Belarus Hi-Tech Park — A Tax-Free Zone That Grew, Then Lost, Its Tech Talent

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Belarus

Quality score: 48/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Minsk's 2005 tax-free IT zone grew ICT to 7.4% of GDP and $3.8bn in exports by 2021, but the 2020 crackdown and 2022 war drove a fifth of its workforce out within 10 months and cut exports 45% by 2023 — proof that incentives alone can't retain mobile talent.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	0/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	0/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-14

Belarus Hi-Tech Park (HTP) Administration — accessed 2026-08-14

German Economic Team — The Rise and Fall of the IT Industry in Belarus — accessed 2026-08-14

RFE/RL — Another Casualty of the Belarus Crackdown: Minsk's Thriving IT Sector — accessed 2026-08-14

Belarus Hi-Tech Park — official site — accessed 2026-08-14

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