

**FEATURES OF TAXATION OF SMALL BUSINESS ENTITIES IN UKRAINE:
PROBLEMS AND DIRECTIONS OF IMPROVEMENT****Shvets Y.O., Synooka D.V.***Zaporizhzhia National University
Ukraine, 69600, Zaporizhzhia, Zhukovsky str., 66*

yuliashvets@ukr.net, daria19synioka@gmail.com

ORCID 0000-0002-0294-1889, ORCID 0000-0002-5333-9118

Key words:

small business, enterprise, budget, tax, tax incentive mechanism, taxation, simplified taxation system.

The article substantiates the need for state financial support for small business, in particular, through preferential tax instruments. In Ukraine, a simplified system of taxation, accounting and reporting is used for this purpose. However, the application of such a tax mechanism is causing increasing controversy regarding the violation of taxation principles and the inefficiency of the system. The types of preferential small business taxation applied in developed countries are considered. The programs of state aid to small businesses, the directions of reforming state policy in the field of small business taxation are analyzed using the example of more developed countries of the world, the status and problems of small business activity in Ukraine have been determined. The disadvantages of the simplified taxation system are: not unambiguous in the application of the taxation regime for individuals and legal entities; instability and underdevelopment of the tax system; the impossibility of applying a simplified system of taxation to businesses that go beyond the specified income limits; the lack of interest of enterprises in the use of simplified taxation in their activities. A set of measures has been proposed to address the disadvantages of the simplified tax system, in particular: to increase the limits of the amounts of income and revenue from the sale of goods (goods of works of services) for the wider use of the simplified tax system; to increase the confidence of entrepreneurs to tax authorities by providing information and advisory support to small businesses on taxation; reduce the tax burden on newly created small business entities and, subsequently, gradually increase the amount of tax payments; to set differentiated tax rates depending on the tax base; attract small business investment; strengthen the existing and impose new sanctions for punishment for violation of tax legislation; specify a list of activities for which they do not apply a simplified tax system to minimize tax evasion.

**ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ОПОДАТКУВАННЯ СУБ'ЄКТІВ МАЛОГО ПІДПРИЄМНИЦТВА В УКРАЇНІ:
ПРОБЛЕМИ ТА НАПРЯМКИ ВДОСКОНАЛЕННЯ****Швець Ю.О., Синьоока Д.В.***Запорізький національний університет
Україна, 69600, м. Запоріжжя, вул. Жуковського, 66***Ключові слова:**

малий бізнес, підприємство, бюджет, податок, механізм податкового стимулювання, оподаткування, спрощена система оподаткування.

В статті обґрунтовано необхідність державної фінансової підтримки малого підприємництва, зокрема, за рахунок інструментів пільгового оподаткування. В Україні з даною метою використовується спрощена система оподаткування, обліку та звітності. Однак застосування такого механізму оподаткування викликає все більше суперечок в аспекті порушення принципів оподаткування та неефективності даної системи. Розглянуто види пільгового оподаткування малого бізнесу, що застосовуються у розвинених країнах світу. Проаналізовано програми державної допомоги малим підприємствам, напрями реформування державної політики у сфері оподаткування малого бізнесу на прикладі більш розвинених країн світу, визначено стан і проблеми діяльності малого бізнесу в Україні. Серед недоліків спрощеної системи оподаткування було визначено: не однозначність у застосуванні режиму оподаткування для фізичних та юридичних осіб; нестабільність та нерозвиненість податкової системи; неможливість застосування спрощеної системи оподаткування для підприємств, які виходять за вказані межі суми доходів; незацікавленість підприємств у використанні в своїй діяльності спрощеної системи оподаткування. Запропоновано комплекс заходів для усунення недоліків спрощеної системи оподаткування, зокрема: для ширшого використання спрощеної системи оподаткування збільшити межі сум доходу та виручки від реалізації продукції (товарів робіт послуг); підвищити довіру

підприємств до податкових органів шляхом забезпечення інформаційної та консультативної підтримки малого бізнесу щодо його оподаткування; зменшити податкове навантаження для новостворених суб'єктів малого бізнесу та, в подальшому, поступово збільшувати суму податкових платежів; залежно від бази оподаткування встановити диференційовані податкові ставки; залучити інвестиції в малий бізнес; посилити існуючі та встановити нові санкції з покарання за порушення податкового законодавства; конкретизувати список видів діяльності, для яких не застосовують спрощену систему оподаткування для мінімізації випадків ухилення від сплати податкового навантаження.

Statement of the problem

Small enterprises play an important role in filling the state budget, mobilize the population with their financial and production resources serve as a key factor for structural restructuring of the economy and ensure the development of scientific and technological progress, reduce unemployment and other social problems of a market economy. That is why the government should promote the development and reform of small businesses in the country. The problematic issue at the moment is the study of accounting and taxation of small businesses in Ukraine and foreign countries; analysis of key indicators of small business activity; substantiation of the need to reform the simplified taxation system; identifying major small business tax issues and working out ways to solve them. Therefore, the chosen research topic is relevant for further study.

Analysis of recent studies and publications

In the global scientific and analytical space, the feasibility of applying simplified taxation systems for small businesses and government support is justified by the increased costs of compliance with tax and regulatory requirements. The questions remain about the role of the simplified system of taxation in the sector of state support of small business in Ukraine, its relevance in relation to current conditions, and questions about the basis for development and provision of non-tax support to small business in modern conditions. Many scientists are trying to find answers to these questions, which may indicate the greatest concern for this problem, including: Liutyi I.O., Romaniuk M.V. [5], Varnaliy Z.S., Panasiuk O.V. [6], Buryak N.B., Lukash S.V. [14], Pizhuk O.I. [15], Varnaliy Z.S., Vasylytsev T.G., Pokryshka D.S. [16].

Objectives of the article

The objective of the article is to study the experience of accounting and taxation of small business entities in Ukraine and foreign countries, to analyze the main indicators of small business activity, to substantiate the need for reforming the simplified taxation system, to identify the main problems of small business taxation and to develop measures for their elimination.

The main material of the research

– To date, in the conditions of severe financial mobilization and problems of fiscal policy, non-automatic conditions of redistribution of state revenues, unstable economic, political and social policies observed in Ukraine, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises

are the most vulnerable. In the conditions of economic instability, it is the small business entities that need state support.

– In Ukraine, this support is formed through a simplified taxation system, but it is not ideal and in a digital economy, it is in some way hindering the development of small businesses. Therefore, it is advisable to identify, compare and investigate problems of similar conditions for small and micro businesses in the EU and Ukraine, in order to ensure the development of small businesses and improve the system of simplified taxation.

– Government support is formed by providing small business loan facilities. Thus, in August 2019, loans to small businesses accounted for about 56,2% of the corporate loan portfolio, of which medium – 24,2%, small – 9,8%, micro – 22,2%. Loans to counterparties that are part of a business group make up 77,2% in MPs and loans to FOPs are predominantly unrelated to counterparty business groups (86,1%) [12]. As of 2020, it is projected to increase the number of loans granted and reduce the lending rate for small businesses.

– Small businesses in Ukraine are determined by the quantitative criteria set out in the Economic Code of Ukraine. Small businesses are entities of any legal form and ownership in which the average number of employees during the reporting period (calendar year) does not exceed 50 people and the annual income from any activity does not exceed the amount of 10 million Euro, determined at the average rate of the National Bank of Ukraine [1].

– It should be noted that a small business is an integral market economy entity with a regional focus. Therefore, the performance of small businesses depends largely on their support at both national and regional levels.

– In our view, «small business» should be understood to mean those entities whose size meets the criteria of small business and are engaged in purposeful entrepreneurial activity associated with increased risk based on the use of innovative ideas, the main purpose of which is maximization of profit through the production and sale of goods, the performance of various works, the provision of various services, which is carried out within the current regulatory framework [2].

– As an independent unit, a small business enjoys the rights of a legal entity, that is, it has the right to dispose of property, obtain a loan, enter into business contracts with other enterprises at the request of the owner. A small business is independently responsible for the results of its activities.

– The current system of small business taxation in Ukraine is complex. From 2020 new laws for small businesses of 1-4 groups will come into force (Tab. 1). They will force small businesses to use cash registers. Cash registers (PPOs) are required to have entrepreneurs who pay a single tax and have an income of more than

UAH 1 million per year. PPOs do not apply to first-group FOPs, cashless entrepreneurs, manufacturers [13]. In addition, electronic checks for services and goods will now appear, and fines will be introduced for sellers if the item is released without a check.

Table 1 – Simplified taxation system in Ukraine for 2020

| № | Annual income / UAH | Type of activity | Single tax rate |
|---------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 group | Up to 300 thousand | Retail trade without employees | Up to 10% minimum spend |
| 2 group | Up to 1.5 million | Up to 10 employees | Up to 20% of the minimum spend |
| 3 group | Up to 5 million | Unlimited number of employees | Single tax rate - 3% of income for VAT payers, 5% - of income for non-payers. |
| 4 group | The share of agriculture at least 75% in the previous year | Unlimited number of employees | Tax rate from 0.5 to 6% per 1 ha of land |

Source: grouped by the author according to [2]

Drawing on the experience of foreign countries and their approaches to regulating small business activity, it should be noted that its share holds a significant place in the modern national economy, in the development of human capital and the fight against poverty, in the formation of proper competition and increase in the percentage of employed population. The average number of employees in the small business sector in the EU countries in 2018 is 78% of the employed population, which has formed 63% of the gross value added in the

non-financial sector of the economy [6]. For comparison, in Ukraine in 2018 this figure is only 16,8% (including micro enterprises – 5,5%), which is almost twice less than the EU average. It can be noted that small and micro enterprises (from 30% to 40%) make a significant contribution to the added value of EU countries [6].

As of 2018, in Western Europe, small businesses make up 70-76% of the total, in the US – 54%, in Japan – 78%. To analyze the importance of small business in a market economy, consider the Tab. 2.

Table 2 – Value of small business in market economy countries as of 2019

| Country | Number of small enterprises, thousand | | | Employed in small enterprises, millions of people. | | | Share of small enterprises in the GDP of the country, % | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|--|------|------|---|-------|-------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Great Britain | 1985 | 2380 | 2490 | 12,1 | 13,1 | 13,6 | 39-43 | 47-50 | 50-53 |
| Germany | 2210 | 2260 | 2340 | 16,8 | 17,5 | 18,5 | 40-45 | 45-50 | 50-54 |
| Italy | 3500 | 3980 | 4020 | 13,2 | 16,0 | 16,8 | 49-53 | 53-57 | 57-60 |
| France | 1800 | 1850 | 2010 | 12,7 | 14,3 | 15,2 | 47-50 | 51-54 | 55-62 |
| EU countries | 12950 | 14380 | 15440 | 64 | 78 | 87 | 53-58 | 58-64 | 60-67 |

Source: grouped by the author according to [5]

Given the data in Tab. 2, it can be noted that among the leading EU countries, the largest number of small businesses are registered in Italy, which may be due to the significant involvement of the active population in the service sector, most of all in the restaurant business and tourism. Based on the total number of small businesses in the EU as of 2018, their share is 63%, the UK – 16,7% of small businesses, Germany – 14,5%, Italy – 24,8%, France – 12,5%.

Analyzing the indicator related to the GDP of the countries, it can be noted that the largest share of manufactured products and services provided by small enterprises to the GDP of the country is observed in Italy and France. Although according to Tab. 2 shows that in France almost twice as many small businesses than in Italy, but the total number of employees is quite large. This paradox has arisen because of the peculiarities of the legislative classification of small, medium and large enterprises.

As for Ukraine, as of January 1, 2019, similar indicators indicate that their level is insignificant. Thus, the number of small enterprises is 373,8 thousand, which is 95% of the total number of enterprises, but it provides only 21% of the country's GDP and occupies 12% of all employed workers. For comparison, in 2017, the number of small businesses was 296 thousand, accounting for 83% of the total number of enterprises and accounting for 23% of the country's GDP. According to the above data, an increase in the activity of small business in Ukraine can be observed, and these statistics indicate numerous registered but not active or illegally operating small business entities [8].

An important indicator of the development of small business in the country is the receipt of taxes from the activity of the enterprise. These dynamics are considered in Tab. 3.

Table 3 – Dynamics of the single tax on small business in Ukraine (billion UAH)

| Indexes | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Single tax | 2,0 | 6,6 | 7,4 | 11,0 | 17,2 | 23,5 | 31,1 | 32,2 |
| Single tax share in local budgets,% | 2,0 | 6,3 | 7,3 | 9,1 | 10,1 | 12,3 | 14,8 | 15,1 |
| from legal entities | 0,8 | 1,7 | 2,0 | 2,2 | 3,3 | 3,5 | 4,0 | 4,2 |
| from individuals | 1,2 | 4,9 | 5,4 | 6,8 | 10,4 | 14,8 | 16,2 | 16,3 |
| from agricultural producers | - | - | - | 2,0 | 3,5 | 3,8 | 5,1 | 6,4 |

Source: grouped by the author according to [9].

Thus, over the 8 years, the single tax on small business income in Ukraine has increased from 2,0% in 2012 to 32,2% in 2019, primarily due to an increase in personal income from private entrepreneurs.

The PJSC «Mykhaylivs'kyi rayahropostach» was selected for analysis and comprehensive assessment of

financial security. The main activity of the PJSC «Mykhaylivs'kyi rayahropostach» is wholesale of grain, unmanufactured tobacco, seeds and animal feeds [10].

The data on the activity of the PJSC «Mykhaylivs'kyi rayahropostach», which belongs to 4 groups of single tax payers for 2017-2019, are given in Tab. 4.

Table 4 – Selected Performance Indicators of the PJSC «Mykhaylivs'kyi rayahropostach» in 2017-2019

| Indexes | Value, unit of measure, thousand UAH | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Assets of the enterprise (as of the end of the period) | 78540 | 80197 | 92512 |
| Net sales revenue | 170560 | 170330 | 203660 |
| Financial result before tax | 12510 | 12054 | 15260 |
| Profitability | 2,63% | 2,75% | 2,28% |
| The amount of taxes paid | 43050 | 42858 | 48147 |

Source: calculated by author based on [11]

Having analyzed the financial and economic indicators, it can be said that the PJSC «Mykhaylivs'kyi rayahropostach» is profitable and has prospects for further development and modernization, has no problems with paying taxes to the budget.

In Ukraine, despite the important economic potential of small businesses, it is being considered more by the state budget. Over time, this socio-economic position has led to continued fiscal pressure, developing a tight control system for the small and micro-business sectors, which makes it impossible to use a simplified tax system that is considered a source of growth and innovation by developed countries.

Such positions of the state create a negative mood on the part of small and micro-businesses, which leads to an increase in the costs of small businesses to comply with the law and the state to implement control measures.

Despite the fact that there are restrictions on tax exemptions for small businesses, their number remains quite significant today. Existing privileges have different ways of realization, namely: reduction of taxable profit; reduction of tax rates; reduction of deductions from the tax amount itself; deferral or complete exemption from tax.

For example, in China, a world leader in attracting foreign investment, manufacturing enterprises that manufacture goods, semi-finished products and innovative products, plan to operate in China for at least ten years, are exempt from income tax for two years from the date of earning the first profit, and over the next three years, the income tax will be 50% of the total.

In the Netherlands, in order to stimulate small business development, a tax regression is applied to determine the

tax when increasing the size of the investment, namely: if the size of the investment is in the range of 2 - 33 thousand euros – the tax rate is 25%; 254 - 286 thousand euros – 3%; and if the amount of investment is more than 286 thousand euros tax is not paid at all.

It should be noted that in many economically developed countries, by analogy with Ukraine, the mechanism of carrying forward losses is applied to taxation of small business income. For example, a similar mechanism applies in Belgium (while, unlike in Ukraine, there is no deadline for crediting losses and also limiting the annual maximum write-off of losses); France, Spain (losses can be carried forward for a period of 15 years); Finland (for a period of 10 years).

For example, in France, there is a system of offsetting losses against the small business income tax paid in the previous three years. However, as an exception, the rule according to which a company in difficulty may be immediately reimbursed the amount of losses received as a result of the reporting year, but in the amount not exceeding the amount of tax paid in the previous three years, applies. However, in the general case, for the specified amount of losses the enterprises are entitled to a tax credit, which can be used for the next five years, and for the sixth year its remaining part will be returned to the taxpayer.

In Canada, the application of this method involves subsidizing the taxpayer with a corporate tax paid in the previous three years, but not exceeding the amount of the loss. If the amount of corporate tax paid in the previous three years is insufficient to cover the losses received,

then the enterprises are allowed to carry forward the losses for the next seven years.

It can be assumed that the introduction in the domestic practice of taxation of the mechanism of transferring losses in the past (for example, in the previous three years) would certainly have a positive effect on the creation of a favorable tax climate and would promote the development of small businesses in the country. In this case, unscrupulous taxpayers would have another reason to strive for dishonest business. However, despite this, the use of a loss carries the forward mechanism is appropriate in the domestic practice of taxing small business profits.

Businesses that used a simplified tax system only paid a single tax and applied primitive business accounting procedures.

Over time, tax evasion schemes began to develop for small and medium-sized businesses, due to the imperfection and inability to continuously develop a simplified tax system.

Due to the existence of such schemes, a negative attitude towards the simplified taxation system, as sources of abuse, tax evasion, is formed. It is thought that its elimination will lead to improvement of the situation of small business, to the exit from the shadow of enterprises, as well as to filling the state budget.

Considerable disadvantages of a simplified tax system can be considered: narrow scope of distribution; instability and underdevelopment of the tax system; not unambiguous in the application of the tax regime for individuals and legal entities; the impossibility of applying a simplified system of taxation to businesses that go beyond the specified income limits; the lack of interest of enterprises in the use of simplified taxation in their activities.

In our opinion, to remedy the above shortcomings, it is necessary to carry out a set of the following measures: to increase the confidence of entrepreneurs to tax authorities by providing information and advisory support to small businesses regarding its taxation; to make more extensive use of the simplified tax system, to increase the limits of the amounts of income and revenue from the sale of products (goods or works of services); to set differentiated tax rates depending on the tax base; reduce the tax burden on newly created small business entities and, subsequently, gradually increase the amount of tax payments; strengthen the existing and impose new

sanctions for punishment for violation of tax legislation; attract small business investment; specify a list of activities for which they do not apply a simplified tax system to minimize tax evasion.

Today, there are many obstacles that do not allow the development of small business in Ukraine. Because of this, this sector of the economy cannot fully operate. The role of small and medium-sized businesses in solving economic and social problems is difficult to overestimate, so measures aimed at supporting it should become one of the priority areas of regional and state policy.

A simplified taxation system, on the one hand, allows small businesses to grow and, on the other, becomes a tool for tax payment manipulation. Therefore, the system of taxation of small businesses should focus on two areas: to stimulate the development of small businesses, to fill the state and local budgets at the expense of tax revenues.

Conclusions

This article analyzes the main indicators of small business activity, substantiates the need to reform the simplified tax system, identifies the main problems of small business taxation and worked out ways to eliminate them.

In today's environment, small business plays an important role in the market economy of the country, as it provides for the creation of additional jobs, growth of the national economy. In order to ensure proper conditions for small business development, there is a need to reduce the tax burden, which is possible by reforming the tax legislation, especially the simplified tax system, as well as by introducing financial incentives, subsidies, flexible mechanisms for regulating the labor market, stimulating their innovation and investment activities. Therefore, for the successful development of small businesses, there is a need to create the right conditions, tax incentives, which will guarantee the abolition of tax evasion schemes, increase of state budget revenues, and increase of financial indicators. The analysis of the global experience in the field of corporate income tax has provided an opportunity to identify specific tools, the introduction of which, given the specific work of enterprises, the current legislation, would create conditions for improving the field of taxation of small business income in Ukraine.

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