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THE REACTION OF INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES TO CRISIS: CHANGES IN BUSINESS-MODEL AND STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY

ABSTRACT

Nowadays the changes in the geopolitical situation significantly affect the conditions for doing business in Russia. The article reviews the peculiarities of the development of Russian industrial companies and the subsidiaries of foreign companies, operating in Russia, in difficult economic conditions. The contemporary consequences of global financial crisis of 2008 with respect to the industrial sector of the economy are also reviewed. The author performed an empirical study of the question of whether the companies' sustainable survival in 2014–2016 was affected by the change in business model and whether these changes were caused by the experience of the previous crisis. The study considered the differences in the behavior of foreign and Russian companies, and the strategies, that reduce the risk of default, are defined.

KEYWORDS

DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES, COMPLEX ECONOMIC
CONDITIONS, SANCTIONS, CRISIS, STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays the changes in the geopolitical situation significantly affect the conditions for doing business in Russia. Amid such phenomena there is a decrease in the level of market capitalization and the appraised value of the assets of the companies, the fluctuation of prices for electricity and raw materials at the macro level. Given that companies operating in Russia are constantly facing different market and economic changes, including those of negative nature, it is necessary to examine the impact of previous crisis experience on the company reorganization in difficult economic conditions in terms of business model changes. In addition, it is important to determine the possibility of occurred crisis changes to help companies in surviving during the next economic downturn.

The research objective is to identify linkages between the restoration process of Russian and foreign companies in difficult economic conditions, changes in business model and the experience received by companies. We should note some limitations of the conducted research. Firstly, some changes in the business model characteristics are mutually reinforcing and cannot be considered in isolation. Secondly,

the applied characteristics used to analyse the business model changes are only tentative. Thirdly, business model changes are only one of the innovation measures in the global strategic approach of the company.

THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF THE RESEARCH AND FORMULATION OF HYPOTHESES

Economic downturns represent cyclical developments in the world economy and significantly affect the competitive landscape (Srinivasan R., Lilien G. L., Sridhar S., 2011; Trachuk A.V., 2011). Since economic downturns cause permanent changes in the dynamics of the industry, in order to survive the companies should adapt their activity through substantial reconfiguration of a business model. (Kuratko D. F., Audretsch D. B., 2013; Basu S., Wadhwa A., 2013; Chindooroy et al., 2007).

Companies typically face multiple crises during their activity. It is therefore necessary to examine the effects of previous negative phenomena in order to cope with further shocks better.

In the literature the main characteristic of the business model allowing the company to survive in difficult economic conditions is called dynamic capacity, i.e. the abilities of companies to change a business model taking into account the environment [George G., Bock A. J., 2011; Trachuk A.V., 2014 a], and in another paper it is stressed that the research results of the business model dynamism could potentially constitute a particularly valuable source of information about how the corporate characteristics and strategies of the company are interrelated in order to adapt to the environmental external changes. [Casadesus-Masanell R., Ricart J. E., 2010]. A study of business models and especially the interaction of their elements is one of the most promising directions to explain the sources of the company competitiveness. [Zott C., Amit R., 2007; 2008; Teece D. J., 2010]. On the basis of empirical data the characteristics of dynamic business models are described that enable companies not only to survive in difficult economic conditions, but also to be leaders: entrepreneurial orientation, continuous process of searching the means to achieve the customer loyalty, organizational learning, continuous monitoring of trends and adapting to them, a wide range of ways to advance, rapid response to consumer demand, continuous process of the development of electronic services, optimization and automation of processes, development of a mobile application, innovative activity or innovations in a business model [Trachuk A.V., Linder N.V., Ubeyko N.V., 2017]. At the same time, the innovations in a business model are identified as steps to change the company activity system, directed towards using new opportunities [Cucculelli M., Bettinelli C., 2015; Trachuk, Linder, 2016 a), creating a new value [Morris M., Schindehutte M., Allen J., 2005; Trachuk A.V., Linder N.V., Antonov D.A., 2014) and searching for business opportunities (George G., Bock A. J., 2011; Schneider S., Spieth P., 2013; Cucculelli M., Bettinelli C., 2016; Trachuk A.V., 2014 b)].

Business model change has a positive effect on survival after the crisis [George G., Bock A. J., 2011; Grewal R., Tansuhaj P., 2001; Trachuk A.V., 2012]. In this article it is noted that the transformation of a business model is defined as the process of modifying the existing business model, associated with innovation implementation, and aimed at ensuring the long-term activity. As previously noted, business model changes may be the previous crisis result; therefore a two-stage analysis method is applied to study the question of whether the post-crisis survival of firms affected the change of a business model of companies and whether the business model changes were caused by previous negative results, which means through training.

THE REACTION TO CRISIS: CHANGES IN BUSINESS MODEL AND STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY

Among the academic studies of how companies respond to crisis, the dominant works are those evaluating the effects of different management models on the performance of the company during the economic downturn [Leung S., Horwitz B., 2010; Liu C., Uchida K., Yang Y., 2012; Trachuk A.V., Vorobyov A. A., 2011]. The reaction of companies to crisis with the benefit of the analysis

of the transformation of business models and business opportunities becomes the subject of research quite rarely [Smith D., Elliott D., 2007; Latham S., 2009; Marsen, 2014; Belyayeva T.V., Shyrokov G.V., Gafforova Y.B., 2017; Trachuk A.V., Linder N.V., 2015a].

Another line of research is the creation of innovative strategies for companies in crisis. So, for example, there offered two contradictory hypotheses about the correlation between innovations and business cycles [Archibugi D., Filippetti A., Frenz M., 2013]. According to the cycle hypothesis the investments of companies in innovation are increasing in the periods of growth and declining during economic crises because of low profit margin and overall pessimistic sentiment in downturns [Freeman C., Clark J., Soete L., 1982]¹. In accordance with the contra cycle hypothesis the innovation (novelty) is usually contra cyclical, as most companies tend to "play it safe" in times of economic expansion, using the existing opportunities and have to introduce innovations only when such opportunities are becoming fewer (as during economic downturns) [Mensch G., 1979]. Not all Russian companies are ready to invest in research and development in conditions of liquidity constraints, however, those companies who carry out investment activities, "the investment amount does not depend on the access to liquidity. This is because when making decisions about research and development investing in companies, the availability of own funds is more important than the possibility of lending" [Trachuk A.V., Linder N.V., 2016 b]. Also there noted "the effect of availability of great surplus funds in large companies that facilitates the research and development, and also innovation financing."

Consequently, the company's ability to update and change its competitive profile can serve as an advantage in difficult economic conditions, because probably there will be a need to get rid of unprofitable products (this process is defined as "the cleansing effect of recession") [Caballero R. J., Hammour M. L., 1996]. On the other hand, this renewal may be limited by the strategic temporal effect, which forces companies to introduce new products only when the market recovers [Stiglitz J. E., 1993; Barlevy G., 2004).

The author reviewed the business model transformation of companies in crisis conditions and in difficult economic conditions. This process forces the company management to take new actions to achieve a competitive position in the market. There are two possible guidelines that should be considered when there is a change in business model: how the company changed its state compared with the previous one, and to what extent the transformation was carried out in line with the industry standards. [Kuratko D. F., Audretsch D. B., 2013]. Even if the specific changes in business model are not innovative for the industry, they may be new to the business associated with the simultaneous search for opportunities [Ireland R. D., Hitt M. A., Sirmon D. G., 2003].

Business models can both contribute to and limit the company survival and growth [Amit R., Zott C., 2001; Morris M., Schindehutte M., Allen J., 2005; Trachuk A.V., Linder N.V., 2015 b]. Changes in business model allow succeeding when they are ready for innovations: "Innovations in building the business models are a key to the firm performance" [Zott C., Amit R., Massa L., 2011: 1033; Trachuk A.V., Linder N.V., 2017]. However, the CEOs are not always able to recognize hidden opportunities for

¹ This point of view is also confirmed by the theoretical investigations of the influence of demand for innovations [Geroski P. A., Walters C. F., 1995]: the growing demand during economic booms provides a more fertile ground for a product uptake than during recessions. Moreover, since firms have limited periods of advantages over competitors [Schumpeter J.A., 1939], in the course of which they receive income from investment, it's safer for them to carry out such activities, when the economy grows.

changes of business models [Bouchikhi H., Kimberly J. R., 2003; Chesbrough H., 2010]. It's empirically demonstrated that business models are closely interrelated with the strategies for the company productivity and competitiveness, as well as they are a source of a long-term strategic sustainability of the company by themselves. [Acs Z. J., Amorys J. E., 2008; Zott C., Amit R., 2008]. Changes in business model increase the survival rate of new companies operating in capital-intensive and high-tech industries, but they are not relevant to companies operating in more stable low-technology industries [Andries P., Debackere K., 2007]. This trend is typical for Russian companies [Trachuk A.V., Linder N.V., 2018].

Changes in business model are also considered as a way to take advantage of the new opportunities and adapt to changes in the company life cycle [Franke N., Gruber M., Harhoff D. et al., 2008; George G., Bock A. J., 2011; Markides C. C., 2013]. In this sense, innovations in a business model can be seen as a way of a meaningful renovation [Demil B., Lecocq X., 2010; Ireland R. D., Hitt M. A., Sirmon D. G., 2003; Johnson M. W., Christensen C. M., Kagermann H., 2008; Sosna M., Trevinyo-Rodriguez R. N., Velamuri S. R., 2010], innovation and ensuring the strategic sustainability [Perlow L. A., Okhuysen G. A., Repenning N. P., 2002; Thoma G., 2009], and also as a way of obtaining long-term results [George G., Bock A. J., 2011; Grewal R., Tansuhaj P., 2001] especially in conditions of high competition, risk and uncertainty, as in times of economic downturns.

Considering the above given theoretical bases, and taking into account the situation in the Russian economy, liable to the negative effects of the imposition of sanctions, we can formulate the following hypotheses of the study:

- *Hypothesis 1.* With the changes in the level and structure of consumption, as well as in connection with the declining purchasing power, the foreign companies less related to the Russian economy, are likely to withdraw from the market, while domestic companies will remain and try to conquer the vacant niche.
- *Hypothesis 2.* The survival rate of companies under sanctions (difficult economic conditions) was affected by the transformation of the business model of companies, occurred during the economic crisis of 2008. Those companies that had optimized their business models have better adapted to business under sanctions.
- *Hypothesis 3.* The management adoption of the strategies to reduce default risk depends on the previous crisis experience, at that gaining of the experience (learning) during the crisis depends on various corporate characteristics.

CHANGE IN BUSINESS MODEL IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Since the economic crisis of 2008 there appeared many studies about how the previous crises affect the survival rate of companies in the new crisis conditions. Whether the knowledge, work and survival experience in previous crises affect the survival of the company, if the next economic recession happens? For example, it is showed how public announcements about

business failures affect the organizational learning of companies in terms of a new experience of failures [Desai V. M., 2014]. New information sources (forums and networks of small and medium-sized businesses) can be significant in shaping the learning process [Herbane B., 2014]. It is studied how the organizational learning and the characteristics of the executive affect the firm's reaction to the economic downturn [Cucculelli M., Bettinelli C., 2016]. In general, the empirical studies indicate that the earlier negative events have an impact on the companies, management actions and decision-making process. Consequently, the firms facing economic shocks are more likely to use the response strategies during the next crisis.

The ability to draw conclusions on the experience of the previous crisis can also depend on the specific characteristics of the companies, in particular on the form of ownership and branch market. For example, it is shown in the work that firms located in the industrial districts, where there are a lot of micro- and small enterprises, which competitiveness is determined also by intercompany relationships, are more likely to adapt to changes in the market conjuncture [Arregle J. L., Hitt M. A., Sirmon D. G. et al., 2007]. This is due to their similarity, common behavior, optimal exchange of necessary information [Baffigi A., 2000]. In the industrial districts the implicit knowledge and values are accumulated for a long time and spread in a wider community because it promotes coordination, efficiency and competition regulation. Similarly, during economic downturns the firms operating in the industrial districts may be more prone to survival and training in crisis due to their ability to emulate more efficient companies [Menzel M. P., Fornahl D., 2009].

The purpose of our analysis is to empirically prove that the experience of the previous crisis (2008) affects the company reorganization in difficult economic conditions (since 2014) in terms of business model changes; to determine how the transformation of a business model enabled companies to survive during the economic downturn (after 2014), which strategies are used by the companies to reduce the risk of default.

Empirical two-stage analysis

Empirical analysis is conducted on a sample of 31 manufacturing companies, operating in various industries and regions of Russia. The initial sampling represents 100 % of population (table 1). For a more detailed comparative analysis of the behavior of foreign and Russian companies the author selected 18 enterprises of oil-and-gas and pharmaceutical industries from the initial sampling (table 2). The given industries are of a great research interest because the companies of oil-and-gas sector suffered the negative consequences of imposition of sanctions to a greater extent in connection with access restriction to foreign technologies, and also sufficient slide in oil prices (from 113 dollars in June 2014 to 50 dollars in January 2015). These factors lead to the worsening of financial position of companies operating in oil-and-gas and oil-and-service industries. Moreover, this industry development was complicated by the financial and economic crisis of 2008–2009, when the oil companies sharply reduced the volume of work, which resulted in price cutting for the output of oil-and-service companies. Because of price cutting the Russian companies had to withdraw from the market, their place was taken by contractors of a lower level of proficiency and experience. According to the survey conducted in November

2015 by the company “Ernst and Young” most survey participants planned some investment activity reducing (which corresponded to the worldwide trend) and revision of work conditions with oil-and-service companies without waiting for oil market recovery.

In the conditions of imposition of sanctions the pharmaceutical industry companies considered the possibility of their potential adaptation within the framework of government import substitution programs. At all that a number of foreign companies implemented the localization of production in Russia yet before the imposition of sanctions, which allowed taking more stable stands in new difficult economic conditions.

LLC Weatherford (Weatherford Worldwide Holdings GmbH, Switzerland²). In August 2007 the company purchased the allotment (less than 30 %) in the Russian group “Borets” (production and service of oil-production equipment), has branches in Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Astrakhan, Izhevsk, Noyabrsk, Usinsk, Samara, Orenburg, Nizhnevartovsk, Lukhovitsy, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Neftejugansk, Buzuluk, Krasnoyarsk, Irkutsk, Nyagan, Pyt'-Yakh, Bugulma, Ufa). Amid the coolness of relationships between Russia and the West in August 2014 PJSC «Rosneft» bought back the Russian and Venezuelan assets of Weatherford International, Inc. in the field of well boring and repair. Weatherford International, Inc. Is one of five largest oil-and-service companies in the world, the annual income exceeds \$ 2 billion [Weatherford, [6.r.]].

LLC «Technological company «Schlumberger» (Schlumberger B.V., Netherlands). The company has been working in all the oil-production regions in Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan for more than 25 years. The company offers the services mix and quality and well-timed service. Corporate standards of Schlumberger B.V. management adapt taking into account the regional specific character. Development strategy is based primarily on investing in local personnel, infrastructure and technology to create optimal proposals for the market. [«Schlumberger», [6.r.]; Balyuk L., 2017].

LLC «STEP Oiltools» (STEP Oiltools B.V., Netherlands). As an independent company with great experience both on offshore projects and land drilling, the company continuously develops and improves the product line, operates in 14 countries and is planning a further active growth. In 2018 the company entered into a contract with PJSC "Bashneft" to work on well-cementing.

LLC «BURSERVIS» (Halliburton Company, USA). In Russia and the Caspian region approximately 2500 specialists are working, 95% of them are trained at the production company bases, training centers in the United States, Great Britain, the Middle East and Russia. The company continues to invest in new equipment, power and infrastructure to provide world-class services. In November 2009 the special purpose entity of Sperry Drilling opened a new shop for repair and maintenance in Nizhnevartovsk. The largest company base in Russia is situated there, owing to which the company has improved its customer service. The location of maintenance bases as close as possible to conducting the works allows Sperry more promptly and efficiently to deliver equipment and services. Among the customers of all major Russian and international oil and gas industry companies: OJSC “Gazprom”, NC “Gazprom neft”, OJSC “LUKOIL”, OJSC

NC “Rosneft”, Exxon Mobil, Shell, Total, etc. The company actively cooperates with small and medium-sized oil-and-gas production enterprises [Halliburton in Russia, [6.r.]];

JSC «Baker Hughes» (Baker Hughes Inc., USA). One of the largest oil and gas companies in the world carries out extensive works on identifying oil and gas deposits, develops cutting-edge technology for their production. Total number of personnel is about 30 thousand persons operating worldwide. Subsidiary divisions deliver equipment for drilling and development not only to the parent company, but also to partners in more than 120 countries. The company offices are located in Tyumen, Orenburg, Moscow, Nizhnevartovsk, Noyabrsk [Baker Hughes, [s.a.]].

JSC «Siberian service company» (CJSC «NSG», Russia). The main activities are: prospecting and exploratory and production drilling of oil and gas wells, directional drilling, well maintenance and workover, selection of formulas, drilling-mud development and maintenance, technological maintenance services of directional drilling. Combination of application of hi-tech equipment, latest technology and experienced personnel are the competitive advantages of the company. Crews and specialists are multiple winners of competitions of professional skills at various levels, branch-wise and government awards³.

CJSC JV “MEKAMINEFT” (OJSC “SN-MNG”, Russia). Among the service companies in the West Siberian region of Russia, providing services to oil-producing complexes in the area of recoverable oil enhancing, one of the leading places is taken by CJSC JV «MeKaMineft». Powerful production and technical base, highly skilled personnel, modern methods, technology, equipment, corresponding to the world standards, allow carrying out a wide range of works on secondary effects on a layer in order to improve its productivity [MeKaMineft [6.r.]].

LLC “NPP BURINTEKH”. High-tech oil service company operates in 28 constituent entities of the Russian Federation. Products are exported to CIS countries, Middle East, North Africa, Europe and North America. The main activities are: development, production, service and delivery of high-quality instrument, reagents for drilling and workover. The company has powerful high-tech equipment, its own scientific-research base [BURINTEKH, [6.r.]].

OJSC «RU-Energy Group». In 2010-2011 JSC «RU-Energy Group» acquired oilfield assets of PJSC “Gazprom Neft” for borrowed funds. Previously, 4 of 6 companies constituting the holding were owned by LLC “GPN-Nefteservis” and became 100% subsidiaries of OJSC "RU-Energy Group" from July the 18th, 2011 till January the 18th, 2012. According to the website of the company, the biggest customers of the holding were OJSC “Gazprom”, OJSC “Gazprom Neft”, «Baker Hughes», «Schlumberger», «Halliburton», OJSC «NC «Rosneft», OJSC «Lukoil» [Zubova Y., Abakumova M., 2016]. The head of the holding OJSC “RU-Energy Group” subsequently was recognized as insolvent (bankrupt).

JSC "AK «Corvette”. The company manufactures equipment for organization of oil and gas fields, as well as the pipeline shut-off and control valves. Quality of products is guaranteed by the integrated ISO management system, the compliance with the Russian and international standards is confirmed by valid certificates. Over the past ten years a complete reconstruction of the plant and its retrofitting is carried out. [AK “Corvette”, [6.r.]].

² The parent company is named in brackets.

³ Source: <http://www.sibserv.com/>

JSC «Bayer» (Bayer AG, Germany). Innovative company occupies key positions in health care and agriculture worldwide. The company has offices in 35 cities of Russia. The division «Pharmaceuticals» specializes in medications used in oncology, hematology, cardiology, women's health, ophthalmology and radiology. A wide range of OTC drugs is offered. Bayer pays particular attention to research; innovation is a key factor in the growth of the company [Names, [6.r.]].

LLC «Lilly Pharma» (Eli Lilly and Company, USA). The company conducts clinical research in 55 countries around the world, has research laboratories in 8 countries, manufacturing facilities in 13 countries. The products of corporation are sold in 120 countries. In Russia the international innovative pharmaceutical company offers more than 20 products for the treatment of diabetes, cancer, osteoporosis and mental disorders. The company directs investment in research and scientific development, educational programs for health professionals and patients, transferring of production technologies. [Basic facts [6.r.]].

LLC «Novartis Pharma» (Novartis AG, Switzerland). The group of companies ‘Novartis’ in Russia offers solutions in healthcare to meet the new needs of society and patients. The company occupies a leading position in the Russian market in the production of innovative drugs, high-quality generics and OTC medicines, surgical equipment and drugs to protect eyesight. In December 2010 “Novartis” group of companies announced a strategic investment programme with a volume of 500 million dollars in order to provide the organization of the local production, cooperation in scientific research. [Our strategy [6.r.]]

JSC «SIA International Ltd.». The company is a national distributor of pharmaceuticals. In 2007 in the framework of the company activities a holding company "Pharm-Center" was created, which is composed of three major domestic plant producers of medicines of OJSC "Biokhimik" (Saransk), OJSC "Sintez" (Kurgan), CJSC "Biokom" (Stavropol). The company is actively embracing new ways for development, relying on its huge accumulated experience. The relations are settled with more than 60 suppliers, the restructuring of debts to creditor banks is complete, the accounts receivable of the company are reduced, and the payments from clients-non-payers are resumed. The financing of Bank VTB is received in the amount of 5.4 billion. Rub. [About the company [6.r.]].

JSC «R-PHARM» is a vertically integrated pharmaceutical company. Main activities: research, development and production of drugs of different therapeutic groups. On October the 1st, 2014 “R-Pharm” acquired a large industrial technology center (Illertissen, Germany). The company is one of the founders of the modern pharmaceutical complex “Hayat Pharm” (Azerbaijan) [The company’s history, [6.r.]].

JSC «Pharmstandart» (Augment Investments Ltd, Cyprus). The company develops and produces modern, high quality, affordable drugs. Five modern factories produce more than 1.7 billion packages of medicines per year [Pharmstandart, [6.r.]]. The basic directions of the company's strategy are: further localization of the production of drugs in joint projects with foreign pharmaceutical companies; massive participation of the company in the state program of import substitution; automation of the processes of production planning with a view to the efficient management of processes and increase in control of costs; development and introduction of new products, expanding the range of dosage forms

and dosages of medications produced; increase in the percentage of high margin medicinal drugs in the company's portfolio.

CJSC «Biocad» (Biocad Holding LTD, Cyprus). The innovative company is a research-and-development center of the world level, state of the art pharmaceutical and biotechnological manufacturing, where pre-clinical and international clinical surveys are taken, corresponding to modern standards. Full production cycle of medicines is provided: from molecule search to mass production and marketing support. Drugs are intended for the treatment of complex diseases. The company employs over 1400 people, including more than 650 scientists and researchers. Offices and representative offices of the company are located in the United States, Brazil, China, India, and other countries. The company is heading the national ranking of the fastest growing high-tech companies "TekhUspekhn" 2016. In 2002 the Research Center was established on the basis of the Soviet Institute of engineering immunology, also a research and production center was created in the special economic zone "Neudorf" — a unique infrastructure facility where drugs pass the whole life cycle: from design to commercial production and distribution [Biocad, [6.r.]]

OJSC «YUGAPHARM» (Tyumenskaya Oblast') (Khanty-Mansiysk PPF, JSC). The plant for the production of the specialties built with the participation of Yugoslav firms "Hemopharm", "Energoproekt holding» and «Opart». Imported technological equipment enables the production of high-quality products tailored to GMP and GLP requirements. This was the only pharmaceutical company beyond the Urals, built in a strict accordance with the requirements of the international quality standards (GMP). The company was acknowledged insolvent in 2015 [And failed again, 2011].

For the analysis the registration information and financial indicators for 2012-2016 are collected:

- registration information (Table 1):
 - o registration number;
 - o short title;
 - o address (location);
 - o registration date;
 - o age of company;
 - o disposal date;
 - o status (active/in the process of disposition/disposed);
 - o registration region;
 - o region of activity;
 - o code of economic activity (OKVED)
 - o business form;
 - o form of property (private property/ownership of foreign legal persons/joint private and foreign property);
 - o company size (large-scale / medium-sized/ small-scale enterprise);
 - o authorized capital stock.
- accounting data (table 2, fig. 1–4).
 - o net assets;
 - o intangible assets;
 - o fixed assets;
 - o revenue;
 - o cost of sales;
 - o executive expenses;
 - o sundry expense;
 - o net profit (negative profit) [Federal agency, [6.r.]]

Table 1
Information about the companies on initial sample

Company	Registration date	Age of company	Legal status of legal entity	Size of company	Number *, persons
Russian companies					
Oil-and-gas (oil-and-service) industry					
JSC "AK “Corvette”" (Kurganskaya Oblast')	16.03.1992	26	active	large-scale	1001–5000
LLC “NPP BURINTEKH” (Bashkortostan)	16.06.1999	19	active	large-scale	1001–5000
OJSC «Plant “NEFTEPROMMASH”» (Moscow)	07.12.1999	19	In the process of disposition (05.11.2014)	large-scale	н/д
JSC «Plant “SNGM”» (Tyumenskaya Oblast')	18.12.1992	26	In the process of disposition (15.08.2016), Message of the creditor’s intention to seize the court with the bankruptcy petition of 01.10.2015	N/A	н/д
JSC «NG-MENEDZHMENT» (Moscow)	26.08.2009	9	In the process of disposition (27.12.2017)	N/A	16–50
JSC «NGO “NPM”» (Tyumenskaya Oblast')	30.06.2004	14	active	N/A	0–5
LLC «NUBK» (Tyumenskaya Oblast')	29.07.1997	21	active	large-scale	1001–5000
OJSC «RU-Energy Group» (Moscow)	31.08.2009	9	Declared as bankrupt 30.05.2015	N/A	н/д
CJSC JV “MEKAMINEFT” (Tyumenskaya Oblast')	03.09.1997	21	active	large-scale	1001–5000
JSC "SSK" (Moscow)	24.12.1999	19	active	large-scale	> 5000
JSC«YAMALPROMGEOFIZIKA» (Tyumenskaya Oblast')	04.11.2002	16	active	medium-sized	251–500
JSC«GIDROMASHSERVIS» (Moscow)	18.01.1993	26	active	N/A	151–200
Textile Product Mills					
OJSC «Murmansk sewing plant» (Moscow)	25.03.1994	24	Declared as bankrupt 04.12.2014	N/A	N/A
Manufacture of general-purpose machinery and equipment					
CJSC«SEVERELEKTROSETSTROY» (Tyumenskaya Oblast')	24.04.1998	20	Declared as bankrupt 23.12.2017	small-scale	51–100
Manufacture of metal doors and windows					
JSC «VOZDUKHOTEKHNIKA» (Moscow)	28.01.1993	26	active	small-scale	251–500
Production of sawn timber, building woodwork and joinery					
OJSC «Timber mill №3» (Arkhangel'skaya Oblast')	06.10.1992	26	Declared as bankrupt 11.07.2015	N/A	N/A
Manufacture of other plastic products					
LLC «INTERPAK» (Moscow oblast’)	25.06.1996	22	active	small-scale	101–150
Energy production					
LLC "SOLOVKI ELEKTROSBYT" (Arkhangel'skaya Oblast')	28.02.2011	7	Declared as bankrupt 23.07.2018	medium-sized	251–500
Pharmaceutical industry					
CJSC «Biocad» (St.Petersburg)	25.06.2001	17	active	large-scale	501–1000
JSC «R-PHARM» (Moscow)	17.08.2001	17	active	large-scale	1001–5000
JSC«SIA International Ltd." (Moscow)	16.02.1995	23	active	large-scale	501–1000
JSC «Pharmstandart» (Moscow Oblast’.)	05.05.2006	12	active	large-scale	501–1000
OJSC «Yugrapharm» (Tyumenskaya Oblast')	24.04.2001	17	Declared as bankrupt 06.10.2011	N/A	N/A
Subsidiary divisions of foreign companies in Russia					
Pharmaceutical industry					
JSC «BAYER» (Moscow)	06.10.1994	24	active	large-scale	1001–5000
LLC «Novartis Pharma» (Moscow)	27.12.2006	12	active	large-scale	N/A
LLC «Lilly Pharma» (Moscow)	19.05.1998	20	active	large-scale	251–500
Oil-and-gas (oil-and-service) industry					
JSC «Baker Hughes» (Moscow)	05.01.1993	26	active	large-scale	N/A
LLC «Burservis» (Komi Republic	05.06.2000	18	active	medium-sized	11–15
LLC «Weatherford» (Moscow)	04.06.2007	11	active	large-scale	1001–5000
LLC «Step Oiltools» (Moscow)	17.09.2010	8	active	small-scale	16–50
LLC «Technological company Schlumberger» (Tyumenskaya Oblast')	20.03.2003	15	active	large-scale	501–1000

* Average number of employees as of 2017.

EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS,
DEFINITION OF VARIABLES

Survivability of the firm

The legal status of the companies is mentioned as «Active», «In the process of disposition», « Declared as bankrupt». This categorization was introduced to identify the companies that have not survived the recession in 2014. The frequency of such companies in the sample is quite low (table 1).

The evaluation results

Below there are the empirical results obtained by a two-stage model described above. In particular, there are the results related to the impact of changes in business model on post-crisis survival of firms (hypothesis 2) by defining strategies that reduce the risk of default. Further the results of the experience obtaining hypothesis are described, showing whether the business model changes resistant to crisis were adopted as a result of the previous

crisis experience, and the regional affiliation role in the process of experience obtaining (hypothesis 3).

According to the analysis it is revealed that the very fact of companies' withdrawal from the market is not necessarily a negative phenomenon. "Cycle" of companies (economic subjects) is an integral part of the restructuring process in the context of a competitive economy and leads to "creative destruction" [Schumpeter J.A., 1936].

It should be noted that in respect of nine companies the decision was made on the recognition of being insolvent (bankrupt) (see table 1). In doing so, there was a gradual deterioration in the key financial indicators in the companies' activity during 2012-2015 (unprofitable activity, revenue decrease, disposal of fixed assets), the financial condition worsening was observed in the companies, employed in oil and gas industry. At the end of 2013 the Russian gas servicing industry companies experienced economic difficulties due to the high competition of foreign companies with more modern equipment and offering services at lower prices. The dynamics

of financial indicators of companies is represented in table 2 and fig. 1-4.

Changes in business model and sustainable survival

Overall, the data suggest that companies increasing investment in intangible assets during the period from 2003 to 2008 had a lower probability of default after recession in 2014. At the same time changing the business model significantly affect the post-crisis survival of the firm. In particular, the default probability of companies is reducing at the decreased vertical integration, simplification of the business model and increased investment in intangible assets. Thus these three dimensions can be defined as strategies resistant to crisis.

Strategies of Russian and foreign companies

In the conditions of rapid political and economic changes in the framework of the implementation of development strategies, Russian companies have the following tasks:

- reducing the costs and increasing the operational efficiency;
- entering new geographical markets to ensure internal growth;
- acquisition of assets and increase in market share;
- mastering the conceptually new technologies, changing “the game rules” on the market, releasing new products to the market;
- accurate and realistic assessment of the timing and costs at the stage of making the final investment decision, compliance with the approved plan.

The consequence of the imposed restrictions for Russian companies was a deficit of available funds. Russian companies experience financing difficulties and consequently pay more

attention to financial performance. Optimization of the supply chain and increase of the effectiveness of operational activities are conducted considering the importance of reducing the costs. At that the subsidiaries of foreign companies are able to receive intercompany loans, including from the parent companies, which receive revenue on the foreign markets.

Orientation of Russian companies toward the financial results is also reflected in the approach to innovation. The main mechanisms of innovative development of a company are increasing the volume of investment in R&D and the search for an optimal balance between costs and benefit. This approach, due to the financial aspects, fundamentally distinguishes the Russian business from the foreign players, who believe they first and foremost need creative employees for development. Unlike foreign competitors for the managers of Russian companies the supply chain optimization, the efficiency improving of operating activities and the introduction of new technologies are relatively more important than bringing the qualified staff.

CONCLUSIONS

Recently the current geopolitical situation had a major impact on the business climate in Russia, in this regard, both domestic and foreign companies present on the Russian market have to act more cautiously and more carefully treat the investment programmes and development strategies.

Russia remains one of the most attractive and profitable markets in terms of sales and profit, most foreign companies retain their willingness to work in Russia and demonstrate the continued stability or positive dynamics of financial results, thus, hypothesis 1 is confirmed only in part. Russian companies are

Table 2
Information on the financial performance of subsidiaries of foreign companies and Russian companies, thous. rub. (by the final sample)

Company	Revenue					Net profit (negative profit)				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Oil-and-gas (oil-and-service) industry Subsidiaries of foreign companies										
LLC «Weatherford»	8239 208	8877 883	10893 054	17019 831	15524 357	208 478	(351 833)	(463 000)	296 864	243 941
LLC «Technological company Schlumberger»	7574 796	12377 279	22512 716	25260 810	21617 333	224 190	509 448	4555 108	1847 244	(3617 444)
LLC «Step Oiltools»	593 944	600 116	433 556	491 119	342 190	39 225	5 534	(242 684)	(125 981)	(25 590)
LLC «Burservis»	46 797	11 502	66 565	1695 415	1 186 217	(90 388)	30 422	54 463	9 799	(9 183)
JSC «Baker Hughes»	11 777	54 954	873 747	5808 056	8 159 786	(5 529)	7 510	(15 140)	147 515	112 034
Russian companies										
JSC "SSK"	21982 209	22757 702	27470 911	28517 710	28970 319	899 984	819 931	1522 884	1696 292	1 126 999
CJSC JV "MEKAMINEFT"	13765 617	8192 871	9015 254	11 712 293	10758 799	44 932	504 158	(30 449)	528 921	64 115
LLC "NPP BURINTEKH"	4 147 146	5 198 715	5 956 181	6 556 436	6 735 036	575 053	763 454	607 988	398 914	291 442
OJSC «RU-Energy Group»	3836 291	3 592 207	1 120 477	—	—	58 200	1422 893	758 378	(4110 263)	(1 375)
JSC "AK "Corvette""	3 710 597	4 250 714	4 466 489	4 323 060	3 976 072	198 647	307 238	172 499	108 256	15 072
Pharmaceutical industry Subsidiaries of foreign companies										
JSC «BAYER»	24806 852	28216 490	33811 590	41 126 165	48037 241	(174 222)	(102 126)	616 408	507 950	1 626 768
LLC «Lilly Pharma»	4824 823	4619 304	5706 275	5982 143	6354 182	237 901	80 990	190 181	(37 994)	119 774
LLC «Novartis Pharma»	Н/д	Н/д	13663 066	15097 403	13790 640	Н/д	н/д	(96 605)	97 049	(545 255)
Russian companies										
JSC «SIA International Ltd.»	81 537 641	75098 748	98495 963	59438 184	46619 351	240 386	248 344	143 950	(3111 114)	(2823 069)
JSC «R-PHARM»	41 869 155	46123 221	55918 779	62204 014	62964 431	4453 578	6437 174	7680 624	8608 010	6711 880
JSC «Pharmstandart»	20109 093	22557 604	15216 586	15212 225	25980 744	6788 736	7301 605	3307 143	6045 168	6605 626
CJSC «Biocad»	2945 294	2992 625	8387 819	8914 174	11477 324	938 522	927 591	4803 406	4349 471	5050 906
OJSC «YUGAPHARM»	199 502	147 290	124 997	—	—	(883 323)	6 345	(63 369)	—	—

Fig. 1. Dynamics of the revenues of the subsidiaries of foreign companies in oil and gas sector, thous. rub.

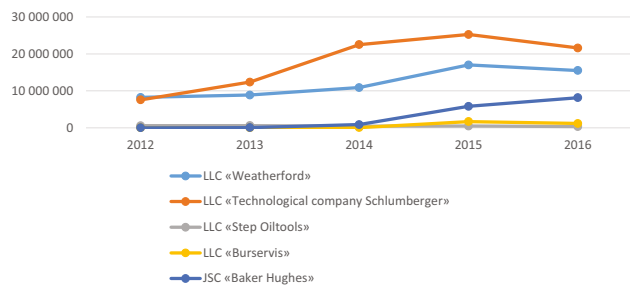


Fig. 3. The dynamics of the net profit (negative profit) of the subsidiaries of foreign companies in pharmaceutical industry, thous. rub

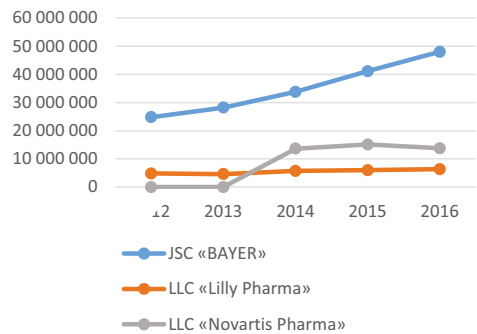


Fig. 2. Dynamics of the revenues of the Russian companies in oil and gas sector, thous. rub.

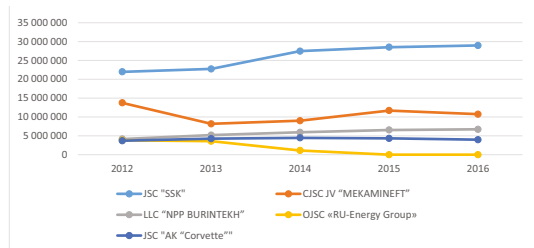
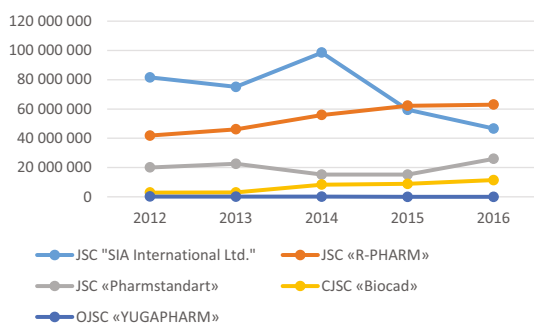


Fig. 4. The dynamics of the net profit (negative profit) of the subsidiaries of the Russian companies in pharmaceutical industry, thous. rub.



really willing to occupy the vacant niche, previously occupied by the foreign sector; however, this phenomenon takes place sporadically. It should be noted that the presence of foreign companies in the Russian market is very important. At the state level measures are being taken to improve the investment climate and to create an enabling environment for enterprise development in the long term, including the development of the railway transport infrastructure, construction of roads and bridges, implementation of projects to develop infrastructure of electricity, water and gas supply. The cumulative effect of such infrastructure changes consists in productivity improving, which constitutes one of the main objectives of companies operating in Russia.

The analysis of 31 industrial companies suggests that the changes in business model influenced the post-crisis sustainable survival. As it is showed by the study of the process of the experience (learning) obtaining from crisis and its role in the company's ability to adapt its business model to the new competitive landscape, the changes in business model were not directly related to the experience of the previous crisis. The strategies, previously used by the companies, appeared less effective in reducing the probability of default in the changed economic conditions.

In case the companies do not profit by the previous crisis experience, the impact of economic downturns on the subsequent recovery of the economy may be exacerbated. Even counterbalance mechanism that restores stability after the crisis might not be sufficient, since companies must adjust their behaviour and learn from previous experience. In the opposite case, if learning (the crisis experience) is limited, self-regulatory systems can be only partly effective [Thomsen S., 1999].

In general, the data show that the experience obtaining had a limited effect on change in strategic approach. Since the strategy adoption to reduce the default risk only slightly depends on the previous crisis, hypothesis 2 is only partially confirmed.

Analysis of the changes in business model revealed that the probability of default (disposition or bankruptcy) of a company increases with the business model complexity, and the strategies of companies demonstrating relatively better results are aimed at the organizational complexity reducing. Thus, at the firm level it's suggested to avoid complications and vertical integration as strategic opportunities to provide survival after the crisis.

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