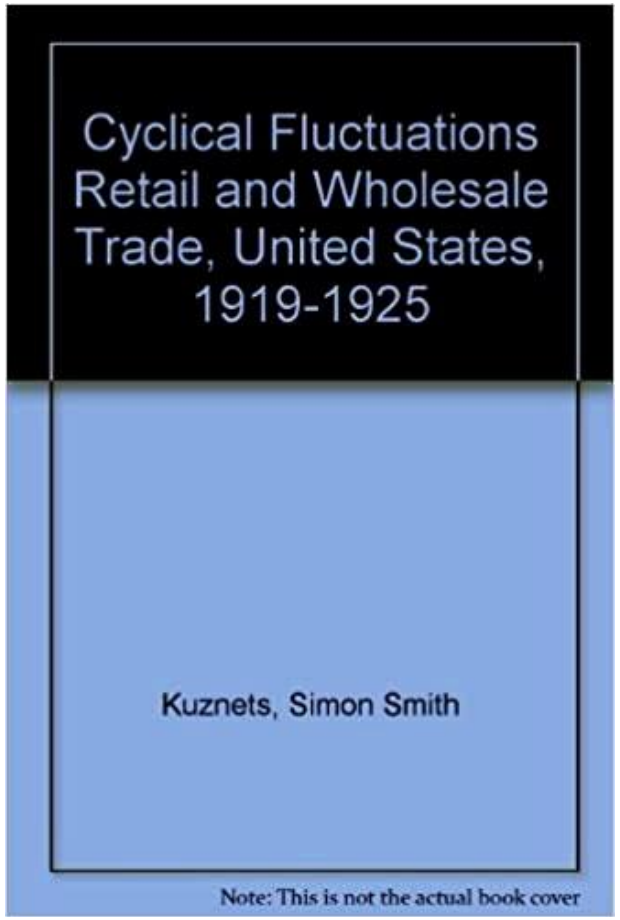


Choosing New Opportunities for the Advancement of Science Based on Simon Kuznets' Legacy a Century After His Dissertation Defens

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Dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Simon Kuznets's defense of his PhD dissertation *1926



The 2026 book by renowned economist V. Tanzi, *Growth and Welfare: In Pursuit of Economic Wellbeing*, draws attention to Simon Kuznets's PhD dissertation

- The title of the book reflects the fundamental conceptual underpinnings established in the dissertation.
- As early as 1926, the scholar initiated an analysis of consumption by conducting a detailed **empirical examination** of market relations.
- V. Tanzi argues that it was this dissertation that laid the statistical and methodological foundation for S. Kuznets.
- Even before the onset of the Great Depression, the dissertation attempted to provide a mathematical and empirical description of the inherent instability and **cyclical** nature of a market economy.
- For V. Tanzi, referencing this 1926 dissertation—a century later—serves as a gateway to further analysis regarding the origins of the GDP system and the emergence of new global opportunities.

- Tanzi, V. (2026). *GDP, Growth, and Welfare: In Pursuit of Economic Wellbeing*. Taylor & Francis. P.157 https://surl.li/jomizq

Goal and Method

Applying an **organizational-managerial approach** to identify and rank the most promising and priority areas for economic research—viewed through the lens of the 100th anniversary of Simon Kuznets's dissertation defense (1926)—in order to uncover new opportunities for the advancement of the field by examining his legacy through the development of decision support systems (DSS).

The method involves using specialized software called Decision Making Helper.

To test the proposed approach, two scenarios were executed

- The first approach involved ranking three primary alternatives:
- 1. Kuznets's Kharkiv foundation (1918–1921): the influence of the Ukrainian scientific school on his statistical approach.
- 2. The evolution from his 1926 dissertation to the theory of 20-year cycles.
- 3. Re-evaluating the concept of GDP: the role of Kuznets's metric in the 21st century and the search for new indicators of well-being.
- The second approach entailed replacing what the authors considered the least prioritized area—the study of evolutionary changes in cycle theory (as initiated in the dissertation)—with an analysis of the commonalities found within the organizational process of PhD dissertation defenses. This topic is currently highly relevant in Ukraine, given the ongoing transformation of these processes.

Determining the Priority Alternative for Research Directions Regarding the Development of Scholarship on the Legacy of Simon Kuznets

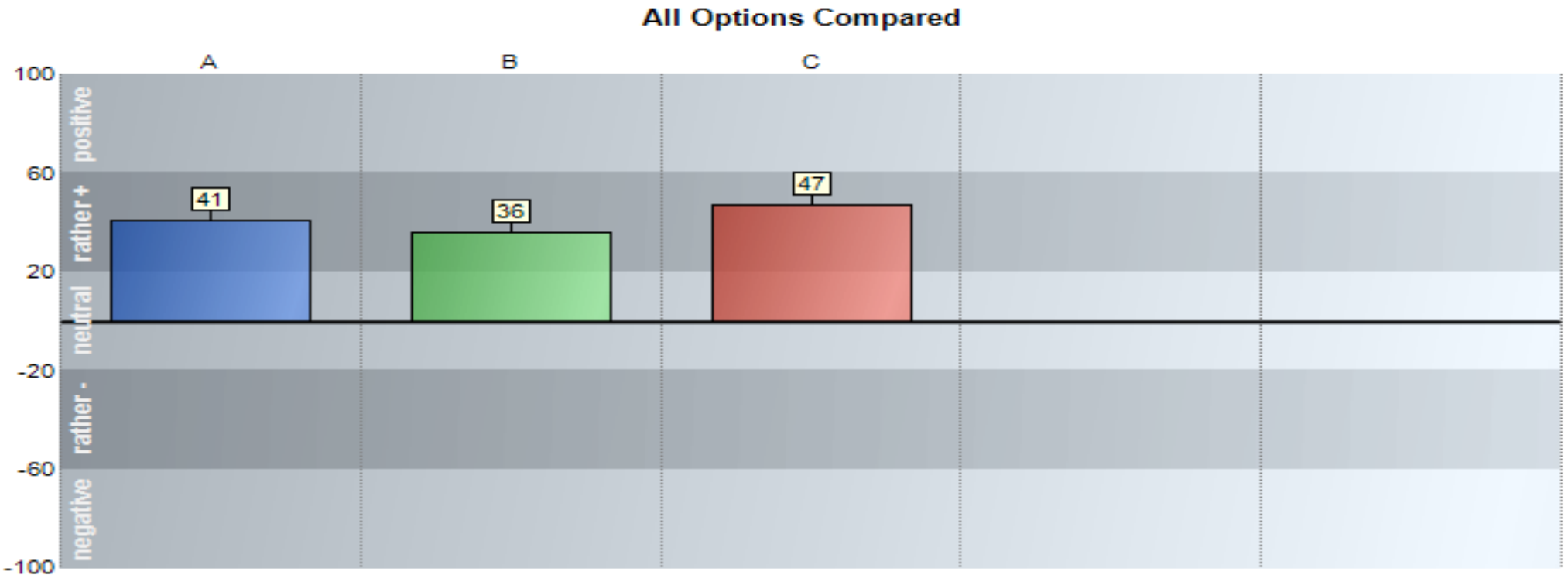
Criterion/Weight	Kuznets's Kharkiv Foundation (1918–1921): The Influence of the Ukrainian Scientific School on His Statistical Approach.	The evolution from the 1926 dissertation to the theory of 20-year cycles.	Rethinking the GDP Concept: The Role of Kuznets's Metric in the 21st Century and the Search for New Indicators of Well-being
Social relevance: 45% (highest weight)	+2	+2	+5
Scientific novelty: 30%	+5	+4	+3
Availability of sources: 15%	+3	+3	+4
Difficulty level: 10%	+2	+2	+4

The outcome of choosing an alternative research direction in the development of science concerning the legacy of Simon Kuznets

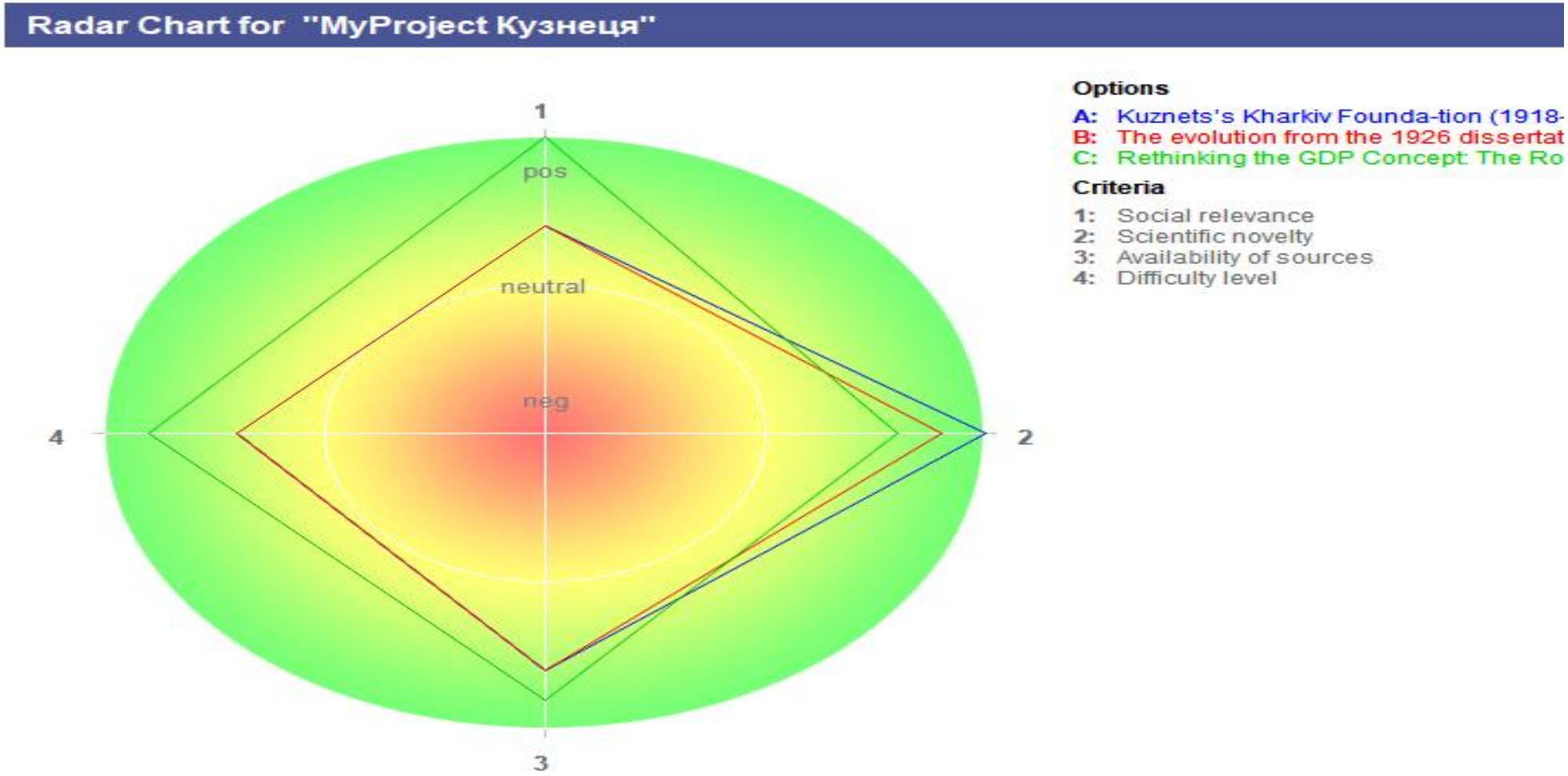
Decision for "MyProject Кузнеця"

Best Option: Option C "Rethinking the GDP Concept: The Role of Kuznets's Metric in the 21st Century and the Se
High Score: +47%
Decision: rather positive, Option C "Rethinking the GDP Concept: The Role of Kuznets's Metric in the 2

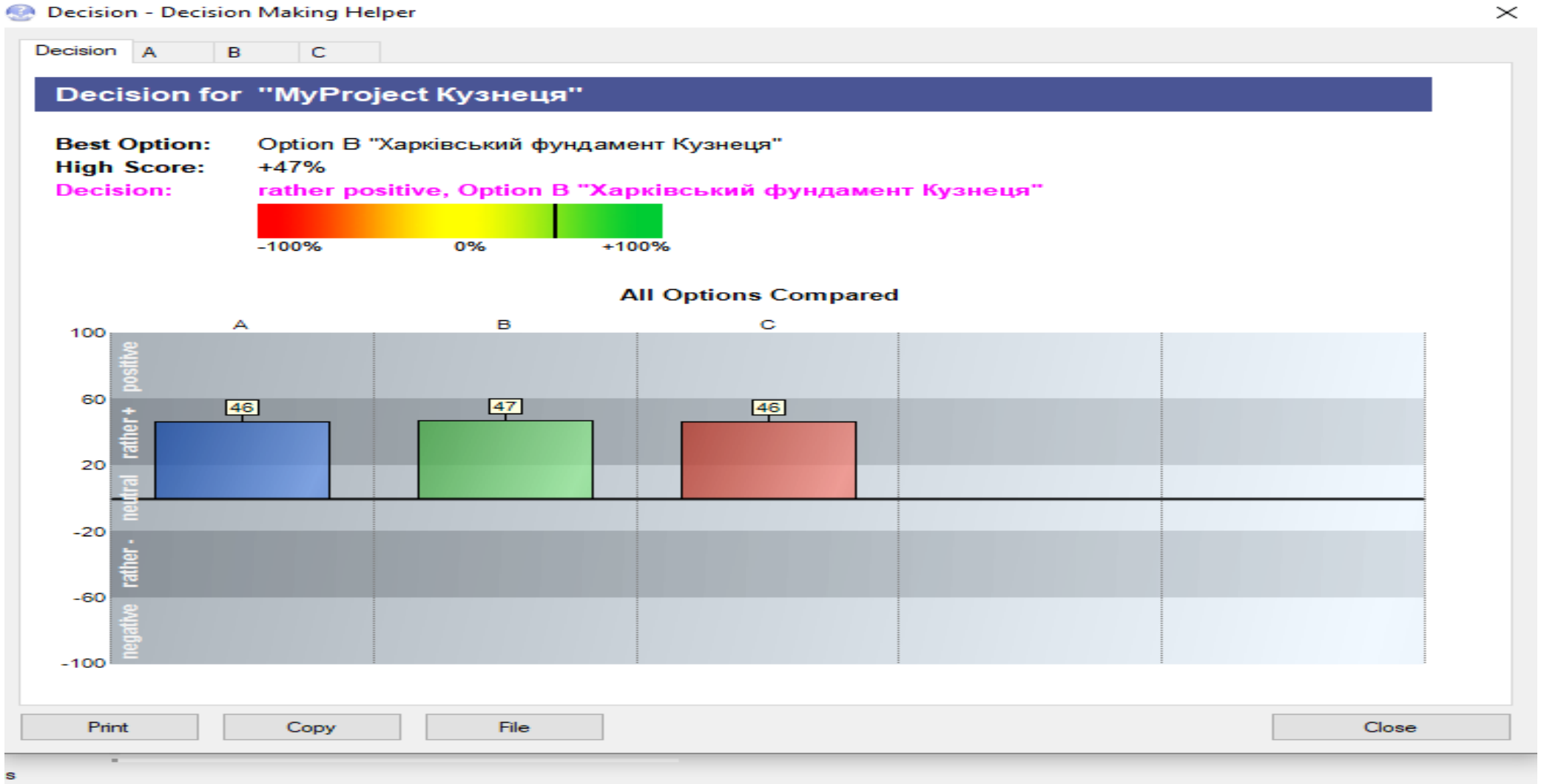




Results in Decision Making Helper regarding the identification of priority research directions for the development of science based on the legacy of S. Kuznets (in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of his dissertation defense) — Radar Method



The outcome of choosing an alternative research direction for the development of the study of S. Kuznets's legacy (the second scenario)



Conclusions

- An analysis of the scholarly work of Nobel laureate Simon Kuznets—conducted in the context of the centenary of the defense of his doctoral dissertation (1926–2026)—demonstrates the **fundamental significance of his legacy.** This includes his contributions to the theory of economic growth, the study of demand, empirical methodology, and GDP analysis, all of which have been instrumental in shaping the continuously evolving landscape of modern economic thought.
- The application of Decision Support Systems (DSS)—specifically the specialized software **"Decision Making Helper"—**enabled the analytical substantiation and ranking of priority areas for future research into his legacy. This process was based on four criteria selected by the authors: societal significance, scientific novelty, availability of scholarly sources, and level of complexity. These criteria were applied within the framework of an organizational-managerial approach designed to identify and rank the most promising and high-priority research directions across two distinct scenarios.

Conclusions

- Based on the evaluation conducted, the chosen priority topic—within the context of a century of economic growth theory—is "Rethinking the GDP Concept: The Role of the Kuznets Indicator in the 21st Century and the Search for New Welfare Indicators." This selection is driven by the high weight assigned to the criterion of social significance, as well as the modern world's urgent need to adapt the classic GDP metric—originally developed by Simon Kuznets—to the realities of today's digital and "green" economy.
- An alternative research focus**—"S. Kuznets's Kharkiv Foundation (1918–1921): The Influence of the Ukrainian Scientific School on His Statistical Approach**"—also holds significant strategic scientific potential.
- This line of inquiry is actively pursued through annual international conferences dedicated to the legacy of Simon Kuznets (featuring Nobel laureates in Economics), held at the Simon Kuznets Kharkiv National University of Economics. This initiative received the highest rating for scientific novelty, viewed through the lens of contemporary perspectives. ***It was the Kharkiv period that laid the methodological foundation for the scholar's subsequent success in the United States***—a trajectory that began with the defense of his 1926 dissertation on cyclical economic fluctuations. The centenary of S. Kuznets's dissertation is not merely a historical milestone; it serves as a dynamic guidepost for the economy of the new world.

Conclusions

- The proposed organizational-managerial approach to selecting alternatives for scientific research—developed using the modern intelligent automated decision-support system "Decision Making Helper"—enables the achievement **of synergy in defining research** directions. This is facilitated through a system of criteria that can be expanded in line with the software's capabilities.
- Testing the approach across two application scenarios has demonstrated its advantages for researchers, who—when faced with various external influences and challenges—**can promptly make informed decisions regarding the direction of their future scientific inquiry**, specifically concerning the study of S. Kuznets's intellectual legacy.
- This will allow knowledge of his legacy to be transformed into an effective tool for addressing contemporary crises related to migration, labor shortages, and innovation-driven development.

- **Thank you for your attention!**