] . It is interesting to note that by the end of the first half of last year, more than 1,000 tonnes of domestically produced flax fibre and flax shives had already been sold outside Belarus, which is almost nine times more than in the whole of 2024. Once again, the main buyers of these products at the exchange were companies from Turkey. In value terms, they accounted for 76 per cent of the total volume of flax fibre sales on the exchange in 2025.

And at the end of last year, the total value of Turkish companies’ exchange transactions involving a wide range of textile raw materials, including cotton yarn, pure wool top, raw calico, merino wool and viscose yarn, “amounted to $1.8 million, which is significantly higher than the corresponding figure for 2024 ($60,000). Overall, by the end of 2025, the exchange trade turnover between Belarus and Turkey had grown by 27%, to $26.5 million”[63] . Exports of Belarusian goods accounted for 93 per cent of this amount. In particular, the Turkish market received sawn timber of coniferous species, wooden stakes, flax fibre and tow, skimmed and whole milk powder, dried whey, ‘vet-blue’ leather and ferrous metal scrap. Furthermore, as of the end of January 2026, 126 Turkish residents were accredited on the BUTB, 22 of whom began using the Belarusian exchange platform in 2025–2026.

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In 2025, Belarus significantly increased the volume of exchange trading with other **Middle Eastern** countries as well**.** Over the course of eight months, it grew by almost thirty per cent – to over $56 million. “The most popular Belarusian goods among Middle Eastern traders are dairy products, feed additives and

[62] A Turkish buyer purchased a record volume of flax products worth $1.3 million at the BUTB [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/rekordnyj-objem-lnoproduktsii-na-13-mln-priobrel-na-butb-turetskij -pokupatel-721210-2025/

[63] Turkey ranks among the top three suppliers of textile raw materials on BUTB [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/turtsija-voshla-v-trojku-osnovnyh-prodavtsov-tekstilnogo-syrija-na-butb-761691-2026/

the woodworking industry"[64] . In particular, companies from **the United Arab Emirates** (UAE) ranked third after Russia and Poland in terms of the value of agricultural product deals on the BUTB over the first 10 months of 2025. This figure amounted to just under forty million dollars, which is 43 per cent more than in the same period of 2024. "The most popular group of goods among Emirati buyers were essential amino acids – L-lysine sulphate and L-lysine monohydrochloride – which accounted for over half of all Belarusian agricultural exports to the UAE via the exchange"[65] . Significant sales volumes were also recorded for skimmed and whole milk powder and cottonised flax fibre. In addition, sugar beet processing products were in demand among importers from the UAE. In September 2025, Belarusian sugar producers began using exchange trading to export their products to this Middle Eastern country. "Following two trading sessions held on the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange, a total of 4,000 tonnes of beet pulp was sold to Emirati importers"[66] . By November, volumes had already risen to 7,000 tonnes, totalling over one million dollars. It should be noted that until 2025, this commodity had not been traded in exchange deals with the UAE. It remains only to add that by the second half of November last year, the number of business entities from that country accredited on the exchange had reached 40.

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Two further interesting facts can be noted regarding BUTB's partnership with Middle Eastern countries. Firstly, in June 2025, a new broker – the company 'Torgovy Kapital-Invest' (TK-Invest), which is a subsidiary of the **Belarusian-Iranian** holding company 'Bank Trading Capital' (CJSC 'TK Bank'). The new broker "plans to facilitate the conclusion of exchange transactions between economic entities in Belarus and **Iran,** as well as other

[64] Belarus has increased the volume of exchange trading with Middle Eastern countries by 29% [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-uvelichila-objemy-birzhevoj-torgovli-so-stranami-blizhnego-vostoka-na-29-738860-2025/

[65] The United Arab Emirates has become one of the top three buyers of agricultural products on the BUUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/obiedinennye-arabskie-emiraty-voshli-v-troiku-krupneishih-pokupatelei-selhozproduktsii-na-butb-750006-2025/

[66] Belarusian sugar factories have started exporting beet pulp to the UAE via the exchange [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-sahamye-zavody-nachali-eksportirovat-sveklovichnyj-zhom-v-oae-cherez-birzhu-738725-2025/

Middle Eastern countries. Particular attention will be paid to organising effective mechanisms for trade finance and mutual settlements"[67] .

Furthermore, this strategic decision is aimed at expanding economic cooperation between Belarus and the countries of the Middle East, increasing the transparency and security of trade operations, as well as developing export and import ties involving Belarusian and Iranian enterprises.

Secondly, in January 2026, the first company from **Yemen** was accredited to participate in agricultural commodity trading on the BUTB via the exchange platform**.** This is an importer and wholesale supplier of food products from the city of Saywan, in the province of Hadramaut. The company plans to purchase Belarusian milk powder through the exchange platform, as it is in high demand on the Yemeni market. In addition to supplies of Belarusian dairy products, the export of frozen meat and beef semi-finished products could become a promising area of trade between Belarus and Yemen. These products are also in demand in this market, and their sale via the BUTB would help increase trade turnover between the two countries. In this context, it is important to emphasise that Yemen has become the 11th country in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region whose residents are entitled to buy and sell goods on the Belarusian exchange platform. To date, 86 companies from this region have been represented in exchange trading. Incidentally, most of them have joined the exchange over the last few years. And another point: "In 2025, companies from the MENA region concluded exchange deals for the import of Belarusian products totalling $57 million, which is 19% more than in 2024"[68] .

Finally, let us turn our attention to **South-East Asia.** In November 2025, at the **Belarus-Myanmar** Business Forum held in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, it was announced that business entities from five South-East Asian countries had already been accredited on the BUTB: Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia,

[67] First broker with Iranian capital accredited on the BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/pervyi-broker-s-iranskim-kapitalom-akkreditovan-na-butb-722951-2025/

[68] First company from Yemen accredited on BUTB [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/pervaia-kompaniia-iz-iemena-akkreditovana-na-butb-760400-2026/

Myanmar and Singapore. For Belarusian enterprises in the dairy processing industry, this region is of particular interest given the significant capacity of this market and the presence of high effective demand. All the more so as **'Singaporean** companies are making particularly active use of the exchange platform. Between January and November 2025, the value of their transactions for the purchase of Belarusian goods amounted to $42.4 million, exceeding the figure for the same period in 2024 by 58% . Dairy products account for 54% of imports from Belarus[69] . For this reason, BUTB is ready to provide maximum assistance to both **Myanmar** and other companies from countries in this region considering the possibility of importing milk powder, cream and whey from Belarus. After all, all producers of these products are present on the exchange platform, which will ensure regularity of supply without any restrictions on volume. There are therefore strong grounds for believing that by 2026, **Myanmar** and other countries in South-East Asia will become even more active partners of BUTB, both in terms of expanding the range of commodities and increasing trade turnover.

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[69] Belarus plans to supply dairy products to Myanmar via the exchange [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-postavliat-molochnuiu-produktsiiu-v-mianmu-cherez-birzhu-751129-2025/

## Georgia: a highly concrete partnership

In March 2026, the 7th meeting of the Belarusian-Georgian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation (IGC) was held in Tbilisi, at which the results of joint work over recent years were analysed and the prospects and priority areas for the further development of economic cooperation were discussed, including such sectors as agriculture, healthcare, education, science and other areas of cooperation. It should be noted that the 6th meeting of the IGC took place in Minsk in February 2020. Since then, 'trade turnover between Belarus and Georgia <.. .> has increased by more than 70%'[70] . In 2024 alone, trade between the two post-Soviet countries rose by 1.6 times compared to 2023 levels, with Belarusian exports increasing by 1.3 times. The main items of Belarusian exports to Georgia at that time were petroleum products, milk and condensed and dried cream, sawn timber, medicines and ethyl alcohol.

By 2025**,** positive trends **in agricultural** cooperation had already been observed**,** with the resumption of supplies from Belarus to Georgia – specifically to the village of Sartichala in the Gardabani municipality – of 500 head of pedigree livestock of Belarusian breeding stock. At the same time, "the Belarusian side confirmed its readiness to continue cooperation on the supply of breeding stock with the aim of improving the breed and productive qualities of farm animals in Georgia"[71] . Meanwhile, Georgian partners expressed interest in purchasing Belarusian seeds of cereals, industrial and fodder crops. And even then, the first deliveries of seed stock for various agricultural crops were made for field work in Georgia. Overall, last year Belarus's exports to Georgia were dominated by dairy products – milk, cream, condensed milk, cheese, butter, cottage cheese, ice cream, as well as meat products – beef, poultry offal and

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[70] Trade turnover between Belarus and Georgia has increased by more than 70% since 2020 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://www.government.by/news/tovarooborot-mezhdu-belarusyu-i-gruziey-s-2020-goda-uvelichilsya-na-bolee-chem-70

[71] Belarus and Georgia to develop cooperation on the supply of breeding livestock [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-gruzija-budut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-po-postavkam-plemennogo-skota-729218-2025/

sausages. In addition, this list included cereals, pulses, fish and fish products, and alcoholic beverages.

During the 7th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, it was noted that plans are already underway to establish a Georgian-Belarusian agricultural centre, where Georgian farmers will be able to purchase breeding stock, seeds, fertilisers, equipment and other necessary products. Another important trend is that the volume of food supplies from Belarus is increasing annually, as is the number of shops selling Belarusian products in this South Caucasus country. In 2025 alone, eight new retail outlets were opened. The eighth of these – a branch of the Belmart chain of Belarusian food shops – opened in August in Tbilisi. This chain offers a wide range of products from 35 leading Belarusian companies, including Pinsk Meat Processing Plant, Brest Meat Processing Plant, INKO-FOOD, "Molochny Mir", "Bellakt", "Pervy Molochny", "Brest Ice Cream", "Lidkon", "Spartak", "Alivaria", "Minsk Kristall",

"Soligorsk Poultry Farm", "Lida Flour", "AVD Production"[72] , where a wide range of dairy and meat products, confectionery, flour and alcoholic products, tea, honey and coffee is on display. It should be noted that the operation of Belarusian food retail chains has stimulated the growth of food exports to Georgia, which are delivered directly from the manufacturer. A total of 31 shops belonging to three Belarusian food chains have already opened in the country, in the cities of Tbilisi, Batumi, Zugzidi, Poti and Kutaisi. Among future joint projects, the parties highlighted an initiative to establish a Georgian-Belarusian trading house in Batumi with a wide range of Belarusian goods, from building materials to light industrial products.

The 7th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission also noted a 2.7-fold increase in the mutual trade in services between Belarus and Georgia

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[72] The eighth branch of the Belmart chain of Belarusian food products has opened in Tbilisi [Online resource].
- 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/v-tbilisi-otkrylsia-vosmoi-magazin-seti-belorusskih-produktov-belmart-733418-2025/

since 2020. Today, transport services are in high demand, including air, road and rail transport, as the development of cooperation in **the transport and logistics sector** contributes to the expansion of economic partnership and the intensification of mutual trade. For example, "load factors on direct flights between our countries remain consistently high – over 80%"[73] . Nevertheless, the Belarusian airline "Belavia" plans to increase the frequency of flights from Minsk to Tbilisi, Batumi and Kutaisi during the summer period. There are also all the prerequisites for the resumption **of scientific and technical cooperation** and the broader development of collaboration in the field of education. To this end, within the framework of this meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, an 'Agreement on Cooperation between the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (Minsk) and the Technical State University (Tbilisi)' was signed[74] . This document has expanded **the legal framework** for cooperation with Georgia, which now comprises "more than 30 documents, including 3 intergovernmental agreements, 15 intergovernmental and 13 inter-agency agreements'[75] . Current international instruments include treaties on the establishment of diplomatic relations, international road transport, the creation of a bilateral Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation, the exchange of information on tax matters, the mutual protection of investments, a system for facilitating mutual trade, air transport, and cooperation in the fields of culture, sport, healthcare, education, science and technology, the organisation of settlements between national banks, mutual travel by citizens, the exchange and protection of classified information, partnership in the enforcement of antitrust legislation, and cooperation between internal affairs agencies, state security agencies, financial

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[73] Belavia plans to increase the frequency of flights from Minsk to Georgia during the summer [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/belavia-planiruet-uvelichit-chastotu-rejsov-iz-minska- v-gruziju-v-letnij-period-770138-2026/

[74] On the holding of the 7th meeting of the Belarusian-Georgian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://georgia.mfa.gov.by/ru/embassy/news/c9544cb7d752dc89.html

[75] Belarus-Georgia bilateral relations [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://georgia.mfa.gov.by/ru/bilateral_relations/political/

monitoring and control bodies, foreign ministries, ministries of justice, and chambers of commerce and industry.

During the 7th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, the parties also expressed their hope for an increase in **exhibition activities.** In this context, it is worth noting that the Belarusian side participates annually in Georgian international exhibitions. In particular, in late November–early December 2024, the **'Made in Belarus'** exhibition of Belarusian manufacturers was traditionally presented as part of the AGRO FOOD DRINK TECH EXPO 2024 international exhibition of agriculture, food industry, food production and technologies, **AGRO FOOD DRINK TECH EXPO 2024** in Tbilisi, which was also attended by 'around 70 major industry representatives from Georgia, Belarus, Turkey, Iran and Italy'[76] . The Belarusian exhibition at the event featured well-known brands and industry leaders, including the largest enterprises of the food industry concern "Belgospishcheprom" and the "Brestmyasomolprom Concern" holding. OJSC "Spartak" presented a range of sugar-free products: three types of chocolate, truffles, wafer bars, biscuits and muesli bars. An exclusive range was also presented – assorted thin dark and milk chocolate with additives, and chocolate with biscuits. OJSC "Sloodych Confectionery Factory" showcased chewy toffees in a variety of flavours and aromas especially for the exhibition. OJSC "Krasny Pishchevyk" added chewy marmalade and marshmallows in latte and caramel flavours, as well as champagne and strawberry flavours, to its list of products on display.

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The Belarusian exhibition also featured products from one of the leading manufacturers of instant foods, spices and breakfast cereals – OJSC "Lidapishchekoncentraty". The product range was showcased by manufacturers from the meat and dairy sector: OJSC "Slonim Meat Processing Plant", OJSC "Slutsk Meat Processing Plant", OJSC "Pinsk Meat Processing Plant", OJSC

[76] Belarusian enterprises present an exhibition at a food industry fair in Georgia [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/belorusskie-predprijatija-prezentujut-ekspozitsiju-na-vystavke-pischevoj -promyshlennosti-v-gruzii-679196-2024/

"Luninetsky Dairy Plant" and OJSC "Verkhnedvinsky Butter and Cheese Plant". Brest Meat Processing Plant OJSC presented a new product – pâtés with garlic, butter, fried onions and mushrooms, as well as a range of liver pâtés. Kobrin Butter and Cheese Factory OJSC showcased a dry mix designed for making vanilla ice cream from the freezer. Among the new products exhibited by Berezovsky Meat Canning Plant OJSC were tinned goods.

A year later – in November 2025 – the **AGRO FOOD DRINK TECH EXPO 2025** exhibition forum took place in Tbilisi, bringing together 80 representatives from the food production and agricultural sectors, technologists and managers of major retail chains from Georgia, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Russia and Slovakia. **The 'Belarus. The Taste of Nature'** exhibition featured well-known brands and industry leaders, as well as the country's largest enterprises. 'For instance, the Belgospishcheprom stand showcased a product range of confectionery, pastille and marmalade products, and sweets from the enterprises OJSC "Sloodych Confectionery Factory", OJSC 'Krasny Pishchevnik', SOJSC 'Kommunarka', OJSC 'Krasny Mozyryanin', and the joint venture OJSC 'SPARTAK'"[77] . Also on display was a wide range of baby food from OJSC "Gamma Vkusa", and tinned products from OJSC "Maloritsky Canning and Vegetable Drying Plant". Rapeseed oil, vegetable oil blends, mayonnaise and mayonnaise-based sauces, ketchups, mustard, and samples of margarine products from OJSC "Minsk Margarine Plant", as well as products from OJSC "Mashpishcheprod", which specialises in potato processing and the manufacture of potato products, malt production and seed roasting. There was a wide range of non-alcoholic, dessert and spirits products on display. One of Belarus's largest dairy producers – OJSC "Babushkina Krynka" – the management company of the "Mogilev Dairy Company 'Babushkina Krynka'" holding – presented a range of cheeses, milk sweets made from powdered milk, butter, glazed curd cheese, ultra-pasteurised milk and new products such as dry

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[77] Belarus presented an exhibition at the Agro Food Drink Tech Expo in Georgia [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predstavila-ekspozitsiju-na-vystavke-agro-food-drink-tech-expo-v-gruzii-751359-2025/

mixes for milkshakes and dry mixes for making ice cream in strawberry, vanilla and chocolate flavours. The multi-sector agricultural enterprise OJSC "Baranovichi Poultry Farm" exhibited an assortment of coloured chicken eggs in various packaging formats. OJSC "Gluboksky Milk Canning Plant" showcased a range of cheeses and tinned dairy products, including the famous Belarusian condensed milk, at the exhibition in Tbilisi ( ). OAO "Lida Milk Canning Plant" presented dried milk, cream, whey, butter and a wide range of cheeses, whilst OAO "Orsha Meat Canning Plant" showcased tinned meat, baby food and meat pâtés. Meat products were also showcased by Volkovysk Meat Processing Plant OJSC and Pinsk Meat Processing Plant OJSC. This exhibition demonstrated that Belarusian exporters are actively expanding their product range in this country, which makes it possible to plan the opening of new retail outlets in Georgian cities.

In this context, specific aspects **of interregional cooperation** were discussed at the 7th meeting of the Interregional Commission**.** For reference, it should be noted that 17 agreements have been signed between regions and cities of Belarus and Georgia. In particular, "on 18 February 1994, a cooperation agreement was signed between Tbilisi and Minsk, and on 11 September 2015, an agreement on twinning relations between Minsk and Tbilisi"[78] . And today, it is necessary to breathe new life into these agreements in order to fill them with concrete content. As with other examples. It should be noted that inter-regional and twinning ties are maintained under cooperation agreements not only between the capitals, but also between the Minsk Region and the Kakheti region, the Mogilev Region and Adjara, the Gomel Region and the Imereti region, the cities of Brest and Batumi, Mogilev and Batumi, Polotsk and Tskhaltubo, Gomel and Kutaisi, Bobruisk and Batumi, Bobruisk and Kobuleti, Zhodino and Rustavi, the Gluboksky District and the Telavi Municipality, the Svetlogorsk District and the Mtskheta Municipality, the Kletsky District and the Telavi Municipality, the

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[78] Culture, housing and communal services, and passenger transport. Kukharev on areas of cooperation with Tbilisi [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/sfera-kultury-zhkh-i-passazhirskij-transport-kuharev-o-napravlenijah-sotrudnichestva-s-tbilisi-614991-2024/

Rossonsky District and the Lanchkhuti Municipality. As we can see, the prospects here are considerable.

There is another area of Belarusian-Georgian cooperation that is important to highlight today . I am referring to the prospects for cooperation in **the stock exchange sector.** It must be acknowledged that Belarus and Georgia have significant untapped potential for partnership in this field. Let us look at the figures. In 2025, Georgian companies purchased Belarusian-made goods worth a total of nine million dollars at auctions on the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE), and in the first two months of this year, the volume of import transactions has already reached just under four million dollars. 'Currently, 79 Georgian residents are accredited on the BCTB. In 2025, 11 new companies joined the exchange, and in 2026 – four. In January–February 2026, the exchange turnover of Georgian participants increased 3.8-fold compared with the same period in 2025. More than 90% of the total value of transactions was accounted for by dairy products: milk powder and butter"[79] .

In March of this year, the BUTB accredited its first broker from Georgia with a view to increasing the volume of exchange trading with that country. The status of professional exchange trader has been granted to a trading and logistics company specialising in the import of woodworking industry products. Initially, BUTB's new partner intends to operate in the timber products segment. Specifically, it will focus on attracting buyers of sawn timber to the exchange platform, facilitating transactions between Belarusian and Georgian companies, and ensuring the delivery of goods purchased on the exchange to end consumers. In the future, as its client base grows, the Georgian broker plans to expand its scope of activity on BUTB and, in addition to sawn timber, import ferrous metal products and dairy products from Belarus. It is expected that the accreditation of the exchange broker with the Georgian Stock Exchange ( ) will open up additional opportunities for Belarusian exporters interested in this market. First

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[79] BUTB has accredited the first broker in Georgia [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-akkreditovala-pervogo-brokera-v-gruzii-769427-2026/

and foremost, this will create favourable conditions for increasing supply volumes, as a broker typically aggregates demand from a range of buyers, enabling the sale of large lots and the optimisation of transport and logistics costs.

BUTB has already drawn up a plan for cooperation with a broker in Georgia to increase exchange-traded commodity turnover. Priority will be given to increasing supplies of Belarusian goods that are already being sold to Georgia through exchange trading. These include, in particular, edged softwood sawn timber, skimmed milk powder and butter. "Since the start of 2026, Georgian companies have already purchased these products on the BUTB to the value of $4.5 million, which accounts for more than half of the exchange's exports to Georgia for the whole of 2025" [80] . In addition to increasing sales of Belarusian-made goods in Georgia, BUTB's new partner is also considering the possibility of attracting suppliers of Georgian products to the exchange platform, which will be in demand among consumers in Belarus. These include items such as non-ferrous metals, ferroalloys, juice concentrates, nuts and dried fruit.

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And finally. All these examples of bilateral cooperation demonstrate that the decisions of the 7th meeting of the Belarusian-Georgian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation will serve as an effective tool for achieving the set objectives in expanding inter-agency contacts, so that the joint work of the parties takes on a constructive, highly concrete nature in strengthening the comprehensive partnership between Belarus and Georgia, which is aimed at an equal and mutually respectful dialogue.

[80] BUTB has outlined a plan for cooperation with a broker in Georgia to increase trade turnover [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/butb-nametila-plan-sovmestnoj-raboty-s-brokerom-v-gruzii-po-uvelicheniju-tovarooborota-769971-2026/

## Gomel Region: Uzbekistan as a focus of cooperation

**Uzbekistan** is one of Belarus's main and key partners in Central Asia. The figures bear this out. In 2025, trade turnover between the two countries grew by almost 35 per cent, reaching $855 million. Meanwhile, exports of Belarusian goods increased by almost 42 per cent, to $686 million. The positive trend in trade and economic cooperation has continued into the start of this year. In particular, 'in January 2026, trade turnover amounted to around $74 million, which is more than 70% higher than the figures for the same period in 2025'[81] . Belarus mainly supplies Uzbekistan with beef, timber, petroleum products, medicines, milk and cream, tractors, chipboard and fibreboard. In turn, imports from there consist mainly of rolled steel, cotton yarn, grapes, knitted fabrics and clothing, liquid pumps, dried fruit, and mixtures of nuts and dried fruit. The volume of trade in services is also growing. Last year, it increased by more than half, amounting to just under $210 million. There are 229 organisations registered in Uzbekistan whose founders are residents of Belarus.

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Among Belarusian regions, against the backdrop of these positive trends, **the Gomel Region** stands out, with its trade turnover with this Central Asian country having tripled over the last five-year period and amounting to almost fifty million dollars in 2025. "The south-eastern Belarusian region mainly supplies wood products, meat and milk, plastic products and cellulose. Cotton yarn, , slag wool, fruit, ceramic tiles, toys and clothing are purchased from Uzbekistan"[82] . Among the promising areas, the Gomel Region sees an increase in supplies of food products, ready-made furniture, forage harvesting machinery and equipment for dairy complexes.

In March of this year, a high-level delegation from the Gomel Region visited Uzbekistan, where two business forums – in **Tashkent** and **Fergana** –

[81] The Ambassador of Uzbekistan has stated his desire to take relations with Belarus to a higher level [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/politics/view/posol-uzbekistana-zajavil-o-stremlenii-vyvesti-otnoshenija-s-belarusjju-na-bolee-vysokij-uroven-768462-2026/

[82] Trade turnover between the Gomel Region and Uzbekistan has tripled over the last five-year period [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-gomelskoj-oblasti-s-uzbekistanom-vyros-za-poslednjuju-pjatiletku-v-tri-raza-771423-2026/

discussed options for attracting Uzbek business partners for cooperation and establishing joint production facilities on the premises of enterprises in both countries. At this forum in the Uzbek capital, "cooperation agreements were signed between the chambers of commerce and industry of the Gomel and Tashkent regions, as well as 13 documents, including commercial agreements, worth $7.5 million"[83] . Many proposals are also currently being finalised and contracts drawn up.

It should be noted that the main exporters from the south-eastern region of Belarus to Uzbekistan today are "Rechitsadrev" and "Gomeldrev", the Turovsky Dairy Plant, the Rogachevsky Milk Canning Plant, the Rechitsky Metalworks Plant, and the Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill. Other potential exporters were also represented at this forum. In particular, OJSC "Management Company of the Gomel Meat and Dairy Company Holding" has concluded contracts for the supply of meat and dairy products. Agreements have been reached for direct supplies of sausage products from the Kalinkovichsky Meat Processing Plant. Overall, this company is actively working with partners from Uzbekistan and strengthening its position. "Over the past two years, products worth $9 million have been supplied. By the end of 2025 alone, exports to had increased 84-fold"[84] .

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In addition, representatives from the Gomel region discussed promising projects with several interested partners in Tashkent. For example, with Texnopark LLC, which brings together around 20 enterprises focused on creating high-tech, competitive, export-oriented products. The Gomel delegation expressed their readiness to cooperate in the production of electronic gas meters, domestic refrigerators, industrial air conditioners and cooling systems, lifts and escalators, and building materials. Furthermore, "one of Uzbekistan's confectionery factories expressed interest in large-scale supplies of dried milk

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[83] Gomel Region signed documents worth $7.5 million at a business forum in Tashkent [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/dokumenty-na-75-mln-podpisala-gomelskaja-oblast-na-biznes-forume-v-tashkente i 0000210242.html

[84] Representatives of the Gomel Region signed contracts worth $7.5 million with partners in Uzbekistan [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/kontrakty-na-75-mln-zakljuchili-predstaviteli-gomelskoj-oblasti-s-partnerami-v-uzbekistane-772278-2026/

from the Gomel region. To expand production, it is necessary to procure high-quality raw materials, which the south-eastern region of Belarus can offer"[85] . Negotiations were held on site, and agreements were reached on trial supplies of Belarusian products.

Meanwhile, the authorities of two regions – Gomel and **Tashkent** – signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation and discussed regional collaboration across all areas. "The list of topics discussed included student education, employment opportunities for Uzbek citizens in high-demand specialisms, medical tourism, and the organisation of sightseeing tours"[86] . In this context, it is worth recalling that back in November 2025, the Belarusian State University of Transport (BelGUT), located in Gomel, and the Tashkent State Transport University of Uzbekistan announced the creation of a joint full-time training programme for the transport sector. It should be noted that these universities have been collaborating for eight years. There is a joint programme for Uzbek part-time students studying at BelGUT, as the Gomel-based university is a key institution and a significant university in the post-Soviet space specifically in the field of rail transport. There are now also plans to establish a joint full-time programme, where students will study at Tashkent State Transport University and graduate in Gomel. "Last year alone, 167 people enrolled on the joint part-time programme with BelGUT"[87] . The Uzbek university cooperates with four universities in Belarus. But the greatest interest lies precisely in railway transport.

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During the same days in March, the Gomel and **Fergana** regions signed a Cooperation Action Plan for 2026–2027. This roadmap will strengthen interaction and serve as the basis for implementing joint projects and intensifying

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[85] Cooperation, joint production. Gomel Region discusses expanding partnership with Uzbekistan [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/kooperatsiia-sovmestnye-proizvodstva-gomelskaia-oblast-obsuzhdaet-rasshirenie-partnerstva-s-771554-2026/

[86] Gomel and Tashkent regions intend to strengthen cooperation [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/gomelskaia-i-tashkentskaia-oblasti-namereny-ukrepliat-sotrudnichestvo-771685-2026/

[87] Universities in Gomel and Tashkent plan to jointly train staff for the transport sector through full-time study [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/vuzy-gomelja-i-tashkenta-planirujut-sovmestno-gotovit-kadry-dlja-transportnoj-sfery-v-ochnom-formate-749801-2025/

cooperation. For reference, it should be noted that 'the first interregional agreement between the Gomel and Fergana regions was signed in 2019'[88] . An agreement on cooperation between the chambers of commerce and industry of the two regions has also now been signed. The parties plan to partner in several areas – agriculture, mechanical engineering and woodworking. "In particular, the Gomel Region can offer combine harvesters, equipment for storing and cooling milk, fish feed and food products"[89] . Discussions also touched upon the possibility of establishing joint production facilities within the framework of free economic zone cooperation.

Summing up the visit of the **Gomel Region** delegation to this Central Asian country, we would like to emphasise that cooperation between the south-eastern region of Belarus and the two Uzbek regions – **Tashkent** and **Fergana** – has taken a new step towards strengthening interaction, with a view to increasing trade volumes and expanding investment partnerships.

After all, direct links between the regions form the foundation of trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan, which will, in the long term, reach a new level and facilitate the implementation of planned projects in priority areas.

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[88] Gomel and Fergana regions have signed a roadmap for the implementation of joint projects [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/dorozhnuju-kartu-dlja-realizatsii-sovmestnyh-proektov-podpisali-gomelskaja-i-ferganskaja-oblasti-771961-2026/

[89] "The figures may be higher". In which areas will the Gomel and Fergana regions strengthen their partnership [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/tsifry-mogut-byt-vyshe-v-kakih-sferah-usiljat-partnerstvo-gomelskaja-i-ferganskaja-oblasti-771932-2026/

## India: focus on the pharmaceutical sector

In 2027, Belarus and India will mark the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Today, the two countries are focused on strengthening economic ties and expanding cooperation in the field of technology. The parties believe that "the time has come to move beyond the traditional strengths of bilateral trade and explore new product categories and areas of cooperation"[90] . Statistics show that over the last three years, bilateral trade between Minsk and New Delhi has grown by more than a quarter. Foreign trade between the countries is diversified. "Belarus supplies the Indian market with chemical industry products, woodworking products, and light industrial goods, particularly Belarusian flax. Indian electrical goods, food products and textiles are popular on the Belarusian market"[91] .

Among the most important areas of Belarusian-Indian cooperation, the healthcare sector is worth noting. After all, investment projects in the pharmaceutical sector involving Indian capital and technology are being implemented in Belarus. "Joint production of modern medicines is a key promising area of bilateral cooperation"[92] . Furthermore, an increasing number of students from India are coming to our country. A large number of Indian medical students – already around a thousand – are studying at Belarusian state medical universities, undergoing professional retraining and enhancing their qualifications. "The vast majority of them are receiving medical education in

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[90] Kumar, A. Bollywood in Belarus, BELAZ trucks in Indian mines: Indian ambassador on the strong friendship with
our country / Ashok Kumar // [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/interview/view/bollivud-v-belarusi-belazy-na-indijskih-shahtah-posol-indii-o-prochnoj-druzhbe-s-nashej -stranoj -9937/

[91] Trade turnover between Belarus and India has grown by more than a quarter over three years [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-belarusi-i-indii-za-tri-goda-vyros-bolee-chem-na-chetvert-765154-2026/

[92] Khodjaev: Investment projects in the pharmaceutical sector involving India are being implemented in Belarus [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/hodzhaev-v-belarusi-realizujutsja-investproekty-v-farmatsevticheskoj-sfere-s-uchastiem-indii-761092-2026/

Minsk, Grodno, Vitebsk and Gomel"[93] .

And so, in March 2026, the Indo-Belarusian Pharmaceutical Business Forum took place in Minsk. Organised on the initiative of the Indian Pharmaceutical Export Council (Pharmexcil), the event brought together over 60 Indian manufacturers of pharmaceutical, cosmetics and biological supplements, as well as at least 80 representatives of Belarusian enterprises. This forum served as further evidence that, for both Belarus and India, the pharmaceutical sector is of strategic importance and one of the most dynamically developing sectors of the economy. Suffice it to say that in Belarus over the past five years, the average annual growth rate of pharmaceutical production has exceeded 10 per cent, and the geographical reach of exports spans 30 countries worldwide. At the same time, the Belarusian pharmaceutical industry remains focused on growth, increasing local production and expanding retail demand. "Over five years, from 2019 to 2024, the volume of pharmaceutical production increased by approximately 80 per cent at an average annual growth rate of around 13.2 per cent, making the pharmaceutical sector one of the fastest-growing in the country"[94] .

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India is a recognised global leader in pharmaceuticals, accounting for "around 10% of total global pharmaceutical production. By the end of 2025, exports had exceeded $15 billion. India ranks third in terms of the volume of medicines exported to more than 200 countries and is known as the 'pharmacy of the world' for its high-quality generics [95] . And here is another fact: according to forecasts, the global pharmaceutical market is set to double by 2035, reaching a staggering $3.5 trillion. These facts clearly demonstrate the importance and

[93] Medical education and retraining. Around 1,000 Indian students are studying at Belarusian universities [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/special/society/view/meditsinskoe-obrazovanie-i-perepodgotovka-okolo-1-tys-indiiskih--students-are-studying-at-Belarusian-universities-761043-2026/

[94] The third meeting of the Belarusian-Indian working group on pharmaceuticals is scheduled for June 2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/special/society/view/tretie-zasedanie-belorussko-indiiskoi-rabochei-gruppy-po-farmatsevtike-planiruetsia-v-iiune-2026-goda-770554-2026/

[95] Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry: Belarusian and Indian businesses are interested in implementing joint projects [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/beltpp-biznes-belarusi-i-indii-zainteresovan-v-realizatsii-sovmestnyh-proektov-770570-2026/

promise of building mutually beneficial Belarusian-Indian cooperation in this sector. All the more so given that, over the past three decades or so, India and Belarus have developed a strong multilateral partnership in the pharmaceutical industry.

Back in 2017, the two countries established a joint working group on pharmaceuticals to develop bilateral cooperation in this sector; its first meeting took place in New Delhi, whilst the second was held virtually in 2023. The group's third meeting is scheduled for June 2026. At this forum, the cooperation between the Belarusian state-owned enterprise 'Akademfarm' and two Indian pharmaceutical manufacturers – Cipla and Reliance Life Sciences – was cited as an example of successful collaboration. A key area of cooperation between Belarus and India is the deepening of technological cooperation in fields such as the secondary packaging of Indian medicines at the facilities of the Belarusian enterprise, technology transfer in the field of pharmaceutical production from leading Indian manufacturers, the establishment of joint production sites, and contract manufacturing for subsequent export to the markets of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

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In addition, a project was launched at the forum to establish an international research centre, whose remit will include the following activities: 'conducting research, including on behalf of foreign partners; preparing and reviewing registration dossiers in accordance with EAEU regulations; developing technologies for production in pilot batch format; organising clinical trials within the EAEU; and developing and validating new methods for the control of active substances and finished pharmaceutical products'[96]. The establishment of such a centre will contribute to increasing the output of new, high-tech finished products with a high degree of localisation.

India, meanwhile, is counting on cooperation with Belarus in the field of

[96] An international research centre in the field of pharmaceuticals to be established in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/v-belarusi-sozdadut-mezhdunarodnyi-nauchno-issledovatelskij-tsentr-v-oblasti-farmatsevtiki-770562-2026/

the traditional Indian system of medicine known as AYUSH: Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and homeopathy. "The Indian side has already submitted a memorandum of understanding on this matter to the Belarusian government for consideration"[97] . The South Asian country's embassy in Minsk has also opened an AYUSH information centre at its premises to promote these health systems and disseminate information about them. All this will lead not only to the opening up of new business opportunities between the countries, but also to the creation of opportunities for joint research and development of medicines and pharmaceutical products.

And finally, the India-Belarus Pharmaceutical Business Forum, held in Minsk in March this year, highlighted new opportunities for developing cooperation in this sector. The parties are counting on a further strengthening of business ties between Belarus and India. All the more so as the 12th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Cooperation in the fields of the economy, trade, industry, science, technology and culture, as well as the 10th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Science and Technology, at which the current prospects for bilateral projects and new areas of partnership will be discussed, including in the fields of healthcare and pharmaceuticals.

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[97] India looks forward to cooperation with Belarus in the field of traditional medicine [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/indija-rasschityvaet-na-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusjju-v-oblasti-traditsionnoj-meditsiny-770558-2026/

## Africa: from a programme to systematic work on the development of cooperation

The Action Programme for the Development of Cooperation with African Countries for 2024–2026, as well as the roadmap for cooperation with all key countries on the continent, were reviewed at the end of October 2025 at **a meeting chaired by the Belarusian head of state.** It was noted at the time that African countries currently account for only two per cent of Belarus's total exports. Statistics show that until 2019, Belarus's partnerships developed mainly with countries in the north of the continent – Egypt, Libya and Sudan. However, in the 2020s, experience began to be gained in cooperation with Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Kenya. Botswana, Uganda, Ghana and Mozambique have also expressed an interest in cooperating with Belarus.

During the October (2025) meeting, the objective was set to increase supplies of Belarusian products to the African continent in the near future to at least one billion dollars. To achieve this, it is necessary: firstly, to consolidate a foothold in already established markets in order to expand the product range and increase supply volumes; secondly, to seek out and find new markets for products from Belarus. This constitutes a comprehensive approach, the essence of which lies in several successive stages. 'First, this involves the supply of machinery, the establishment of appropriate service centres, and staff training. Subsequently, the transition to the creation of joint large-scale assembly of machinery. Another stage involves setting up joint processing facilities, primarily for agricultural produce...'[98] , to strengthen the food security of African partners. It should be noted that exports of Belarusian engineering products to this region of the world are gradually, but steadily, increasing. 'Indeed, deliveries to Africa have been growing for the second year running. Exports of engineering products to this continent have risen by 6.6 per cent; in particular, shipments of tractors have

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[98] "This needs to be done quickly". Karankevich on Belarus's plans to operate in African markets [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/eto-nuzhno-delat-bystro-karankevich-rasskazal-o-planah-belarusi-po-rabote-na-rynkah-afriki-745984-2025/

increased 11.3-fold, and those of lorries 4.7-fold"[99] .

As for agricultural exports, the African market is relatively new for Belarusian producers, and efforts to actively develop it in terms of establishing ties are only just beginning. Nevertheless, there are already encouraging results regarding exports of certain food products – skimmed milk powder and, in particular, baby food. In particular, Belarusian producers have already adapted to the demands of this market and are supplying baby food there in tin cans. And 'export contracts have already been concluded. With regard to food products, plans are being drawn up for future supplies of Belarusian beef and poultry to Africa'[100] . Agreements have also been reached on organising supplies of plant protection products. Furthermore, the Belarusian side is proposing that African countries implement joint projects to build agro-industrial infrastructure facilities – compound feed mills, dairy complexes and poultry farms.

Belarus has also set itself the task of significantly increasing the number of students from Africa studying at Belarusian higher education institutions, as the African continent is currently one of the most dynamically developing regions. There are currently around 2,600 young people from the continent studying at our universities, learning various technologies – in engineering, agriculture and medical specialisms. "The next step towards making educational cooperation more dynamic is the conclusion of bilateral agreements at university level. This makes it possible not only to attract foreign students through individual applications, but also to establish a systematic approach in this regard"[101] . In cooperation with Zimbabwe, they have gone even further and started organising internships in Belarus for teaching staff from that country. It is anticipated that

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[99] Tractors and lorries: supplies of Belarusian engineering products to Africa are growing [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/traktory-i-gruzoviki-postavki-produkcii-belorusskogo-mashinostroenija-v-afriku-rastut-745863-2025/

[100] The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has revealed which Belarusian products are most in demand in Africa [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/minselhozprod-rasskazal-kakie-belorusskie-produkty-naibolee-vostrebovany-v-afrike-745992-2025/

[101] The Belarusian Ministry of Education expects to significantly increase the number of students from Africa [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/minobrazovanija-belarusi-rasschitvvaet-kratno-narastit-kolichestvo-studentov-iz-afriki-745988-2025/

lecturers who undergo regular internships at Belarusian universities will effectively become ambassadors for Belarusian education on that continent.

Finally, Belarus's cooperation with Africa in the field of healthcare is structured around three main areas: medical services, training of specialists, and pharmaceuticals. Regarding the export of medical services, it is worth noting that this increased significantly in 2025. As for training programmes for healthcare professionals, the situation here remains stable. "Around 500 citizens of African countries are trained in medical specialities in Belarus every year"[102] . The task now is to gradually increase the number of students. Significant, though as yet untapped, potential is also seen in the pharmaceutical sector. The Belarusian side is convinced that concrete results can be achieved here too.

In December 2025**,** the **Belarus-Africa Business Forum** took place**,** attended by diplomats from around forty embassies of African and Middle Eastern countries in the Russian Federation. More than twenty of these were represented at the level of heads of diplomatic missions. During the forum, it was noted that the Belarusian side is actively developing not only political contacts with many states on the continent, but also economic ones. All the more so because "Belarus is not merely prepared to contribute to meeting the growing demand for foodstuffs, industrial and agricultural machinery and equipment, mineral products, and chemical industry goods through simple supplies of goods. We are talking about long-term trade and economic cooperation involving investment and a transition to industrial cooperation with the creation of joint production facilities"[103] . And against the backdrop of the active development of new sectors of the economy, the Belarusian side is interested in expanding partnerships beyond the traditional quartet: engineering – agriculture – education

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[102] Healthcare services, training of specialists, pharmaceuticals. The Ministry of Health has identified three pillars of
cooperation with Africa [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/meduslugi-podgotovka-spetsialistov-farmatsevtika-v-minzdrave-nazvali-tri--pillars-of-cooperation-with-746008-2025/

[103] Speech by S. Lukashevich, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, at the Belarus-Africa Forum (16 December 2025, Moscow) [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/f25c5a8b31d6fd6e.html

– healthcare. For example, in the digital sphere.

Let us summarise the situation. The meeting held in 2025 with the Belarusian head of state on the development of cooperation with Africa and the-African Business Forum held in 2025 demonstrated that Belarus views African countries as promising partners for economic and political cooperation and intends to continue actively working to strengthen relations with African partners on the basis of mutual benefit and respect in all spheres – from the economy and trade to culture and education. The establishment of joint ventures, investment in infrastructure projects and the development of tourism – all this opens up new and relevant horizons for the Belarusian-African partnership.

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## Africa: Action Programme as a systematic mechanism for cooperation

In March 2026, the Presidium of the Council of Ministers approved the government's action programme for the development of Belarus's cooperation with African countries for 2026–2030, with the aim of establishing a systematic mechanism to consolidate our republic's presence on the continent. Its aim is to establish an effective political, trade and economic, logistical and humanitarian toolkit for promoting Belarus's interests in Africa and forging sustainable ties with the continent's nations. This document identifies promising areas of cooperation, goods of export interest, and tools for achieving the set goals and objectives. It also identifies the priorities of African countries in terms of the intensity of cooperation with the Belarusian side, taking into account the presence of diplomatic missions, the nature of bilateral political, trade, economic and humanitarian relations, the economic potential of partner countries and the existence of joint projects under development. Of the 54 African countries, three categories have been identified: 1) key partners; 2) promising countries; 3) countries for targeted initiatives. Ultimately, "the plan is to ensure that actual exports of goods and services to Africa reach a level of around $1.5 billion by 2030"[104] . The implementation of this programme should ensure systematic efforts to intensify cooperation with African countries and increase supplies of Belarusian products to the continent.

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As it happened, just the day before, in early March, the head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, M. Ryzhenkov paid a working visit – the first in the history of diplomatic relations between and these countries at the level of Belarus's Minister of Foreign Affairs – to two countries on the African continent**:** **Ghana** and **Togo.** Until now, there had been virtually no legal framework with

[104] Government action programme on the development of Belarus's cooperation with African countries for 2026–2030 approved [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/utverzhdena-programma-dejstvij-pravitelstva-po-razvitiju-sotrudnichestva- belarusi-so-stranami-afriki-768512-2026/

these states, no significant contracts had been signed previously, and trade had been sporadic. These visits helped to define the directions and main lines of further cooperation in working with these African partners.

In **Ghana,** during bilateral Ghana-Belarus talks, the country's President, D.D. Mahama, "highlighted the agricultural sector in particular, proposing to develop a five-year programme of cooperation in the agricultural sector"[105] . This involves the establishment of Belarusian processing facilities in this African country, as well as the development of a network of agricultural mechanisation centres – twelve such centres are planned to be opened this year. "The Ghanaian side emphasised the need to adapt Belarusian machinery to local conditions, as well as to develop irrigation and create facilities for cold storage of crops"[106] . Separately, the parties discussed the training of Ghanaian specialists in the agricultural sector at Belarusian specialised educational institutions. For reference, it should be noted that "around 80 students from Ghana are currently studying in Belarus"[107] . Ghana is keen to see a significant increase in this number, particularly in agricultural and medical disciplines.

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The Belarusian side, meanwhile, presented the potential of its agro-industrial complex in terms of cooperation: opportunities for supplying dried milk and poultry meat, purchasing Ghanaian cocoa beans under direct contracts, and collaboration in livestock and crop farming, including the supply of breeding stock, compound feed and veterinary medicines. During this visit, funding was secured and an order has already been placed for the production in Belarus of around three thousand units of domestic machinery, including tractors and attachments. Specific agreements have also been reached on increasing

[105] Ghana has proposed that Belarus develop an agricultural cooperation programme [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/gana-predlozhila-belarusi-razrabotat-programmu-agrarnogo-vzaimodejstvija-767508-2026/

[106] Ghana has proposed that Belarus engage in cocoa processing. What else are the countries interested in regarding each other [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/gana-predlozhila-belarusi-zanjatsia-pererabotkoi-kakao-chem-esche-strany-interesny-drug-drugu-767713-2026/

[107] Ryzhenkov: we have identified key trade routes with Ghana and Togo, and expect exponential growth [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/politics/view/ryzhenkov-my-naschupali-magistralnye-linii-v-torgovle-s-ganoi-i-togo-rasschityvaem-na-kratnyi-rost-768444-2026/

supplies of milk powder and meat. Until now, supplies of these product groups have been insignificant – amounting to around 200–300 thousand dollars. It is expected that following this visit, export supplies will increase significantly.

As a result, the parties agreed that the President of Ghana will visit Belarus in June this year to lay the foundations for the legal framework of bilateral relations in Minsk and sign a package of international documents. "These include agreements on visa-free travel for holders of diplomatic and service passports, on the mechanisation of agriculture, on export credits, and on the establishment of an intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation...,"[108] .

As regards cooperation between Belarus and **Togo,** the parties focused in Lomé on developing the legal framework. The Belarusian side "proposed speeding up the drafting of agreements on investment protection and the avoidance of double taxation" [109] . This initiative received full support. Furthermore, during this visit, a decision was taken to finance the supply of four and a half thousand units of agricultural machinery from Belarus to Togo. Exports of Belarusian food products – meat and dairy – will also be developed . To this end, the relevant veterinary certificates have been signed.

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The Belarusian side confirmed its readiness to offer Togolese partners not just one-off supplies of machinery, but comprehensive solutions for the mechanisation of agriculture, including an investment component, training for local specialists and the organisation of assembly plants. In Togo, where the agro-industrial sector accounts for 40 per cent of the economy, interest has been expressed in cooperation in the fields of mechanisation, irrigation and the creation of modern storage infrastructure. Our country is ready to import coffee, cocoa, fruit and nuts, as well as to work on the development of compound fertilisers for West African markets. Togo is also interested in processing technologies, the adaptation of Belarusian agricultural machinery and assembly

[108] The President of Ghana plans to visit Belarus [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/politics/view/prezident-gany-planiruet-posetit-s-vizitom-belarus-767710-2026/

[109] Belarus is working on the development of compound fertilisers for West African markets [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/belarus-prorabatyvaet-sozdanie-kompleksnyh-udobrenij-dlja-rynkov-zapadnoj-afriki-767506-2026/

plants.

The logistics capabilities of this African country are of particular interest to Belarus. It is home to the deep-water port of Lomé – one of the most powerful in West Africa, handling around 30 million tonnes of cargo annually in both directions. It serves as a key link, a gateway of sorts for states in the Central African region to access the wider world. Thus, "Togo is regarded by Belarus as one of its priority partners on the African continent and as an important logistics hub for accessing the markets of the Sahel countries"[110] .

An important outcome of this visit was the signing of an intergovernmental agreement on the abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic and service passports, as well as a memorandum of understanding between the foreign ministries of the two countries on holding political consultations, which lay a solid foundation for the further development of political dialogue. The parties agreed to step up efforts to improve the legal framework, primarily in the trade and economic sphere. To this end, a roadmap for bilateral cooperation will be drawn up. The Belarusian side has submitted a package of three draft sectoral agreements for consideration by its Togolese partners – between chambers of commerce and industry, and in the fields of agriculture and export credit.

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Let us summarise the key points. Returning to the Belarusian government's action programme for developing cooperation with African countries

for 2026–2030, we note that 'Belarus is entering the African market as a true partner and friend. First, machine kits; then service centres; then training for local staff; and finally, the establishment of assembly plants. And this approach is supported by African countries"[111] . Africa has always been an attractive

[110] Belarus and Togo take bilateral relations to a new stage. First details of Ryzhenkov's visit to Lomé [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/politics/view/ministr-inostrannyh-del-belarusi-maksim-ryzhenkov-vstretilsja-s-ministrom-inostrannyh-del-togo-767275-2026/

[111] Belarus to supply Togo and Ghana with a large consignment of agricultural machinery [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/belarus-postavit-v-togo-i-ganu-

continent for Belarus. All the more so as contacts with these countries have recently begun to develop in a substantive and active manner. The emergence of a concrete action plan in this context shows that African countries, with most of which we share a common approach to global processes, are a very significant asset in international efforts to support Belarusian initiatives and approaches. So this is by no means a random direction in Belarusian diplomacy.

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## Africa: steadily expanding export geography

Africa is a promising region for the development of Belarus's trade and economic ties. In 2026, Belarusian exporters plan to step up their participation in international exhibitions on the African continent, steadily expanding the geographical reach of their exports to the region through business exhibition forums. All the more so as "interested enterprises <. .> will be able to find export opportunities across the entire spectrum"[112] .

In particular, the Belarusian delegation is one of the most eagerly awaited guests of honour at the multi-sector international exhibition **Zimbabwe International Trade Fair 2026 (ZITF)**, which will take place in April in the **Zimbabwean** city of Bulawayo. It should be noted that this African country is seeing increased demand for Belarusian food products, machinery and equipment, technologies and scientific developments, as well as for offerings in the fields of education, culture and tourism. The high quality and competitive prices of Belarusian products make them among the most attractive offerings on the Zimbabwean market. In 2025, companies from Belarus took part in a similar international multi-sector exhibition, where "over 20 countries were represented, including China, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, representatives of European Union countries and regions of the African continent. Over 430 exhibitors showcased their products and goods at the Zimbabwe International Exhibition Centre"[113] . At that time, the **Made in Belarus** exhibition stands featured a wide range of goods and services from the sectors of mechanical engineering, the food industry and the education sector.

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The largest international multi-sector business event in **Mozambique** – the **FACIM 2026** exhibition – is also included in the list of significant regional

[112] From Zimbabwe to Ghana. Which international exhibitions in Africa will Belarusian enterprises take part in this year [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/ot-zimbabve-do-gany-v-kakih-mezhdunarodnyh-vystavkah-afriki-primut-uchastie-belorusskie-predprijatija-770830-2026/

[113] Zaleski, B. In focus: phased partnership. Belarus's multifaceted economic cooperation across different continents / Boris Zaleski. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. - p. 42.

events for this year. The exhibition is scheduled to take place in late August – early September in Maputo, the capital of this African nation. Key sections of the forum include the agricultural and food sectors, industrial production, technology and communications, digital solutions, and scientific and educational programmes. This exhibition "attracts more than 350 exhibitors, both national and international, representing around 30 countries, 800 foreign companies and 70,000 visitors"[114] .

Taking into account feedback and requests from Belarusian enterprises, work is currently underway to organise the participation of domestic companies and organisations in the international trade exhibition in the fields of agriculture, the food industry and packaging, ingredients, bakery and confectionery products, foodstuffs and the hospitality industry – **Agrofood West Africa 2026**, which will take place in October in Accra**,** the capital **of Ghana,** and will cover the entire value chain: from farm to fork. "The cooperation focuses primarily on agricultural technologies, livestock farming, floriculture and horticulture, as well as greenhouse technologies"[115] .

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Belarus is also exploring the possibility of participating in **MINEXPO Africa 2026**, the largest regional African trade fair, which is due to take place in October in Dar es Salaam, **Tanzania's** largest city**.** This exhibition is organised in six African countries, the oldest of which have been held in Tanzania and Kenya for the past thirty years. It is the region's leading event 'in the field of mineral extraction and processing, earthmoving works, and safety equipment'[116] and serves as a comprehensive platform for representatives from across East Africa seeking new products, equipment, machinery, services and solutions related to the mining sector.

And in December 2026, the international food and beverage trade fair

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[114] Mozambique International Multisectoral Exhibition FACIM 2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://www.belinterexpo.by/events/mezhdunarodnye-vystavki/mozambikskaya-mezhdunarodnaya-mnogootraslevaya-vystavka-facim-2026-/

[115] Agrofood West Africa 2026 [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://worldexpo.pro/agrofood-west-africa

[116] MINEXPO AFRICA 2026 in Tanzania [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://www.belinterexpo.by/events/mezhdunarodnye-vystavki/minexpo-africa-2026-v-tanzanii/

**Food Africa** will take place in Cairo – the capital **of Egypt –** where the **Belarus. The Taste of Nature** exhibition, featuring domestic producers, is traditionally expected to be presented. It is worth recalling that in December 2024, this forum brought together around a thousand exhibitors from more than thirty countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, China, Russia, Turkey, Italy, Greece, France, Spain, Switzerland and Japan. Following two days of discussions between Belarusian companies and their Egyptian partners, eight documents were signed at the time. "These are commercial contracts and cooperation agreements totalling around $12 million"[117] .

As for the participation of Belarusian enterprises in international exhibitions in African countries in 2025, there are a few more interesting facts worth noting. For example, two exhibition forums took place in Algeria last year. In April, "as part of the **Djazagro 2025** food industry exhibition, around 600 exhibitors and 108 unique brands from 36 countries were represented"[118] , whilst participants in the national exhibition **Belarus. The Taste of Nature** showcased a new, extensive range of products, offering items tailored to regional characteristics and demand. The Belarusian range included the most sought-after and popular items: a line of dry dairy products, butter, frozen quark and an assortment of cheeses.

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And in September, over two thousand companies from 80 countries took part in **the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) 2025,** held in Algiers under the slogan "Gateway to New Opportunities". For the first time, companies from Belarus's engineering and pharmaceutical sectors were represented at this fair. Participants in **the "Made in Belarus"** exhibition, including OJSC "MAZ" – the managing company of the "BELAVTOMAZ" holding, RUE "Belmedpreparaty", OJSC "Babushkina Krynka", and OJSC "Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange", "presented a wide range of products, offering

[117] Myatlikov: Belarusian companies have signed contracts worth approximately $12 million during a visit to Egypt [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/mjatlikov-belorusskie-predprijatiia-zakljuchili-kontraktov-primemo-na-12-mln-v-ramkah-vizita-v-egipet-631580-2024/

[118] Zaleski, B. The reserves of the "outer arc". The specifics of Belarus's interaction with the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America / Boris Zaleski. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2025. - p. 320.

automotive solutions, pharmaceutical developments, a range of dairy products, and promising projects"[119]

In July last year, leading enterprises of the Belarusian petrochemical industry took part in the 10th international exhibition of plastics, rubber, composites and petrochemicals**, PlastExpo**, which was held on the Atlantic coast **of Morocco**, in Casablanca: "Belshina" – truck tyres and rubber products for the Moroccan automotive industry; "Grodno Azot" – nitrogen fertilisers and polyamides for agriculture and processing; "Polotsk-Steklovolokno" – composite materials for construction and wind energy. Overall, "around 300 national and international exhibitors set up stands at one of the region's largest exhibition centres, representing the host country – Morocco – as well as Belarus, Egypt, India, Spain, Italy, Qatar, Turkey, Portugal and France"[120] . They were visited by over 20,000 people.

In July 2025, the **Angolan** capital, Luanda, hosted the **FILDA 2025** international multi-sector exhibition, which is Southern Africa's largest trade and economic event and a universal business platform for interaction between representatives of government, business and retail chains in the region. On the sidelines of FILDA 2025, with the support of the Angolan Ministry of Industry and Trade, a series of events was held focusing on the prospects for the manufacturing sector and the country's economic reforms, taking into account its investment potential. More than 1,300 companies from around 20 countries took part, including from the United Kingdom, Brazil, Sweden, India, Japan, and numerous companies representing the European Union and the United States of America. Belarusian enterprises showcased their potential at the **'Made in Belarus'** exhibition – domestic developments in the production of quarry and specialised machinery. In particular, 'Gomselmash Holding – the largest

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[119] Zaleski, B. Africa as a Partnership Benchmark. The Evolution of Deepening Interaction between Belarus and the Countries of the Continent / Boris Zaleski. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2026. - p. 67.

[120] Tyres, fertilisers and composite materials. How the Belarusian petrochemical industry is conquering the Moroccan market [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/shiny-udobrenija-i-kompozitnye-materialy-chem-belorusskaia-neftehimij a-pokorj aet-marokkanskij -rynok-722528-2025/

manufacturer of agricultural machinery, ranking among the world market leaders in combine harvesters and other complex agricultural machinery'[121] [10]. The Belarusian exhibition stand featured thematic materials on the trade, economic, investment, industrial and socio-cultural potential of the Republic of Belarus. During the exhibition, a series of business meetings and negotiations were organised with foreign partners and representatives of the business community in Angola and the region.

All these facts demonstrate that the participation of Belarusian enterprises and organisations in collective national exhibitions at various trade fairs in African countries contributes to the promotion of domestic products on the continent's market, the establishment of new business contacts with potential partners, the growth of Belarusian exports and the diversification of its product range.

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[121] Quarry and specialised machinery. Belarusian companies showcase their potential at an exhibition in Angola [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/karjernaja-i-spetsializirovannaja-tehnika-belorusskie-kompanii-prezentujut-potentsial-na-vystavke-v-728034-2025/

## Tanzania: focus on the prospects for strengthening partnerships

In May 2026, the Republic of Belarus will mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with **the United Republic of Tanzania** – a country in East Africa that is one of Minsk's key partners in that region of the continent. Tanzania's population exceeds sixty million people. The country possesses a significant resource base for the development of its national economy – coal, tin, phosphates, uranium, iron ore, diamonds, precious stones and gold. Nevertheless, around 80 per cent of the workforce is employed in the country's agricultural sector. However, in January 2026, Tanzania announced the development of a new strategy for the development of its industrial sector, which will help create 6.5 million jobs over six years and open 9,048 factories, significantly increasing the number of jobs and improving the country's economic situation. "This will help farmers increase their incomes through the processing of agricultural produce and give young people the opportunity to become owners and managers of factories"[122]. To this end, in August 2025, Tanzania opened five special economic zones near Dar es Salaam – the country's largest city and main port – to attract investment in key sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, vehicle assembly and agricultural processing. These zones offer favourable conditions for investors, including tax incentives and simplified procedures.

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Cooperation between the governments of Belarus and Tanzania intensified in July 2025, when, for the first time in the nearly 30-year history of bilateral relations , a government delegation from this East African state visited the Belarusian capital, where during the talks the parties noted the positive dynamics of the development

of the partnership, the potential of which has yet to be realised, and outlined

[122] Tanzania: Government announces programme to build over 9,000 factories [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://africa-rus.com/novosti-rossiya-afrika/tanzaniya-pravitelstvo-obyavlyaet-o-programme-sozdaniya-bolee-9000-zavodov

'prospects for expanding cooperation in areas such as mechanical engineering, petrochemicals, the medical, food and defence industries, and tourism'[123] . In particular, Belarus expressed its readiness to supply a wide range of its quarrying, road construction, municipal and firefighting equipment, and also offered tractors, various attachments, combine harvesters, grain trucks, and grain storage and drying complexes adapted to the needs of the Tanzanian side. Furthermore, the Belarusian side is ready to share knowledge, technologies and expertise to provide after-sales support and training for technical personnel, with a view to implementing joint programmes and projects. To this end, Belarus is ready to provide training for Tanzanian youth at higher and secondary educational institutions in our country, and to organise staff training and internships in relevant specialisms: agriculture, engineering and technical
, medicine, internal security and military affairs.

The July 2025 talks in Minsk resulted in four memoranda of understanding in various fields: between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs – on political consultations; between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and the Ministry of Agriculture of Tanzania – on cooperation in the field of agriculture; between the Ministry of Education of Belarus and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Tanzania – on cooperation in the field of education; between the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Tanzania. Building on the signed documents, the Tanzanian side will assist Belarusian businesses in entering the market of this African country, and trade and investment are set to become the focus of bilateral cooperation, whilst it is necessary to consider "opportunities for closer cooperation with the Tanzanian side in the field of agriculture"[124] .

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[123] Alexander Turchin: Belarus regards Tanzania as an important partner in East Africa [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://govemment.by/news/aleksandr-turchin-belarus-rassmatrivaet-tanzaniyu-kak-vazhnogo-partnera-v-vostochnoy-afrike

[124] The Tanzanian government is ready to assist Belarusian businesses in entering the country's market [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/pravitelstvo-tanzanii-gotovo-okazat-sodeistvie-belorusskomu-biznesu-dlia-vyhoda-na-rynok-strany-727805-2025/

And as early as July of last year, substantive talks took place with a number of Belarusian exporting enterprises – the Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ) and the Belarusian Automobile Plant (BELAZ). In particular, OJSC "MTZ" "is already cooperating with Tanzania. "Over the past few years, we have supplied around 140 units of machinery there"[125] . Machinery with a power output of between 80 and 150 horsepower will be in demand in this African country. And as early as January 2026, the management of the Tanzanian company Kiluwa Steel Group Company discussed in Minsk "the possible establishment of a tractor assembly plant in the African country"[126] . As for BELAZ, it should be noted that "Tanzania is surrounded by nine countries, several of which have developed mineral extraction industries. All of them are linked by <...> the port of Dar es Salaam, through which machinery and spare parts can be supplied"[127] . And in January of this year, Tanzanian industrialists visited Zhodino again to discuss potential forms of cooperation with the Belarusian flagship of the automotive industry. All the more so given that "industrial mining of diamonds, gold and iron ore is underway in Tanzania, and there is great potential for the exploration and development of other minerals, particularly nickel and coal"[128] .

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The meetings and negotiations held in Minsk in July 2025 showed that Tanzania is also interested in Belarusian expertise in the pharmaceutical sector and has offered support for investment in this area. The fact is that the pharmaceutical industry is one of the main areas of development for this African country. Nevertheless, "today, around 80% of all medicines required by Tanzania are imported. Around 20% are produced domestically"[129] . This means that the

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[125] "Belarusian machinery has aroused genuine interest". The Prime Minister of Tanzania visited MTZ [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/belorusskaia-tehnika-vyzvala-nepoddelnyi-interes-premjer-ministr-tanzanii-posetil-mtz-727756-2025/

[126] MTZ is considering the possibility of setting up an assembly plant in Tanzania [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/mtz-rassmatrivaet-vozmozhnost-sozdanija-sborochnogo-proizvodstva-v-tanzanii-760237-2026/

[127] BELAZ establishes business ties with partners from Tanzania [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/belaz-nalazhivaet-delovye-sviazi-s-partnerami-iz-tanzanii-728583-2025/

[128] Tanzania is interested in developing closer mutually beneficial ties with BELAZ [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/tanzaniia-zainteresovana-v-bolee-tesnom-razvitii-vzaimovygodnyh-svjazej-s-belazom-759572-2026/

[129] Tanzania is interested in Belarusian expertise in the pharmaceutical industry and investment in it

potential for establishing pharmaceutical production in this country is quite significant. Moreover, the Tanzanian government's support for Belarusian investors involves not only assistance with processing the necessary documents, licences, permits and certificates, but also exemption from certain payments. Thus, successful cooperation in this area could prove highly mutually beneficial, as the Belarusian side offers safe and high-quality medicines. For this reason, Minsk and Dodoma have agreed that cooperation should be phased and efficient.

Another area of promising cooperation between Belarus and Tanzania is education. In July 2025, the Belarusian side expressed its readiness to provide education for Tanzanian youth in higher and secondary institutions, and to organise staff training and internships not only in medical specialities but also in other fields. Furthermore, the Tanzanian government is currently implementing a programme aimed at encouraging students and school leavers to study scientific disciplines. "We are talking about scientific disciplines related to data processing and artificial intelligence. Tanzania is interested in cooperating in this field with international partners"[130] . And as early as January 2026, a business delegation from this African country visited Belarusian State University (BSU), where they discussed promising partnerships to be developed in the field of artificial intelligence and information technology. It is worth noting that in 2025, BSU introduced a new degree programme – "African Studies" – at the Faculty of International Relations, which has become one of the most sought-after among prospective students. And today, "more than 80 students from the continent are studying at BSU – they are representatives of more than 15 countries, including Chad, Nigeria, Egypt and Zimbabwe"[131] . So we hope that in 2026, Tanzania will also be added to the list of BSU's partner countries.

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[Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/tanzanija-zainteresovana-v-belorusskih-kompetentsijah-v-farmotrasli-i-investitsijah-v-nee-727713-2025/

[130] BSTU is known even in Tanzania. Delegations from that country were shown how specialists are trained at the Belarusian university [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/bgatu-izvesten-dazhe-v-tanzanii-delegatsii-etoj-strany-pokazali-kak-gotovjat-spetsialistov-v-728008-2025/

[131] Information technology and AI: Tanzanian universities are interested in cooperation with BSU [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/informatsionnye-tehnologii-i-ii-tanzaniiskie-universitety-zainteresovany-v-sotrudnichestve-s-bgu-760494-2026/

Speaking of laying the foundations for expanding constructive dialogue between the two countries, it is worth noting that in January of this year, Belarus signed an agreement to supply a wide range of its products to Tanzania. Financial support for joint projects will be provided by the Development Bank, which sees "significant prospects for expanding cooperation in priority sectors – engineering, medicine, the food industry and tourism"[132] . This suggests that Belarusian-Tanzanian cooperation is moving from the phase of signing agreements and memoranda to joint practical projects on food security, agricultural mechanisation, as well as in the educational, medical and scientific-technical spheres, in order to achieve significant progress in cooperation between the two states - the Republic of Belarus and the United Republic of Tanzania.

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[132] Supplies of municipal and agricultural machinery from Belarus to Tanzania. Which projects will the Development Bank support [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/postavki-kommunalnoj-i-selhoztehniki-iz-belarusi-v-tanzaniju-kakie-proekty-podderzhit-bank-razvitija-760056-2026/

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6. 19 investment projects have been implemented in the Grodno Region under the "One District – One Project" programme [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/v-grodnenskoj-oblasti-realizovano-19-investproektov- po-programme-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-763481-2026/

7. An eye microsurgery centre has opened in Grodno thanks to the "One District – One Project" initiative [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/tsentr-mikrohirurgii-glaza-pojavilsja-v-grodno-blagodarja-initsiative-odin-rajon-odin-proekt-747364-2025/

8. Wood processing, glassware production, poultry meat processing. What investment projects have been implemented in the Grodno Region [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/derevoobrabotka-glassware-production-poultry-meat-processing-what-investment-projects-have-been-implemented-in- 759418-2026/

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12. District-scale project: Dobrush Paper Mill triples production volumes over five years [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/proekt-rajonnogo-masshtaba-dobrushskaja-bumazhnaja-fabrika-za-pjatiletku-utroila-objemy-proizvodstva-765377-2026/

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16. District-scale project: production of three-colour tiles is being launched in Mikashevichi, whilst a milk drying plant is being built in Luninets [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/proekt-rajonnogo-masshtaba-vypusk-trehtsvetnoj-plitki-osvaivajut-v-mikashevichah-a-v-lunintse-strojat-751164-2025/

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