

Tax Regulation Methods of Subjects of Small Business in Russia and the Affection on Social Development

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Abstract – The subject of this study is the economic relations arising in the process of assessing the effectiveness of tax regulation of small businesses. For a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of tax regulation methods for small businesses in Russia, the authors analyzed official statistics on the main performance indicators of small businesses and their share in the formation of the budget revenue base. It was established that changes in Russian state policy influenced the change in dynamics of the number of small businesses and their share of paid taxes. Tax policy is not predictable, and the moratorium on increasing the tax burden is not being complied with, in contrast to what is stated in the development strategy of this sector of the economy. The level of importance of small and medium-sized enterprises for the economy of any state cannot be overestimated. This sector of the economy, due to its mobility and enormous potential, is designed to determine the rate of economic growth, the structure of gross national product, as well as to create a competitive environment and create jobs, solving the problem of unemployment.

Goal of the study: analysis of tax regulation methods affecting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in Russia, the rationale for their further improvement.

The methodological basis of this study consists of such methods of scientific research as generalizations and system analysis. Methods of comparison and statistical analysis were used in the processing of information.

Main results: 1. A comparative analysis of the main tax regulation methods of SMEs in Russia, based on the general system of taxation and special tax regimes, is presented. 2. Diagnostics of the effectiveness of existing tax regulation methods is conducted. 3. The assessment of the effectiveness of special tax regimes for small businesses in Russia is given. 4. Factors and issues affecting the development of small businesses in the economies of different countries are identified.

Key findings of the study: 1. The authors proposed tax regulation measures aimed at further improvement of special tax regimes, which focus on their promotion and present the opportunity to be used by a wider range of small enterprises, including medium-sized enterprises. 2. It is concluded that tax

regulation methods applied by the Russian Government are not sufficiently effective. Conditions of taxation for small businesses are more favorable, while tax preferences for medium-sized businesses are absent.

Keywords–tax regulation, special tax regimes, tax optimization

I. INTRODUCTION. GOAL SETTING AND ACTUALIZATION.

Complex financing of investment processes for enterprises of all forms of ownership is always associated with financial decisions regarding tax control and risks of choosing a tax regime. In developed countries, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) provide more than 50% of gross domestic product and a significant share of the budget tax revenues. The share of the population employed in this sector ranges from 35% to 80%.

The level of development of SMEs in Russia shows a significant lag in many indicators in comparison with other countries. The share of SMEs in the gross domestic product is at 20%. This sector of the economy provides only 25% of permanent jobs. The density of small and medium-sized businesses (the number of small and medium-sized enterprises per 1000 people) in Russia is comparable to foreign indicators. However, the average amount of value added produced by a single SME is noticeably lower than that of developed countries [6].

One of the main priorities of the current state policy in Russia is the adoption of measures aimed at the development of SMEs [2,4]. In order to achieve these strategic objectives, the government support for SMEs should be long-term and include a variety of existing forms, methods, and tools. The set of such methods and tools is diverse; it depends on the prevailing economic situation in the industry and the business infrastructure. Therefore, the effect of the implementation of such measures can be different. In this regard, the choice of effective tax regulation methods and the assessment of their impact on

the development of SMEs in Russia become relevant. Tax regulation in this context becomes one of the main instruments of state policy aimed at creating tax incentives for the development of SMEs.

The EU countries use a set of tax incentives for SMEs:

- introduction of tax holidays for newly registered small businesses – it was popular in 1980-1990s. Later experience showed the ineffectiveness of this measure, since it was used as a means of tax evasion. It is not used in Europe at present, with the exception of France (tax holidays are allowed not for newly registered enterprises, but for small innovative enterprises that have been working for a long time);

- reduction in the rate of income tax to the statutory maximum tax base – it was popular in countries with no special tax regimes for SMEs (Spain, France, etc.);

- accelerated depreciation – application of multiplying factors to stimulate investment and innovation activity. This tool is not widely used (Finland and Germany use it for SMEs, the UK – for small businesses);

- use of cash method for tax accounting purposes (Sweden);

- increase in the duration of tax periods – for example, the annual tax period for VAT instead of the monthly tax period for small businesses (Sweden);

- use of tax rebates (Belgium, UK) and tax credit (Spain, Norway) in order to stimulate investment and innovation;

- simplified administration and reporting – used by most countries to reduce the administrative expenses of small businesses [13].

In Russia, tax preferences are provided only for small businesses. The tax regulation of small businesses is expressed in the possibility of using special tax regimes. The general taxation system is provided for both large business and SMEs. However, there are no tax incentives in choosing this regime for SMEs.

Thus, international and Russian experience shows that methods and tools of tax regulation apply only to subjects of small business (SSB) and, as a rule, do not take into account the interests of medium-sized enterprises [9].

In Russia, the criteria and conditions for classifying business entities as small and medium-sized enterprises are defined by law. However, they transformed over time. In the new law, the eligibility criteria to obtain the status of SME have a certain classification. The list of organizations that can obtain it is expanded, which is a positive thing.

This article will consider the tax regulation methods aimed at the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in Russia, as well as main development trends of this sector of economy.

II. THEORY AND METHODS.

Modern specialized Russian literature considers tax regulation in a direct relationship with taxation and tax functions [10,11,15]. Foreign scientific community also pays sufficient attention to tax regulation [20,21,23]. Since there is no consensus on many issues of taxation, the authors consider the tax regulation ambiguously.

Walter Hettich and Stanley Winer analyze the interdependence of tax regulation and taxation in their study [23]. Peter Birch Sorensen explores the implications of an optimal tax theory of uniform taxation of goods and neutral taxation of capital income, and speaks of the lack of consensus in the scientific community on this issue [24].

The specifics of foreign research are based on a review of theoretical hypotheses and do not contain basic definitions and terms of the issues under consideration. In this regard, we think it is necessary to consider the modern views of Russian scientists on the concept of "tax regulation".

The author believes that tax regulation should be considered comprehensively in the process of organizing tax management at the macro level. When considering the process of tax management at the state level we study the following:

- subjects of the tax system (financial and tax authorities);

- objects of the tax system (a set of tax relations);

- tax mechanism (means of the subject affecting the object);

- tax policy (the ultimate goal of tax management, a specific result).

Russian publications pay enough attention to the study of special tax regimes [7,8,14,18]. Therefore, we can identify tax regulation methods stipulated by law for special tax regimes for SMEs. Comparison of tax regulation methods for SMEs in the general taxation system and special tax regimes are presented in Table 1.

It should be noted that Russia introduced a tax amnesty for individual entrepreneurs from January 1, 2018. Fines and penalties for the indicated taxes and fees are subject to write-off [3].

In Poland, during the tax base calculation under all existing tax regimes, expenses accounted for tax purposes are deducted from the amount of taxable income. Such expenses include insurance premiums paid to social insurance institutions (in 2016, the annual amount was PLN 9,275.52). The corresponding tax rate is applied to this amount. The tax amount determined in accordance with this procedure is reduced by the amount of medical insurance premiums (in 2016, the annual amount was PLN 3 467.4). The resulting amount is a tax credited to the budget, and it shows the level of income taxation [18].

TABLE 1 - ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN TAX REGULATION METHODS OF SMES IN RUSSIA IN THE GENERAL TAXATION SYSTEM AND SPECIAL TAX REGIMES [1]

General taxation system	Special tax regimes
The right to use the regime	
Subjects of small and medium enterprise	Only subjects of small enterprise.
Change in tax deadlines (on certain grounds)	
<p>1. Installment and deferment in payment of federal taxes credited to the federal budget. Available for the period of 1-3 years. Interest in the amount of ½ of the key rate of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation is charged.</p> <p>2. Investment tax credit. Available for income tax, as well as for regional and local taxes. Available for a period of 1-5 years. Interest in the amount of not less than ½ and not more than ¾ of the key rate of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation is charged. The available period for residents of the territorial development zone – up to 10 years. Interest on the credit amount is not charged.</p>	
Tax exemption	
<p>Organizations and individual entrepreneurs can be exempt from paying VAT if the amount of proceeds from the sale of goods (work, services) does not exceed 2 million rubles (excluding VAT) in three preceding consecutive calendar months. Such exemption cannot be obtained for selling excisable goods, as well as in relation to import and agent VAT. Small enterprises combining the production and processing of agricultural products, producing consumer goods, medical equipment, medicines, and building materials are exempt from income tax in the first 2 years of activity – if sales revenues are at least 70% of the total income. Skolkovo project participants are exempt from paying corporate property tax for 10 years.</p>	<p>Organizations and individual entrepreneurs do not pay VAT, except for import and agent VAT. Organizations do not pay corporate income tax and corporate property tax. Individual entrepreneurs do not pay personal income tax on business income and tax on personal property used for business purposes. <i>Property taxes are paid according to the tax base, which is defined as the cadastral value of property objects.</i></p>
Tax breaks and incentives	
<p style="text-align: center;">VAT</p> <p>There is a list of non-taxable transactions. There are reduced VAT rates: 0% rate - for goods exported in the customs export procedure, placed under the customs procedure of a free customs zone and some others; 10% rate – for: - the established list of food products and goods for children; - sale of periodic print and book publications, with the exception of publications of an advertising or erotic nature; - sale of medical products of domestic and foreign production.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Income tax</p> <p>Application of the cash method of income and expenses recognition, if the average sales revenue does not exceed 1 million rubles per quarter (excluding VAT). Use of the mechanism of accelerated depreciation of fixed assets, "depreciation premium". Formation of reserves for doubtful debts, warranty repair and maintenance, R&D. Quarterly advance payment, if the amount of sales revenue does not exceed 15 million rubles per quarter (excluding VAT). There are reduced rates: 20% rate - 3% is credited to the federal budget, 17% - to the regional budget (this rate can be reduced to 12,5% by the RF subject). 0% rate - for participants of the Skolkovo project, participants of special investment contracts and special economic zones. 0% rate on tax credited to the federal budget, 0% or 10% on tax credited to the regional budget – for participants of regional investment projects.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Corporate Property Tax</p> <p>Subjects of the Russian Federation may introduce lower rates and additional benefits for certain categories of organizations.</p>	<p>The right to introduce a reduced rate granted to the subject of the Russian Federation: - Simplified tax system (STS) – object of taxation "income" - setting a single tax rate ranging from 1% to 6%; - STS – object of taxation "income minus expenses" - setting a single tax rate ranging from 5% to 15%; The right to introduce a reduced rate granted to local authorities: - Single tax on imputed income (STII) – setting a single tax rate ranging from 7,5% to 15%. <i>An additional advantage is the possibility of reducing the single tax paid under STS (object of taxation - "income") and STII on the amount of insurance premiums for employees and for an individual entrepreneur personally, which were paid in the reporting or tax period.</i> In the period from 2015 to 2020, regional authorities have the right to introduce a 0% rate for STS and PTS (patent taxation system) for newly registered individual entrepreneurs engaged in industrial, scientific or social activity. The 0% rate will be valid for such individual entrepreneurs for 2 years from the date of their registration. In the future, the authorities of the subject of the Russian Federation may introduce lower rates for them than for other taxpayers.</p>
Transport tax	
Subjects of the Russian Federation may introduce lower rates and additional benefits for certain categories of organizations and individual entrepreneurs.	
Reduced insurance premium rates	
<p>General rate of 7,6% - for organizations and individual entrepreneurs with the status of residents of the territory of advanced socio-economic development, status of residents of the free port of Vladivostok;</p> <p>General rate of 14% - for organizations of the Skolkovo project participants implementing IT.</p>	<p>In 2018, a reduced rate of insurance premiums was set at 20% for organizations and individual entrepreneurs using STS and PTS, which are engaged in industrial and social activities (the list is determined by art. 427 of the Tax Code). The condition for applying the rate: the income of such taxpayers for the tax period does not exceed 79 million rubles. The share of income from these types of activities is at least 70% of the total income.</p>

International scholars Francis Chittenden, Salima Kauser and Panikkos Poutziouris studied tax regulation and small business in the United States, United Kingdom, Austria and New Zealand. They conclude that small businesses incur significant expenses for tax compliance, which is provided by the tax regulators in these countries [22].

Thus, the legislation of Russia and other countries provides a set of various measures and tools aimed at tax incentives for SMEs and at reducing administrative barriers. However, as a rule, tax incentives are aimed at the development of small business, while there is no tax regulation for medium-sized enterprises.

III. PRACTICAL ANALYSIS.

The effectiveness of existing tax regulation methods can be assessed by analyzing the development of SMEs in recent years.

The number of SMEs is presented in Table 2. The rates of their growth (decline) are shown in Figure 1.

The data presented in Table 3 indicate that individual entrepreneurs and micro enterprises are the most registered in Russia. The number of small and medium enterprises is much lower.

We proceed to study the sectoral structure of small and medium-sized enterprises by types of economic activity with the largest share (more than 5%) (Figure 2).

Positive dynamics is observed in small enterprises. The reduction in their number in 2011–2016 is accompanied by a decrease in the number of employees by 24.4%. At the same time, we see that the turnover of these enterprises increased by 25.3% and the volume of investments in fixed

assets increased by 45.6%. There is an increase in the profitability of sold goods (works, services) by 35.1%. This indicates the current positive dynamics in this sector of the economy.

TABLE 2 – DYNAMICS OF THE NUMBER OF SMES IN RUSSIA, THOUSAND PEOPLE [25].

Type of SME	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Medium Enterprises	15,8	15,3	15,3	15,4	16,3
Small enterprises (excluding micro-enterprises)	243,0	234,5	235,5	242, 6	172, 9
Micro-enterprises	1 759,9	1 828,5	1 868,2	1 990,0	2 597,6
Individual entrepreneurs	2 602,3	2 499,0	2 413,7	2 079,2	2 523,9
TOTAL:	4 621,1	4 577,5	4 532,8	4 327,3	5 310,8

The development dynamics of micro-enterprises and individual entrepreneurs is positive, since there was an increase in their number by 62.9% and 0.75% respectively. At the same time, in 2011–2016, the number of employees in micro-enterprises increased by 29.8%, and the number of employees of individual entrepreneurs - by 9.9%.

The turnover of the micro-enterprises increased by 186.5%. The revenue of individual entrepreneurs increased by 53.5%. Investment in fixed assets of micro-enterprises increased by 60.8%. The profitability of goods (works, services) sold by micro-enterprises increased by 78.6%.

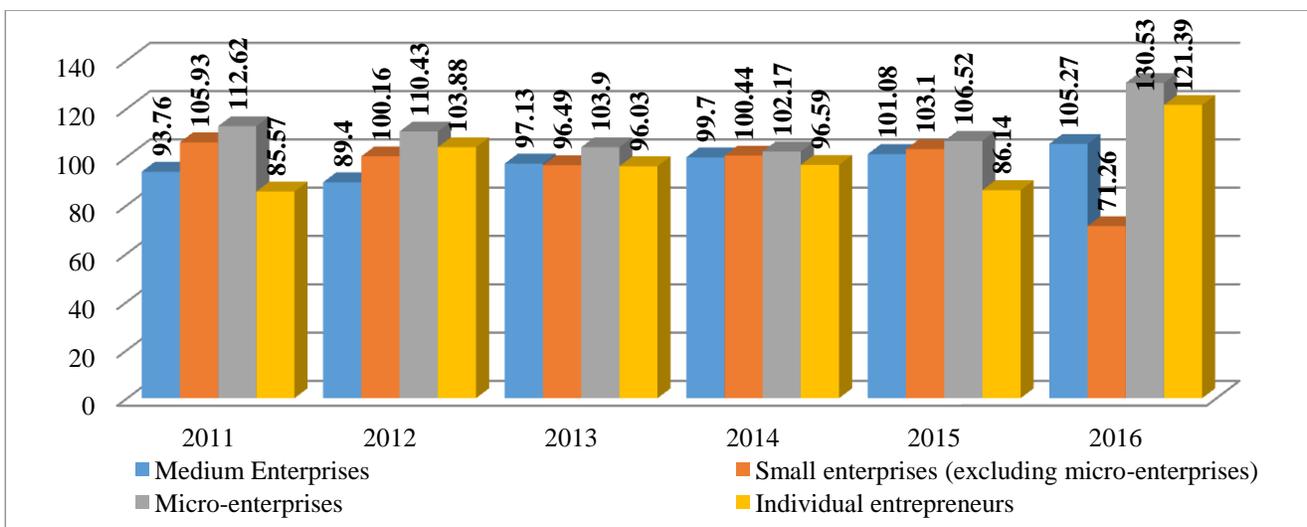


Figure 1. Growth (decline) rates of the number of SMEs, % [25].

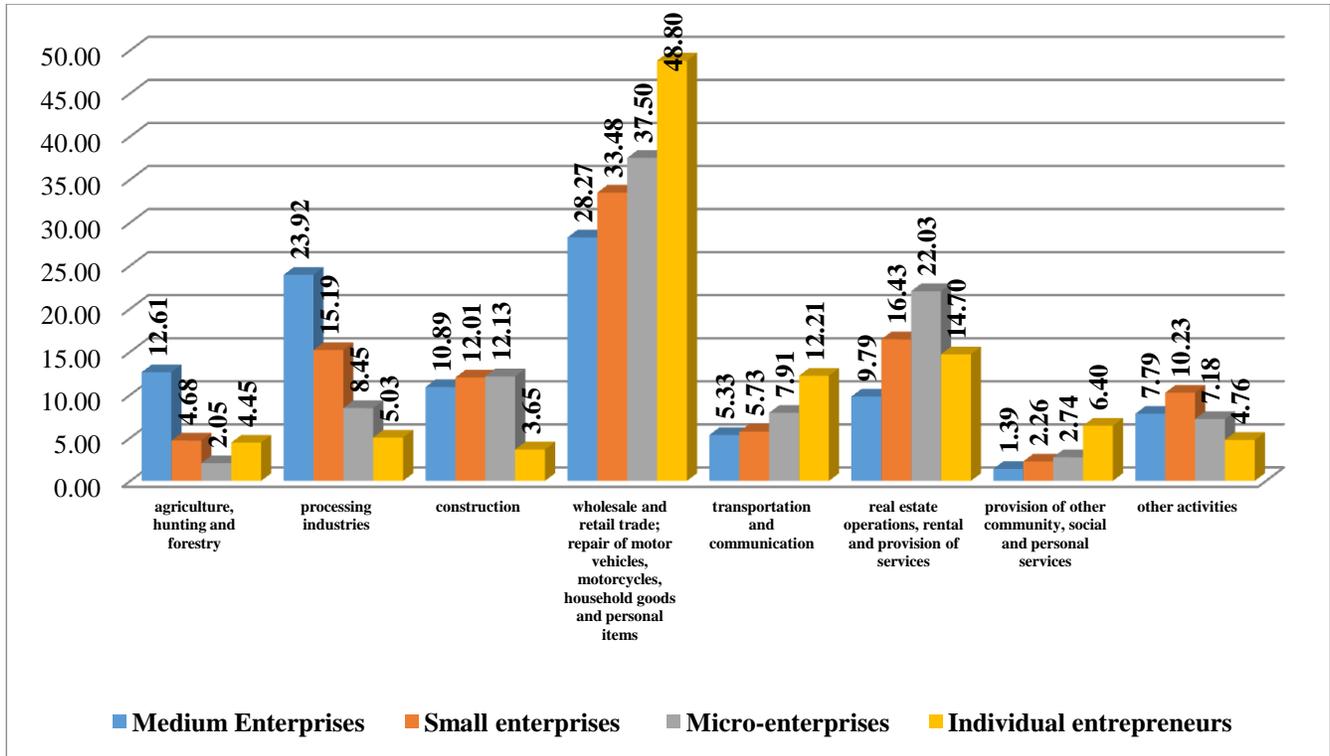


Figure 2. Sectoral structure of SMEs in Russia in 2016,% [25].

IV. RESULTS.

Thus, there was no sharp decrease in the main indicators of small and medium-sized enterprises, despite the rather unstable economic situation in Russia. However, uneven dynamics was observed in certain periods of time.

It is possible to assess the effectiveness of special tax regimes (and currently used methods of tax regulation) by analyzing tax revenues and their share in the total tax revenues of the consolidated budget of the Russian Federation. At the same time, the analysis of revenues under special tax regimes will include revenues under the simplified tax system, imputed income and the patent tax system. Proceeds from the unified agricultural tax and the tax system used in implementing the production sharing agreements will not be taken into account. Tax revenues of the consolidated budget increased by 48.1% in 2011-2016. In turn, revenues from special tax regimes increased by 60.3%, while the number of small businesses increased by 21.8%.

Revenues under the simplified tax system increased significantly - by 80.6%. Proceeds from the imputed tax increased by only 4.3%. At the same time, the share of revenues under special tax regimes is less than 3%. However, in 2016 it increased to 2.6%, therefore increasing by 8.00% compared with 2011.

The analysis revealed negative (downsizing of medium and small enterprises) as well as positive (increase in the

number of employees, investments, profitability of sales) trends in the structure of SMEs in Russia.

V. DISCUSSION: QUESTION AND CONCLUSION.

Russia provides a fairly wide range of various activities in the framework of the state support policy for SMEs, including tax regulation methods. Their analysis led us to the following results.

1. Small and medium businesses responded to changes in Russian legislation ambiguously.
2. Creation of a favorable tax climate aimed at the development of both small and medium-sized enterprises is one of the main tasks of any state. It should be implemented in the framework of the adoption of appropriate tax policies.
3. Creation of tax incentives aimed at the development of both small and medium-sized enterprises should not contradict the fiscal interests of the state.

In their work, S. Ocheni and T. Gemade argue that SMEs in Nigeria, as in other developing countries, face the problem of high tax rates, multiplicity of taxes, difficulty in understanding tax laws, insufficient state support, bureaucratic and administrative barriers. Based on the study, the authors conclude that multiple taxation negatively affects the survival of SMEs and leads to an increase in tax liabilities [19].

The study conducted by Ebere U. Okolo, Eunice C. Okpalaojiego and Chimaobi V. Okolo addresses the impact of tax multiplicity on investment in SMEs in the state of Enugu, Nigeria [20]. The aforementioned authors identify the need for the Government of Nigeria to develop a uniform tax policy aimed at minimizing the tax burden in order to create favorable conditions for the development of SMEs and investment in this sector of the economy.

Tax rates and tax compliance costs are the most significant factors influencing the tax compliance of SMEs in Kenya. Reformation of the tax system should include effective methods aimed at developing SMEs and creating conditions positively affecting tax compliance [21].

VI. CONCLUSIONS.

In summary, it is worth noting that there are enough measures and tools of public policy influencing SMEs, in accordance with the approved Strategy for the Development of SMEs in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2030 [5].

The author believes that the priority measures of tax regulation, which should contribute to the further development of SMEs and should be implemented in the near future, are the following:

1. For the development of medium-sized enterprises, it is advisable to create tax incentives for businesses engaged in the areas of manufacturing, construction, social and knowledge-intensive areas. To date, medium businesses cannot use alternative tax regimes, since the tax system of medium-sized enterprises does not have any tax preferences under the general taxation system. In our opinion, it is necessary to provide lower rates for income tax and corporate property tax in the first 5 years of the creation of medium-sized enterprises.

2. The increase in the number of medium-sized enterprises operating in the field of manufacturing can be achieved by increasing the criterion on the average number of employees to 200 people. This measure will allow a certain part of them to use the simplified tax system, subject to the criteria for sales revenue and depreciable property value (up to 150 million rubles), as well as subject to absence of shares of other organizations in the authorized capital of a medium-sized enterprise (less than 25%).

3. In order to increase the attractiveness of the patent taxation system and the number of individual entrepreneurs using this regime, it is necessary to provide for the possibility of reducing the cost of a patent by the amount of insurance premiums, similar to the imputed income tax and the simplified taxation system (when selecting the tax object "income").

4. In order to increase the number of individual entrepreneurs, it is necessary to provide for the possibility of paying insurance premiums in the form of a fixed payment for the actual number of working days per year, not for the whole year. This should apply to individuals

who have a main place of work, but who also register their activities as an IE for the implementation of certain types of work or the provision of services of a short-term nature. In the absence of such activities, they should be fully exempted from paying insurance premiums, since the employers at their main place of work pay insurance premiums for them, and individual entrepreneurship is an additional income.

The effectiveness of the proposed measures for improving the taxation of SMEs can only be assessed after their adoption and after a certain period of time.

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