

## **METHODICAL ISSUES OF FORMATION AND ESTIMATION OF INVESTMENT CLIMATE**

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### **Abstract**

*The article considers the features of formation and assessment of the investment climate. The concepts of investment climate, investment attractiveness and investment activity are analyzed. Also, the main approaches to the definition and assessment of the investment climate have been analyzed, and on their basis an author's approach based on an integrated assessment has been proposed. Based on this analysis, the components of the investment activity system are defined. Investment attractiveness is characterized from the perspective of prospects, profitability, efficiency and minimization of the risk of investing in its development. At the same time, the factors of investment attractiveness at the macro level are presented and justified. We recommend a methodology for assessing the state of the investment climate at the macro level by constructing an integral analysis of the factors determining investment attractiveness and activity.*

*Keywords: Investments, investment climate, investment potential, investment activity, investment appeal*

### **INTRODUCTION**

To attract and use investments effectively, certain conditions are required, usually called the investment climate. In the modern economic literature this term is widely distributed, but it still has no clear definition. This concept is characterized by very vague qualitative signs of the state of economic systems. The absence of this concept, of course does not mean that it does not exist at all. This only indicates that the concept of investment climate has not yet developed as a generally accepted scientific category.

The investment climate is understood as «financial, political and other conditions that affect the activity of investments in the economy of the country. The stability of the government, the existence of a well-developed regulatory framework that determines the rights of investors, contribute to the establishment of a favorable investment climate» (Thomas, 2010).

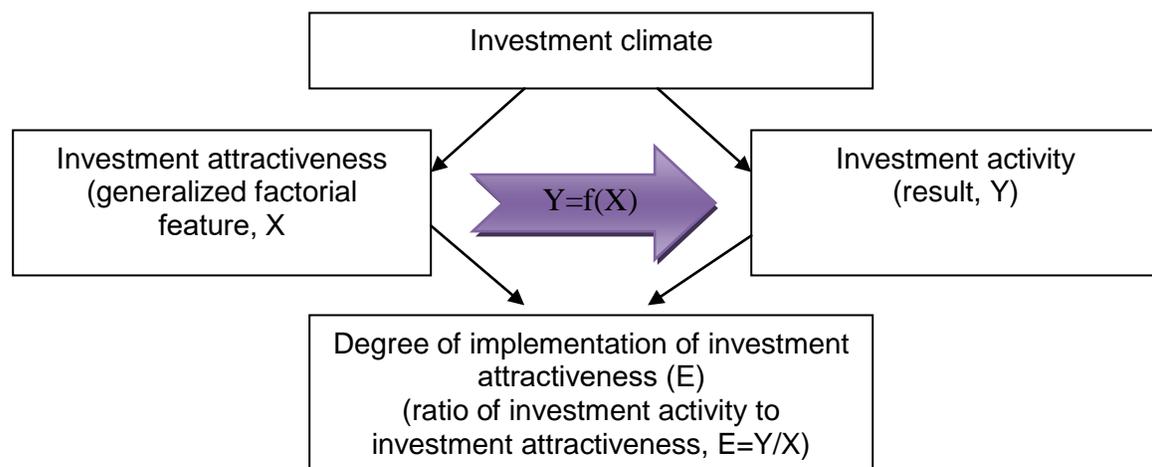
These very vague definitions to some extent make it possible to represent the breadth and diversity of the concept of the investment climate, and apparently, therefore, in the works of Uzbek scientists we did not find a more precise definition of the category of the investment climate. Even in such large-scale works as «Uzbekistan is a business partner (transformation potential, investment climate)» and «Investments in Uzbekistan» (Samarkhodzhaev, 2003), there is no clear definition of the investment climate. Only in the text can be understood that this definition can be close to the above. One thing is clear, the investment climate includes the entire set of conditions and factors operating in the country.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The uncertainty of the concept of the investment climate gradually led to the appearance in the economic literature of a new concept - investment attractiveness. A feature of this concept is an attempt to measure it by a certain set of indicators.

Considering this problem, some authors interpret the concepts of investment climate and investment attractiveness as identical. Others believe that the investment climate is a broader and more capacious concept than investment attractiveness. For example, according to V. Kiryukhin investment potential and a certain degree of investment risk form the investment attractiveness, which determines the investment activity (Kiryukhin, 2006). In his opinion, the investment climate is determined by investment activity and investment attractiveness (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Scheme of investment climate formation





Different interpretations of the concept of investment attractiveness inevitably lead to different approaches in determining its internal components, reflecting either the stability of the financial condition of the enterprise, the profitability of capital, the stock price and the level of dividends paid. In the second, it is the economic (or socio-economic) expediency of investing, based on the coordination of the interests and possibilities of the investor and recipient of investments, which ensures the achievement of the objectives of each of them at an acceptable level of profitability and investment risk.

Investment attractiveness is characterized from the standpoint of prospects, profitability, efficiency and minimization of the risk of investing in its development. In this case, as a rule, the investment attractiveness at the macro level is determined by the following factors:

*Political stability and its predictability in the country;*

*Basic macroeconomic indicators (inflation rate, GDP growth rates, production volumes of the most important types of industrial products, budget deficit, etc.) and their outlook for the future;*

*Presence and degree of perfection of normative acts in the field of investment activity;*

*Degree of perfection of the tax system;*

*Degree of investment risk, etc. (Imomov, 2011).*

The problem of attracting investments is one of the key problems of modern society. However, most economists define it very narrowly, confining themselves to attractiveness for external investors. The internal investment potential of enterprises remains out of sight of many theoreticians of investment attractiveness. In this regard, in order to fill this missed point, it is necessary to return to considering this issue from the perspective of a more general economic category of the investment climate. Here we come to a very interesting conclusion that the investment climate has the properties of statics and dynamics. In static, the investment climate is characterized by the already achieved investment conditions, which are fixed at a certain point in time. In the same dynamics, the investment climate is undergoing very substantial changes and everything depends on the direction in which the changes are taking place. These properties of statics and dynamics are inherent in both developed countries and countries with a transitional economy. But if in the first, the characteristic of the investment climate is very static, then in countries with transitional economies it overcomes rapid changes. For countries with a transitional economy, the dynamic characteristics of changes in the investment climate are more important. We think this is important because the methods of assessing the investment climate available in the economic literature - scoring, rating and others, are usually designed only to fix

the statics of the process, and therefore cannot fully meet the needs of assessing the investment climate in countries with economies in transition, including Uzbekistan.

## REVIEW AND FINDINGS

The definitions of the investment climate given by us are based on the need to create certain conditions. In this case, the term «condition» is interpreted as: «the situation in which occurs, something is realized» and «the circumstance from which something depends». These definitions confirm the dual nature of the investment climate - its statics (situation) and dynamics (circumstances). But the environment and circumstances are created with the aim of «activating investments», «inflow of domestic and foreign investments», which means that the conditions of a favorable investment climate should ensure the attractiveness of investment.

It seems to us that this conclusion is one of the most important methodological approaches in the study of investment potential and it says that the basis for the formation and building up of investment potential is a favorable investment climate that provides a system of investment attractiveness. The state of the investment climate is one of the main qualitative characteristics of the investment field.

Determining factors and conditions for the attractiveness of investment in countries with economies in transition should still be considered the process of reform of both the state and domestic and foreign investors (Fedyasheva, 2014).

As a result of consistent economic reform in Uzbekistan, a gradual, gradual, favorable investment climate was formed. A special feature of its construction was a purposeful policy to increase the attractiveness of investing in the economy (The decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on «Additional measures to stimulate the attraction of foreign direct investment», 2012).

At each stage, the priorities that are appropriate to the emerging economic conditions were formulated, playing the role of investment attractors for both domestic and foreign investors.

Assessment of the investment climate can be carried out by various methods. They can be divided into three groups:

- economic and mathematical methods;
- methods of factor analysis;
- methods of expert evaluation.

Currently, authoritative international organizations, institutions and agencies for assessing the investment climate use one of three methods or their combination (World Investment Report, 2015). The use of different methodological approaches gives different

estimates of the investment climate of the same countries. This indicates the need to improve the methodology for assessing and accounting for various factors in the analysis.

**CONCLUSION**

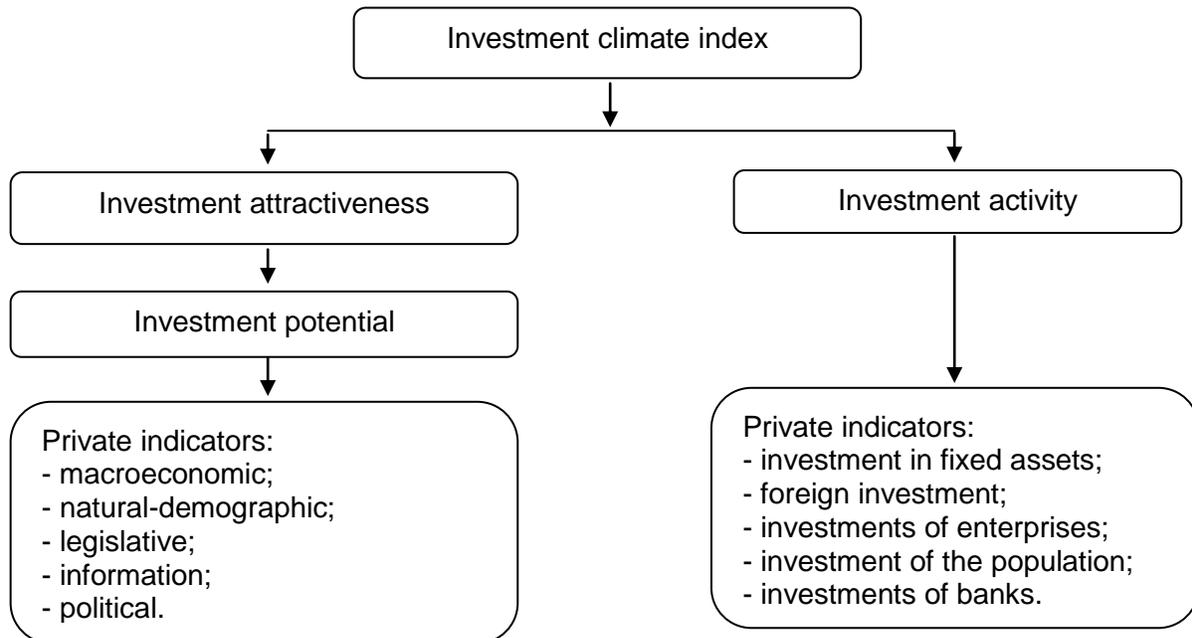
A critical analysis of existing methods, based on the proposed definition of investment potential, has shown that a quantitative assessment of the investment climate should be carried out through calculations of the integral indicator. We recommend a methodology for assessing the state of the investment climate at the macro level, by constructing an integral analysis of factors that determine investment attractiveness and activity (Figure 3). The composite index of the investment climate is calculated in three steps.

First step. For each individual indicator, they are brought into a uniform form using the multidimensional mean method. For each indicator, the arithmetic mean ( $\bar{X}_j, j = 1, 2 \dots n$ ) which gives the average value of the indicator for all years under consideration (k):

$$\bar{X}_j = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k X_{i,j}$$

Second step. For each private indicator, the indicator is summarized by year, which is calculated using the geometric mean.

Figure 3. The scheme for determining the composite index of the investment climate



Source: Compiled by author

The third step. The index of the investment climate is calculated using a geometric mean based on composite indicators for each component.

Calculation of this composite index will allow assessing the degree of change in the dynamics of the investment climate in the country for a certain period of time. This will make it possible to identify bottlenecks that impede the development and improvement of the country's investment climate, comparison with international standards and foreign countries, and identify opportunities for further improving investment attractiveness and activity.

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