

Study of The Role and Impact of Foreign Investment on Economic Growth in Developing Countries

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of external financial resources on the economic development of developing countries on the example of Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. The study analysed the key channels of influence of foreign investment on various sectors of the economy. The impact of investments on industry, agriculture, and the service sector was examined. The study also analysed the economic factors that influence investment attraction. Particular attention was paid to the level of legal protection of investors. The availability of reliable legal mechanisms could substantially influence the decision of foreign companies to invest. The study explored how such dependence on foreign investment could lead to economic instability. The negative impact on local enterprises was investigated. The role of public policy in optimising the attraction of foreign investment was determined, which was necessary to ensure sustainable economic development. Based on the analysis of the impact of foreign investment on economic growth in developing countries, conclusions were drawn on how such investments shape the economic structure and contribute to socio-economic development. The findings showed that foreign investment not only provides financial resources, but also facilitates the transfer of technology, knowledge, and new management practices.

Keywords: Employment Level; Financial Flows; International Relations; Management Improvement; Progress.

1. Introduction

The study of the role and impact of foreign investment on economic growth in developing countries is a hot topic in modern economic science. Foreign investment is one of the key factors contributing to the economic development of such countries. Capital investments provide the necessary basis for modernising infrastructure, increasing employment, developing advanced technologies, and strengthening competitiveness in global markets. Direct investment generates new jobs, which helps to raise household incomes and increase consumption, which then stimulates economic activity. Investments in infrastructure (roads, energy, and transport networks) facilitate business development, increase trade efficiency, and reduce the cost of producing goods and services (Nurbatsin et al., 2024; Urdabayev et al., 2024).

Developing countries often face limited access to modern technologies and innovative solutions. Investment from abroad allows them to gain access to new knowledge, which increases productivity, improves product quality, and stimulates innovation (important for sectors such as agriculture, industry, information technology, and services) (Trusova et al., 2021). However, the role of foreign investment is not limited to economic indicators, as it also affects social processes in developing countries. The attraction of foreign investors is often accompanied by improved management practices, strengthening of the legal system, and the introduction of transparent mechanisms for regulating economic activity. This helps to increase international confidence and create a favourable investment climate in the country.

At the same time, foreign investment also has negative consequences. In some cases, they can lead to dependence on external capital, which makes the country's economy vulnerable to external shocks and changes in the global environment. Uneven distribution of investment resources deepens social inequality in the country, especially if investments are concentrated in certain regions or sectors of the economy. Foreign investment is a powerful engine of economic growth for developing countries, but its impact depends on many factors, including regulatory conditions, management practices, and overall economic policies (Kubiczek, 2020). To maximise the benefits of investment, countries must create favourable conditions to attract it and leverage investment resources to support sustainable development. The study of the role and impact of foreign investment on economic growth in developing countries has attracted the attention of researchers who analyse the contribution to stimulating economic development, technological advancement, and improving socio-economic conditions. Appiah et al. (2019) examined the impact of foreign investment on the development of economic systems in developing countries. The researchers investigated how investment stimulates infrastructure modernisation, creates new jobs, and boosts productivity in various sectors of the economy. Studies showed that foreign investment facilitates the transfer of technology and knowledge, which helps developing countries integrate into international economic processes and increase their productivity and innovation potential.

Kharchuk (2020) and Chunytska & Morozova (2019) focused on the problems of attracting foreign capital in the face of economic instability, as well as on identifying ways to improve the investment climate in Ukraine. Both studies focused on the fact that foreign investment can play a key role in restoring economic activity and stimulating growth if the state creates favourable conditions for attracting it. L. Alfaro and J. Chauvin (2020) contributed to the exploration of this topic. The researchers emphasised that foreign direct investment plays a role in the financial development of developing countries, especially in improving access to international financial markets. The researchers thoroughly analysed the impact of FDI on infrastructure development, productivity, and economic growth, focusing on how foreign investors contribute to the modernisation of technology and management practices. Yavas & Malladi (2020) conducted comparable studies, focusing on the impact of direct investment on financial markets, specifically on the ability of foreign investment to promote the development of local financial structures and increase their resilience to external shocks. Yavas & Malladi investigated how these processes positively affect market liquidity and help attract new investors and increase the competitiveness of developing economies.

Destek et al. (2022) and Herrera-Echeverri (2020) are among the leading researchers in this area. Destek et al. emphasised that foreign direct investment not only stimulates economic growth, but also greatly affects the capital market and sustainable economic growth. Herrera-Echeverri focused on the impact of foreign investment on the development of internal private capital. The researcher pointed out that foreign investment creates additional opportunities for internal investors, particularly by improving access to financial resources and increasing the efficiency of domestic enterprises. However, Herrera-Echeverri also highlighted the risks associated with excessive dependence on foreign capital, which can lead to the displacement of local players from the economic market.

Nguyen (2023) examined the link between monetary policy and the inflow of foreign direct investment in developing countries. The researcher emphasised that an effective monetary policy serves as a crucial tool for creating a favourable investment climate, which then stimulates the inflow of foreign capital. V.C. Nguyen noted that low interest rates and a stable exchange rate positively affect the attraction of foreign investors, providing them with predictability and reducing risks.

The purpose of this study was to examine the economic processes associated with the inflow of foreign capital and assess its impact on key indicators of economic development in developing countries, with the example of Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. To fulfil this purpose, the following tasks were set:

- To describe the key channels of influence of foreign capital investment on the economic growth of developing countries.
- to analyse the political and economic factors that influence the attraction of foreign capital.
- To investigate possible negative consequences of excessive dependence on foreign investment.

2. Materials and Methods

The study focused on a comprehensive analysis of the role and impact of foreign investment on economic growth in developing countries. This involved a thorough examination of economic indicators, as well as the various sectoral impacts of foreign investment, such as industry, agriculture, and services. Key documents were reviewed to analyse the legal framework governing foreign investment. The key regulations selected for this study included Law of Ukraine No. 93/96-VR “On the Foreign Investment Regime” (1996), the Tax Code of Ukraine (2010), the Law of the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 66 “On Investments in the Kyrgyz Republic” (2003), and the International Chamber of Commerce Constitution (2024). The Law of Ukraine No. 93/96-VR (1996) is the fundamental act defining the legal status of foreign investors, their rights and obligations in Ukraine. The Tax Code of Ukraine (2010) defines the taxation system applicable to foreign investment. It contains provisions on tax benefits and incentives that may be granted to foreign investors. The Law of the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 66 (2003) is another essential document that governs the legal aspects of foreign investment in the country. It defines the mechanisms of investment protection, conditions for investment activity, and investors’ rights. The International Chamber of Commerce Constitution (2024) also plays a significant role in the regulation of foreign investment. It creates international standards for investment agreements and investor protection, which contributes to the development of a unified approach to investment at the international level. The statistical data used in the analysis were obtained from official reports of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (2023), as well as financial statements of the key companies included in the study.

A comprehensive methodology, including qualitative and quantitative analysis, was employed to investigate the possible negative consequences of excessive dependence on foreign investment. The primary objective of this methodology was to study the impact of foreign investment on companies. The selected companies represented various sectors of the economy with a considerable level of foreign investment. Ukrnafta, as a leading oil and gas company, and Shell, an international energy company, were the main examples for analysis. Other companies, such as KyrgyzKomur, Kumtor Gold Company, Kyiv Champagne Factory, Cargill, Bunge and Centerra Gold, were also examined in terms of their dependence on foreign investment and the impact this has on their operations.

Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine were selected as case study nations because they are developing economies that heavily depend on foreign investment to fuel structural modernisation and economic growth. Both nations have similar issues with economic vulnerability, legal reforms, and political instability, which have an impact on their investment environments and the effectiveness of using foreign money. Analysing these nations enables a useful comparative study of the effects of foreign investment on various industries and socioeconomic results in various but contextually related emerging nations, offering more general insights that may be applied to other economies with comparable circumstances.

A multidisciplinary methodology was applied to study the role of government policy in optimising sustainable economic development, including both qualitative and quantitative analysis. The primary purpose of this study was to examine the mechanisms through which public policy affects economic development, as well as to analyse its impact on the investment climate, innovation, environmental aspects, and social stability. At the final stage of the study, recommendations were formulated for government agencies to optimise sustainable development policy.

3. Results

Foreign investment plays a vital role in the global economy, serving as the primary mechanism through which developing countries can obtain the necessary resources to stimulate their economic growth and development. It includes investments coming from abroad in the form of foreign direct investment, portfolio investment, and other financial injections. Foreign direct investment, specifically, involves not only the provision of capital, but also the transfer of technology, management skills, and know-how, which are critical to the modernisation of production in developing countries.

Foreign investment substantially increases employment, as new businesses require a workforce, which helps to reduce unemployment and improve living standards. According to Buitrago R. & Barbosa Camargo (2020), such investments are usually accompanied by

infrastructure upgrades, which positively affect economic activity in the region. For example, the construction of new roads, ports, and energy facilities improves logistics efficiency and reduces the cost of transporting goods (Table 1).

Table 1: Types of foreign investment

Foreign investment	Description	Examples
Direct foreign investments	Investments that involve the investor's control over assets in another country.	Construction of a factory, acquisition of a company
Portfolio investments	Investments in financial assets (shares, bonds) that do not involve control over an enterprise.	Purchase of shares in local companies
Credits and loans	Financing provided by foreign banks or institutions for business development.	Long-term loans for infrastructure development
Operating lease investments	Investments in assets leased out for the long term.	Leasing of production equipment
Joint ventures	Joint business initiatives between local and foreign companies that involve risk sharing.	Joint production of goods with a local partner
Humanitarian and social investments	Investments aimed at social development and improving the living conditions of the population.	Projects in education and healthcare
Infrastructure investments	Investment in the construction and modernisation of infrastructure facilities.	Building new roads, bridges, and power stations

Source: compiled by the authors based on Buitrago R. & Barbosa Camargo (2020).

The significance of considering all types of foreign investment for the development of a country's economy cannot be underestimated, as these investments play a key role in shaping a stable and prosperous economic system. Foreign direct investment provides not only financial resources but also technology, management skills, and access to new markets, which helps to increase the competitiveness of domestic enterprises. Portfolio investment, albeit less stable, can also significantly influence the development of financial markets, encouraging their growth and innovation (Makoni, 2020). Credits and loans from international financial institutions allow countries to raise the necessary resources for infrastructure projects and social programmes, which improve the quality of life of the population and stimulate economic growth.

Joint ventures between local and foreign companies open opportunities for the exchange of experience and resources, which increases the overall level of development of economic sectors. Consideration of humanitarian and social investments aimed at improving social conditions, education, and healthcare is critical to achieving sustainable development. Investments in infrastructure, particularly, help to reduce the cost of doing business, increasing its efficiency. Comprehensive consideration of all types of foreign investment allows countries not only to ensure economic growth but also to promote the development of social institutions, increasing the overall level of well-being of the population (Dornean et al., 2022). This underscores the significance of creating a favourable investment climate that will attract foreign capital and contribute to the harmonious development of the entire economy.

3.1 Primary channels of influence of foreign investment on the economic growth of developing countries

The primary channels through which foreign investment drives economic growth in developing countries include technology transfer, employment, infrastructure development, access to international markets, and financial stability (Table 2). Understanding these paths facilitates a more accurate evaluation of how foreign investment results in observable enhancements in infrastructure, social welfare, employment, and productivity. It also helps to determine which components of foreign investment have the greatest economic advantages and which need specific governmental support to maximise good outcomes. In the larger context of sustainable economic growth, this analytical approach aids in identifying possible bottlenecks or inefficiencies in the investment process, which helps to build more successful strategies for luring and utilising foreign money.

Table 2: Foreign investment influence channels

Influence channel	Description	Example
Technology transfer	Implementation of advanced technologies and innovations that increase productivity.	Use of modern production methods
Employment	Creation of new jobs, which reduces unemployment and improves living standards.	New factories opening job opportunities
Infrastructure development	Investments in transport, energy, and communications systems that improve the business environment.	Building roads and bridges
Access to international markets	Increased export opportunities and integration into the global economy.	Introduction of local products to international markets
Financial stability	The attraction of new financial resources to help countries manage economic risks.	Attractiveness of foreign loans and investments
Corporate management improvement	Introduction of the latest management standards and efficiency improvement for local enterprises.	Change of management strategies at enterprises
Social development	Investments in education, healthcare, and social infrastructure.	Financing of educational programmes and medical facilities
Environmental innovations	Implementation of environmentally friendly technologies and practices that reduce the adverse environmental impact.	Use of renewable energy sources

Source: compiled by the authors based on Kellard et al. (2022).

Assessment of the investment efficiency in various sectors of the economy is a crucial aspect for understanding their impact on the development of countries and regions. One of the channels of investment impact is technological transfer, which involves the introduction of advanced technologies and innovations that substantially increase productivity. For example, the use of modern production methods, such as automation and robotics, can greatly reduce costs and improve product quality. Investments aimed at creating new jobs can reduce unemployment and improve living standards (Abbas et al., 2022). New factories that open because of investment create jobs, which is particularly significant in times of economic instability, not only improving people's well-being but also stimulating economic development in the regions.

Infrastructure development is another vital area affected by investment. Investments in transport, energy, and communication systems improve the business environment (Voloshina et al., 2019; 2021). For example, the construction of new roads and bridges not only provides faster access to markets but also contributes to the overall development of the economy (Batygin et al., 2013; Moura et al., 2012). Increased

export opportunities and integration into the global economy help countries to bring local products to international markets, which increases the competitiveness of the national economy. Financial stability, which is achieved by attracting new financial resources, allows countries to manage economic risks more effectively (An & Yeh, 2021; Kryvenko, 2022). For example, attracting foreign loans and investments can provide the necessary capital for the development of strategically significant sectors of the economy.

Improved corporate governance through the introduction of new management standards is also a result of investment, including changes in strategic approaches to management at enterprises, which increases their efficiency and sustainability. Social development, including investments in education, healthcare, and social infrastructure, is an integral part of economic growth (Spytska, 2023b;2023c; Xhafka et al., 2023). Financing educational programmes and healthcare facilities improves the overall standard of living of the population and ensures the long-term stability of the economy (Mariotti & Marzano, 2021). Finally, environmental innovation, which involves the introduction of environmentally friendly technologies and practices that reduce negative environmental impacts, is becoming increasingly important. The use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, not only improves the environmental situation but also contributes to sustainable development (Adamchuk et al., 2016; Ivanovs et al., 2018; Halko et al., 2021). Assessing the effectiveness of investments in various sectors of the economy shows that they have a multifaceted impact on the development of society, the economy, and the environment, making them important for strategic planning and implementation of economic growth policies.

3.2 Political and economic factors influencing the foreign capital attraction

Political factors shape the overall investment environment and substantially change the investment decisions of international companies. One of the key political factors is the stability of the political situation in a country. Political stability refers to the broader condition of the country's political environment, including its security and governance. For instance, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has increased risks and produced a great deal of uncertainty, which has seriously damaged investor confidence (Dykha et al., 2024). In addition to endangering investors' physical security, the battle ruins vital infrastructure, messes up supply networks, and stirs up financial market instability. These circumstances raise the perceived risk of investing in the nation by making it challenging for investors to forecast future returns or evaluate the stability of their assets. The economic situation has been made even more complex by the war's effects on commercial operations in impacted areas, inflationary pressures, and currency value swings. This unstable climate has the potential to cause abrupt and major interruptions to economic activity, discouraging long-term investment and slowing down economic expansion in general. As a result, investors generally avoid countries with a highly unstable political environment, as this creates risks for their investments.

Frequent changes of government, political protests, conflicts, or even the threat of coups can lead to a decrease in foreign investment (Boiko, 2016; Haudi et al., 2020). Clear and transparent laws and an effective justice system can increase investor confidence. When investors feel that their rights will be protected, they are more inclined to invest. On the contrary, countries with corruption, insufficient legal capacity, or unequal access to the judiciary may lose potential investors due to elevated risks. In Ukraine, the legislation governing foreign capital comprises a series of key regulations. The principal document is the Law of Ukraine No. 93/96-VR (1996), which defines the legal, economic, and organisational framework for foreign investment in Ukraine. The law establishes the rights and guarantees of foreign investors, including protection of their investments, as well as procedures for registering foreign investments. Other significant laws include and are regulated by the Tax Code of Ukraine (2010), which defines tax benefits for foreign investors. In Kyrgyzstan, the regulation of foreign capital also has its specific features. The principal law is the Law of the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 66 "On Investments in the Kyrgyz Republic" (2003), which is aimed at creating a favourable investment climate and ensuring the rights of foreign investors. At the international level, foreign capital is regulated through various agreements and conventions. One of the major instruments is the International Chamber of Commerce Constitution (2024), which promotes the development of international trade and investment.

The political will to implement economic reforms is one of the key factors determining a country's ability to attract foreign capital. A government that demonstrates a willingness to implement structural reforms, such as improving the business climate, simplifying regulatory procedures, and protecting investors' rights, creates a favourable environment for attracting foreign investment (Nurgaliyeva et al., 2024; Spankulova et al., 2024). Investors, realising that the country is striving to develop a market economy, are becoming more interested in entering this market, as it opens new business opportunities and reduces the risks associated with investing (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2021). Mutually beneficial cooperation between states enables the establishment of effective channels of communication and cooperation with foreign investors, which contributes positively to the investment climate. When a country actively works to strengthen international relations and signs investment promotion and protection agreements, it signals to investors that the country is reliable and stable, which increases their willingness to invest (Herus, 2024). Countries that are actively integrating into the global economy gain access to new markets, technologies, and financial resources, which not only helps to attract foreign investment but also improves the country's overall image on the international stage. Investors often prefer countries that have clear commitments to international organisations, as this demonstrates their political stability and willingness to follow international standards (Apakhayev et al., 2018). For example, Ukraine's cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and membership in the World Trade Organization demonstrate its dedication to economic reforms and transparent trade policies. Similarly, Kyrgyzstan's cooperation with the Asian Development Bank and membership in the Eurasian Economic Union demonstrate its conformity to global economic frameworks. A stable and transparent economic climate is signalled by such promises, which boost investor confidence and attract more foreign investment.

Investors seek to avoid risks associated with economic instability. Countries that can provide predictability of macroeconomic indicators, such as gross domestic product growth, unemployment, and inflation, become more attractive to foreign investors. If investors can be sure that the country's economy is not subject to sudden changes, they will be more inclined to invest in its development. At the same time, unpredictable changes in economic policy, such as sudden increases in tax rates, changes in the business environment, or the introduction of new regulations, can scare away foreign investors. Such actions cause uncertainty and fear of possible losses, which leads to a decrease in confidence in the country (Bird & Choi, 2020). Investors generally prefer to invest where economic policies are consistent, stable, and transparent. Accordingly, countries that can ensure the predictability of their economic conditions gain a great advantage in the competition for foreign capital.

Thus, the political will to implement economic reforms, sound diplomatic relations, openness to international cooperation, and stable macroeconomic policies are crucial factors that influence the attraction of foreign capital (Okwu et al., 2020). Countries that are aware of this and actively work to improve their investment climate have a better chance of successful economic development and increased prosperity.

3.3 Negative consequences of excessive dependence on foreign investment

In the context of this study, excessive dependence on foreign investment is defined as a situation in which foreign capital makes up a large portion of total investment, usually more than 50% of gross fixed capital formation or financing for critical sectors. This leads to foreign entities controlling important industries, domestic businesses developing less, and the economy becoming more vulnerable to abrupt capital outflows or fluctuations in the global market. Excessive dependence on foreign investment can lead to a variety of negative consequences for the national economy and society overall. Countries that rely on external capital to finance their development often lose control over crucial sectors of the economy, with severe consequences for their economic sovereignty and development (Spytska, 2023a). This is particularly evident in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, where foreign investment has become an essential part of the economic strategy.

Ukraine's foreign investment situation is quite complex, as the country has been actively attracting foreign capital since its independence in 1991 to boost economic growth (Mihaylenko & Krasnikova, 2020). However, due to poor regulation and corruption, many foreign investors have gained considerable control over strategic sectors such as energy, mining, and agriculture. For example, in 2016, Ukrnafta signed a joint venture agreement with a Russian oil company that gained extensive control over oil production in Ukraine. Within the framework of this agreement, the Russian company gained access to the oil deposits, but the terms of the agreement were favourable only to the Russian party. For example, there is evidence that Ukrnafta did not receive sufficient revenues from the operation of the deposits, which led to losses in the country's budget, and it also limited the Ukrainian government's ability to control the extraction of natural resources, as much of the revenue stayed in the hands of foreign investors. Another example is Shell, which in 2013 signed an agreement with the Ukrainian government on shale gas production in Ukraine. The agreement stipulated that the company would invest in the development of gas deposits in exchange for certain benefits: tax cuts and government guarantees (Golub et al., 2018). Although this was intended to attract investment, the terms of the agreement were mainly beneficial to Shell, as the company gained access to extensive natural resources while the Ukrainian government lost control over how these resources were extracted and used.

In Kyrgyzstan, the situation is no less complicated, as the country began to attract foreign investment to develop its economy, particularly in the mining sector, after the collapse of the Soviet Union (Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, 2024). However, control over natural resources has ended up in the hands of foreign companies, which often benefit from the country's natural resources without investing enough in the local economy. One concrete example of a coal mining company operating in Kyrgyzstan is KyrgyzKomur, which has been granted concessions to mine coal in various regions of the country, including places such as Tokmok and Kara-Balta. Despite the permits, over time, grave concerns have arisen regarding compliance with environmental standards. Local communities began to complain about air and water pollution caused by the company's operations. Specifically, it was found that the company had failed to implement necessary environmental measures, such as rehabilitating land after mining and controlling pollutant emissions. The government often finds itself powerless to counter such practices due to its dependence on foreign capital and limited financial resources.

These cases show that excessive dependence on foreign investment can lead to a loss of control over crucial sectors of the economy. When foreign investors with powerful financial resources and technology start dictating the terms of doing business, local companies find themselves at a disadvantage (Sarkodie & Strezov, 2019). This not only undermines competition but can also lead to economic instability and social conflict. Therefore, it is imperative that countries carefully analyse their investment policies and find a balance between attracting foreign capital and protecting national interests. Dependence on foreign investment can substantially reduce the resilience of both Ukraine's and Kyrgyzstan's economies to external shocks. When countries rely on foreign capital to finance their development, they become vulnerable to global economic fluctuations, which can have severe consequences for their economies. In the case of Ukraine during the 2008 global financial crisis, one example of a company that experienced major difficulties is the Kyiv Champagne Factory, which was dependent on imported raw materials, specifically grapes, which were purchased abroad.

When the crisis was accompanied by a sharp outflow of foreign investment, the hryvnia (Ukrainian currency) depreciated, which led to higher prices for imported goods and raw materials. In 2008, the hryvnia exchange rate against the US dollar almost halved, which was a challenge for businesses that relied on imports, as their costs increased dramatically. As a result, the company began to face financial difficulties, which, notably, manifested itself in a production cutback and an increase in outstanding debt. Rising prices for raw materials and a decline in the purchasing power of the population led to a drop in demand for the plant's products (Shahini et al., 2024). As a result, the company was forced to lay off workers, which led to an increase in unemployment in the region.

Kyrgyzstan is also dependent on foreign investment, particularly in the mining sector, and may be affected by global economic fluctuations. In 2013, when gold prices plummeted, Kumtor Gold Company experienced severe financial difficulties. Falling prices on international markets negatively affected the company's profitability, forcing it to cut costs and, consequently, investments in development. As a result, the company reduced production volumes and investment programmes, which led to a decrease in employment. Many employees who relied on these jobs found themselves unemployed, causing a rise in unemployment in the region. The closure of some of the company's divisions worsened the socio-economic situation in the local communities where the employees lived. The case demonstrates how Kyrgyzstan's dependence on foreign investment in the extractive industry makes the country vulnerable to global economic fluctuations, which have negative consequences for the local population and the economy overall.

A decline in internal investment is one of the severe negative consequences that can arise in countries that rely heavily on foreign capital (Makhazhanova et al., 2024). In countries such as Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, the emphasis on foreign investment has led to an underestimation of the development of national entrepreneurship, which ultimately reduces overall economic resilience. In Ukraine, for example, the active involvement of foreign investors in the agricultural sector, specifically, has led to a situation where local farmers have fewer opportunities for financing and development (Lazarenko, 2024; Shahini et al., 2023).

Large international agribusinesses such as Cargill and Bunge have considerable resources to invest in production and infrastructure, enabling their domination of the market, whereas local farmers struggle to compete as they cannot obtain the same favourable credit and investment conditions. As a result, many small farms in Ukraine are beginning to shut down, reducing both internal production and the overall competitiveness of the agricultural sector. According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (2023), in 2023, the number of farms decreased by 4.1% compared to the previous year, indicating a crisis in the sector.

In Kyrgyzstan, the situation is comparable. For example, the gold mining company Centerra Gold receives extensive benefits and tax preferences from the government, allowing it to concentrate resources in its own hands. At the same time, local businesses have no access to such favourable conditions, which limits their ability to grow and innovate. The country is actively attracting foreign investment in key sectors of the economy, such as mining and energy. According to the World Bank, in 2023, the volume of foreign investment in the Kyrgyz economy increased to USD 1.2 billion (Kyrgyz Republic development..., 2023). However, this focus on foreign capital hinders the development of local enterprises. This phenomenon not only undermines the development of internal entrepreneurship but also reduces the overall volume of investment in the national economy. If a country does not support its enterprises, it becomes more dependent on external players, which limits its economic opportunities. In the case of global economic crises, such as the 2008 crisis, the outflow of foreign

investment has catastrophic consequences for the economy, causing social and economic problems, including rising unemployment and falling living standards.

Excessive dependence on foreign investment contributes to social inequality. Foreign investors tend to focus on profitable sectors, which can lead to uneven economic development. Some regions may prosper with foreign capital, while others are left in decline, causing social tensions and discontent. Such imbalances can exacerbate social conflicts and lead to political instability. In the modern world, where economies are increasingly integrated into global markets, it is vital that governments develop effective strategies that not only attract capital but also support local businesses, protect the environment, and ensure social stability.

3.4 Recommendations for possible improvements of policies for foreign investments

Effective public policies can create favourable conditions for foreign investment through legislative initiatives that regulate investment activities (Budang & Hakim, 2020). Governments can introduce tax incentives for foreign investors, simplify administrative procedures, and reduce bureaucracy, which can help attract foreign capital and increase the country's competitiveness on the global stage. However, such benefits mustn't lead to adverse consequences for internal businesses. In this context, the government must strike a balance between encouraging foreign investment and protecting national interests. To routinely evaluate the effects of foreign investment policies and make sure they are in line with national development objectives, governments also need to set up open monitoring and evaluation systems. A fair competitive environment and increased investor trust can be achieved by fortifying anti-corruption measures and enhancing governance (Iskakov & Ruziyeva, 2014; Miliienko, 2023). Leveraging foreign investment to support local entrepreneurship and technology transfer can also be achieved through promoting innovation ecosystems and public-private partnerships.

Government policy should focus on human capital development through investment in education and training. For example, the Public Initiatives of Ukraine (2024) programme supports the creation of courses and training in IT, digital technologies, and start-ups. The programme helps young people to acquire modern skills that meet market needs and ensures their international competitiveness. Countries seeking sustainable economic development should focus on training highly skilled professionals capable of working in various sectors of the economy, including innovative technologies (Hayes, 2024). The creation of vocational training programmes and cooperation with universities and businesses can provide the necessary skills for local workers, which will increase their competitiveness and attractiveness to foreign investors. Furthermore, while targeted assistance for underprivileged groups can guarantee inclusive participation in the economy, policies that promote job mobility and lifelong learning can aid in adapting to the quickly shifting demands of the market. Including instruction on environmental sustainability will equip workers to handle new issues in the green economy and draw in more eco-aware investors.

Overall, the role of public policy in optimising the process of attracting foreign investment is critical to achieving sustainable economic development. It should be comprehensive and integrated, addressing not only economic but also social and environmental aspects. Only a balanced approach can ensure maximum benefits from foreign investment, contributing to the development of the national economy and improving the quality of life of the population. Additionally, social inequality and economic inequities can be avoided by supporting regional development strategies that encourage equitable investment allocation. Promoting environmental compliance and corporate social responsibility among foreign investors will help sustain prosperity and improve the nation's standing as a responsible investment destination globally.

4. References

Analysing the findings of the conducted study, it can be argued that foreign investment has a significant potential to stimulate economic growth in developing countries, but only if a comprehensive approach to attracting and managing it is taken. The promotion of foreign investment should be accompanied by efforts to strengthen the internal economic conditions to maximise its positive impact on economic growth. Sahu (2020) analysed the impact of foreign direct investment on economic growth using a wide range of empirical evidence from various developing countries. The findings of the study confirm that countries with open economies that actively attract foreign investment usually demonstrate higher economic growth rates, because foreign investors not only bring financial resources, but also the latest technologies, management practices, and access to international markets. However, the researcher also stressed the necessity of creating a favourable investment climate, particularly through improving legal regulation, fighting corruption, and ensuring political stability.

Comparison of the findings of these studies confirms that foreign investment plays a crucial role in the development of economies that face domestic resource constraints. Emako et al. (2023) studied how foreign direct investment contributes to capital accumulation in developing countries, emphasising that foreign investment can be an effective driver of economic growth, especially in the context of improving infrastructure and technology. The researcher noted that countries that actively attract direct investment usually demonstrate higher rates of economic development due to the introduction of advanced technologies and improved production processes. Emako et al. emphasised that countries with a stable political situation and developed infrastructure can benefit more from foreign investment. To maximise the benefits of foreign investment, developing countries must focus their efforts not only on attracting foreign capital but also on creating the conditions for its effective use. This includes investing in human capital, training the workforce, improving management practices, and promoting innovation. This is the only way to ensure sustainable economic development and improve living standards.

The study of the role and impact of foreign investment on economic growth in developing countries confirms the significance of foreign direct investment as a critical factor that can contribute to economic development and modernisation. Specifically, Bhasin & Garg (2020) emphasised that the institutional environment plays a key role in creating favourable conditions for attracting foreign investment. The researchers emphasised that countries with effective institutions, a stable legal environment, and transparent regulatory mechanisms have major advantages in attracting direct investment, which is consistent with the findings of the current study, which indicated that foreign investment is more active in conditions of stability and predictability, which creates the basis for long-term investment. An effective institutional environment gives investors confidence in the protection of their rights and assets, which encourages them to make investment decisions (de-Almeida-e-Pais et al., 2023). Countries that can offer a stable legal environment usually have a higher level of trust from foreign investors, which confirms the value of implementing reforms aimed at improving the institutional structure, fighting corruption, and increasing transparency in administrative procedures (Galymzhan et al., 2020; Kalaganov et al., 2018).

Wang (2020) found that investment contributes not only to capital growth but also to the modernisation of production, technology transfer, and job creation. The researcher's study showed that countries that actively attract foreign investment have made significant improvements in areas such as infrastructure and human capital, which leads to overall economic growth. However, the study found that, despite the potential benefits, foreign investment can also lead to negative consequences for the national economy. Specifically, it was noted that

countries with a high dependence on investment risk instability, as the economy becomes vulnerable to external factors, which contradicts the findings of Wang, who focused on stable growth when attracting foreign investment. The study also indicated that while foreign investment can stimulate the development of new sectors of the economy, such as technology and services, it does not necessarily lead to the structural transformation required for sustained economic growth. It was found that countries with underdeveloped institutions may face difficulties in effectively using the capital provided, which often leads to deterioration of infrastructure and increased social inequality. Contrary to the conclusions of Wang, the study emphasised that investments not only provide financial resources but can also create dependence on external factors and lead to negative socio-economic consequences.

At the same time, Puzikova (2023) emphasised the role of investment in strengthening the Ukrainian economy, especially in the context of instability and political change. The researcher underlined that for Ukraine, attracting foreign investment is not only a financial issue, but also a tool for integration into the global economy, technological modernisation, and infrastructure development. The present study confirmed these conclusions but added that the effectiveness of foreign investment depends on the institutional environment and legal conditions in the country. In the case of a clear legal framework, transparent investor protection policies, and a stable business climate, foreign investors are more willing to invest in developing countries, as demonstrated in the case of Ukraine. Puzikova emphasised that political reforms and efforts to fight corruption are crucial factors for increasing foreign capital inflows. This observation supports the conclusion that foreign investment becomes a catalyst for positive economic change only if it is supported by the state. In this context, Ukraine holds the potential to use investment as one of the key instruments of economic recovery and modernisation. The findings of the present study and those of Puzikova concur that foreign investment is essential for economic growth in developing countries. However, success in attracting investment largely depends on the country's ability to create favourable conditions for investors and implement political and economic reforms that ensure stability and trust on the part of the international community.

Comparison of the findings of the conducted studies confirms that foreign investment plays a crucial role in the development of economies that face domestic resource constraints. Foreign investment helps to introduce advanced technologies that increase productivity, promote innovation, and increase the efficiency of national economies. Apart from technological advantages, foreign investors also provide market opportunities for local enterprises by giving them access to new sales channels, international partners, and global supply chains. Therewith, tax revenues from newly established businesses increase government revenues, enabling governments to channel these funds into socio-economic development, raising living standards, and developing critical sectors such as education and healthcare. Foreign investment can only become a catalyst for positive economic change if it is properly supported by the government. In this context, developing countries have an immense potential to use foreign investment as one of the key tools for economic growth and modernisation.

5. Conclusions

The analysis showed that foreign investment can positively affect the economies of developing countries if it is properly regulated and used efficiently. Above all, foreign investment plays a major role in the growth of economies by providing financial resources that are often limited domestically. Consequently, this contributes to the development of infrastructure, modernisation of production facilities, and increased competitiveness in global markets. Foreign direct investment promotes the introduction of advanced technologies and modern management practices, which increases the productivity and efficiency of businesses. Attracting foreign investment enables countries to gain access to global supply chains, which creates new opportunities for the development of national industry and strengthens their positions in the international market.

Countries that actively attract foreign investment tend to experience higher economic growth rates, driven by an increase in productive capital, improved technology, and expanded markets. Investments also contribute to the creation of new jobs, which positively affect employment and increase the level of income. Successful examples of foreign capital integration show that open economies that prioritise the creation of favourable conditions for investors achieve impressive results in the long term.

However, not all countries can effectively leverage foreign investment because of weak institutional frameworks, corruption, and political instability. Therefore, to maximise the positive impact of foreign investment, governments must implement the necessary reforms, including improving legal regulations, protecting investors' rights, fighting corruption, and ensuring transparency of economic processes. Political stability is another major factor influencing foreign investors' decisions to invest in a country. There is also a risk that developing countries may become overly dependent on foreign investment, making their economies vulnerable to external factors. Such countries may face capital outflows during global economic crises or changes in the political situation on the international scene. As a result, the economic strategy should include measures to diversify funding sources to reduce dependence on foreign investment.

Foreign investment can lead to uneven regional development and increased social inequality if investment is channelled only to certain sectors or regions. Such actions require the government to develop policies that promote an even distribution of investment across the territory, as well as the development of those sectors that do not receive direct investment but are essential to the national economy. The investigation of the role and impact of foreign investment on economic growth in developing countries has certain limitations and promising areas.

The limitations of this study included the lack of reliable statistical data, the difficulty of incorporating external factors, the diversity of countries, the short-term nature of the analysis, and the impact of corruption and weak institutions. However, promising avenues for research include the role of human capital, regional differences, social and environmental impacts, the effectiveness of investment policy, and the impact of the latest technologies. It is also worth investigating how foreign investment contributes to the development of small and medium-sized businesses, job creation, and technology transfer.

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