INNOVATIONS
IN THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH LANDSCAPE


In 2013, the Moscow publishing house Ekon-Inform published M.A. Galkin and I.A. Rodionova’s monograph National Innovative System and Internationalisation of Research. It deserves particular attention due to the theoretical significance of the problem of generation and transmission of information in the modern society and the practical need for Russia to modernise its national economy through developing a sustainable R&D and effective national innovation system.

Throughout human history, the evolution of world economy has been synchronised with the introduction of technological innovations. As the economies of developed countries embarked on the path of post-industrial development and science turned into a major factor of production, the search for the connection between the scientific and technological advance and economic growth became one of the key issues discussed both by scholars and practitioners. At the moment, most researchers representing different schools of thought agree that the progressive development of global economy will accelerate through rapid emergence of technological know-hows, diffusion of innovations, and the creation of corresponding new industries. The problem of modernising the national innovation system and integration of Russian science in the global processes of knowledge generation should become a priority in modern Russia. This emphasises the importance of studies into the functioning of national innovation systems of the leading countries of the world and, especially, the processes of internationalisation of research in a globalising world economy.

Innovations, technologies, new products, and information about them disseminate rapidly thus giving competitive advantages to certain countries, economic alliances, individual companies and their associations. Here, a question arises as to in what environment and under what conditions new knowledge emerges more often, disseminates more rapidly, and is used more efficiently. This question relates to the formation of the national innovation system and the designing of a strategy for science development and innovation introduction. A study into the development of national innovative systems in the conditions of research internationalisation is the focus of the monograph by M.A. Galkin and I.A. Rodionova. The strong points of the monograph are as follows.

Firstly, the authors present an analysis of the current international research landscape.
Secondly, they describe the organisation of knowledge generation systems in the leading economic powers.
Thirdly, the monograph analyses the avenues of research internationalisation in the world.
Fourthly, the authors address the research findings of Russian and international researchers (the monograph provides an ample bibliography, which can be of help to young researchers).

Finally, the monograph presents a typology of countries based on their participation in the process of innovation and research globalisation. The current avenues of research and innovation internationalisation are identified and described in detail (including technology transfer, joint publications of international authors, international cooperation, student and academic mobility, etc.).

Acknowledging the contribution of monograph and emphasising the strengths of the study, one can nevertheless mention a certain lack of factual information on the content of complex changes in the power balance within the international innovation hierarchy. The monograph presents vast and well-scrutinised material on the organisation of data on national innovation systems of certain countries — the current leaders in the innovation process. However, the logical conclusion of this remarkable analysis could be a comparison of the key parameters of these systems’ functioning aimed to demonstrate which practices should become a reference point for Russia in improving the national innovation system. Moreover, the monograph does not present an algorithm for adapting the international practices of national innovation system development to the Russian conditions. Emphasising the increasing role of transnational capital in global processes of producing and disseminating new knowledge and technologies, the authors merely acknowledge this phenomenon. However, this issue can become the focus of a separate research. The thesis about greater efficiency of purchasing ‘ready-made’ technological solutions on the international intellectual produce markets in comparison to independent R&D also requires further substantiation. Moreover, the mechanism of ‘implanting’ international technologies into the Russian economy is merely mentioned in the monograph. Nevertheless, the authors provided recommendations to increase Russian participation in the processes of research internationalisation aimed at the integration of national economy into the hi-tech landscape of global economic space. Yet, it would be helpful to specify what recommendations according to the authors are viable, i.e. can be implemented in the current Russian conditions, and what recommendations cannot be put into practice.

However, these remarks do not diminish the high research and practical significance of the study. The monograph will be of interest to students, professors, advanced training students, and everyone interested in the processes taking place in the modern world.

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