РОЗДІЛ З. ЕКОНОМІКА ТА УПРАВЛІННЯ ПІДПРИЄМСТВАМИ

MARKETING BUDGET FOR LAUNCHING A STARTUP PRODUCT МАРКЕТИНГОВИЙ БЮДЖЕТ НА ЗАПУСК СТАРТАП-ПРОДУКТУ

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The article discusses the approaches for marketing budgeting of startups at a launch stage. There is no single efficient approach to the generation of a startup marketing budget. The selection of the approach will depend on the unique characteristics of the company and product, the target audience and its geography, income, as well as the source of funding (own funds, investor funds, grants, loans, etc.). Marketing and advertising costs in the budget of modern startups have grown significantly over the past ten years due to the following factors: platform consolidation, competition on paid advertising channels, ad blocking and the availability of marketing tools, increased competition, and market saturation. The article summarizes the recommendations that will help to distribute the startup marketing costs effectively. The proposed principles of startup marketing budgeting should be adapted to the conditions of the market environment and the research results of the target audience.

Key words: startup, marketing, budget, promotion, revenue, product launch.

В статье рассмотрены подходы к маркетинговому бюджетированию стартапов на стадии запуска. Не существует единого

эффективного подхода в сфере формирования маркетингового бюджета стартала. Выбор подхода будет зависть от уникальных характеристик компании и продукта, целевой аудитории и ее географиии, дохода, а также источника финансирования (собственные средства, средства инвестора, гранты, кредиты или иное). В бюджете современных старталов расходы на маркетинг и рекламу значительно выросли за последние десять лет, что обусловлено такими факторами: консолидация платформ, конкуренция на платных каналах рекламы, блокировки рекламы, доступность маркетинговых инструментов, рост конкуренции, насыщенность рынка. В статье обобщены рекомендации, которые помогут эффективно распределить маркетинговые расходы стартапа. Предложенные принципы маркетингового бюджетирования стартала должны быть адаптированы к условиям рыночной среды и результатам исследований целевой аудитории.

Ключевые слова: стартап, маркетинг, бюджет, продвижение, доход, запуск продукта.

У статті розглянуті підходи до маркетингового бюджетування стартапів на стадії запуску. Бюджетування є особливо важливим на початкових етапах стартап-маркетингу. Наукові дослідження підтверджують, що для запуску нового стартап-продукту варто починати з оцінки допустимого бюджет. Якщо компанія вже здійснює перші продажі, то підхід до формування маркетингового бюджету може бути заснованим на відсотку від прибутку. Закордонні дослідження свідчать, що засновники стартапів на перших етапах запуску продукту витрачають 5% -7% доходу на маркетинг. Обсяг витрат на стартап-маркетипнг може варіюватися залежно від розміру компанії та галузі. Маркетинговий бюджет для запуску стартап-продукту зазвичай включає в себе витрати на дослідження ринку і цільової аудиторії, забезпечення конкурентоспроможності продукту, інформування клієнтів про товар або послугу (реклама, SEO, SMM, промоакції, участь у виставках та інших подіях тощо), брендинг, організацію логістики і збутової мережі. Розрізняють два види маркетингових бюджетів стартапів: бюджет на запуск продукту та річний бюджет. У бюджеті на запуск продукту відображаються змінні витрати, пов'язані з виведенням нового товару або послуги на ринок, у річному бюджеті – постійні маркетингові витрати за рік. Не існує єдиного ефективного підходу в сфері формування маркетингового бюджету стартапа. Вибір підходу буде залежати від унікальних характеристик компанії та продукту, цільової аудиторії і її географії, доходу, а також джерела фінансування (власні кошти, кошти інвестора, гранти, кредити або ін.). У бюджеті сучасних стартапів витрати на маркетинг і рекламу значно зросли за останні десять років, що обумовлено такими факторами: консолідація платформ, конкуренція на платних каналах реклами, блокування реклами, доступність маркетингових інструментів, зростання конкуренції, насиченість ринку. У статті узагальнені рекомендації щодо розподілу маркетингових витрат стартапу. Запропоновані принципи маркетингового бюджетування старталу повинні бути адаптовані до умов ринкового середовища та результатів досліджень цільової аудиторії. Ключові слова: стартап, маркетинг, бюджет, просування, дохід, запуск продукту.

Problem statement. Budgeting is of utmost importance in the early stages of startup marketing. Startups usually have limited budgets. The first step for startups is not a market analysis but the assessment of the possibility to allocate funding for a marketing campaign. If the company is already making its first sales, then an approach to forming a marketing budget could be based on a percentage of profits. In the early stages of product launch, the founders of startups spend 5-7% of marketing revenue. The cost of startup marketing can vary depending on the size of the company and industry.

Analysis of recent researches and publications. Foreign marketing researchers studied the role of promotion for startups and innovative enterprises and peculiarities of startup funding and budgeting. Karani C. & Mshenga P. focused on survival tools applicable during the setting-up of entrepreneurial ventures [1]. Akula S. provided an understanding of how social media marketing can benefit the startup company [2]. D'Avino M. et al. stated the significant role of startup businesses in the global economy and proposed a decision-driven tool for the creation of a successful promotional strategy for startups [3]. Wang D. & Schøtt T. studied the relation between innovation process and financing [4].

A stream of research focuses on innovation as a basis for starting a business and financing of startups (Colombelli A. et al. [5], Colombo, M. et al. [6], Croce, A. et al. [7]). Most researchers consider that startups spend 15-20% of their annual income for the project to promote their product in the first five years and then reduce the spending to 5%. Such a principle does not correlate with modern realities.

Purpose statement. The research aims to analyze the spending amount of costs for marketing and advertising of business startups proving that the "15/5 rule" for marketing budget is no longer appropriate for the modern realities.

The main material of the research. Modern startups spend about 35% of their annual income on marketing at the launching and from 11% to 25% thereafter. Considering that the average seed investment has grown from \$250,000 to \$750,000 over the past ten years, it means that \$262,000 is now being spent on marketing, most of which is the cost of entering the market or launching a new product or service [8].

The marketing budget usually includes the costs of market and target audience research, promotion of product competitiveness, informing the client about the product or service (advertising, SEO, SMM, promotions, participation in exhibitions, etc.), building a brand image, organizing product distribution and sales network. There are two types of budgets: product launch and annual. The budget for product launch shows the variable costs associated with bringing a new product or service to market. The annual budget shows the constant marketing costs for the year.

Despite the proliferation and reduction of prices of various technological solutions that simplify the work of marketers, marketing of new products and projects is now more expensive than ten years ago. Currently, startups' spending on marketing and advertising is up to 35% of their annual revenues (earlier it was less than 20%) [8]. The following factors influenced the increase in startups' marketing budget.

The first factor is related to the platform consolidation. The Google/Apple mobile ecosystem duopoly is becoming more concentrated, self-contained and more saturated, making these mobile ecosystems more resistant to penetration. To overcome this difficulty, companies increase their ad budgets and improve the way of their promotion investing more costs for such campaigns.

According to the Sensor Tower's Store Intelligence platform data as of January 2021, Telegram was the most downloaded non-gaming app worldwide with more than 63 million installs. TikTok was the second most installed non-gaming app worldwide with above 62 million installs. Signal, Facebook and WhatsApp were in the top five most installed non-gaming apps worldwide [9].

There are the challenges for startups: aggressive corporate policies between competitors; innovations, for example, the new Google algorithms, which complicate the promotion of websites in the search engine, which make marketing and advertising more

expensive; the spread of "big data", collecting or buying of which demand additional costs.

The second factor is the competition on paid channels. As organic promotion gets more complicated, many startups are switching to paid advertising. As a result, competition is growing, which increases marketing cost both in terms of the average cost of an impression or click, and in terms of creating advertising (copyright, design).

The third factor is "banner blindness" and ad blockers. In addition to the increasing concentration of digital ecosystems and increased competition among advertisers, there is also a noticeable decrease in the effectiveness of marketing channels due to the spread and increased "banner blindness" on referral programs and viral campaigns. Another important factor that reduces the effectiveness of online advertising is ad blocking apps and add-ons. Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, Opera and other popular browsers have added such a function to their systems.

The fourth factor is an availability of good marketing tools. It was assumed that this factor would reduce the cost of advertising, but, as it turned out, simplicity and cheapness leveled the field in this market. Moreover, the automation of routine processes freed up resources that startup founders decided to spend on advertising.

The fifth factor is related to the growing competitors. Nowadays, there are special divisions in the startup realm that monitor the market and potential competitors.

The sixths is gradual market saturating. Fifteen years ago, startups did not have large competitors. Now they are forced to compete with powerful companies. With less space left on the market, startup companies have to invest more funds.

According to Gartner's report, marketing budgets have fallen to their lowest recorded level, dropping to 6.4% of company revenue in 2021 from 11% in 2020, (Figure 1). The annual Gartner CMO Spend Survey, 2021, revealed that no one company regardless of size or industry has escaped swinging cuts in marketing budgets. In fact, no industry achieved a double-digit budget in 2021 (Figure 2). Meanwhile, consumer products companies reported the strongest 2021 marketing budgets at 8.3% of company revenue. Large enterprises with revenue of more than \$2 billion reported the lowest average marketing budget of 5.7%. On the other hand, companies with revenue of under \$500 million reported the highest allocation to marketing with an average budget of 8.6% of revenue [10].

A marketing campaign is a complex set of actions. To be successful, almost all startups hire qualified specialists to conduct a comprehensive analysis. Payment for their labor is the first line in the budget. Their services are industry and

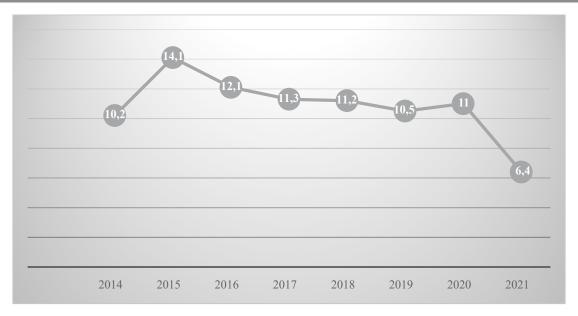


Figure 1. Marketing budget of % total revenue, %

Source: [11]

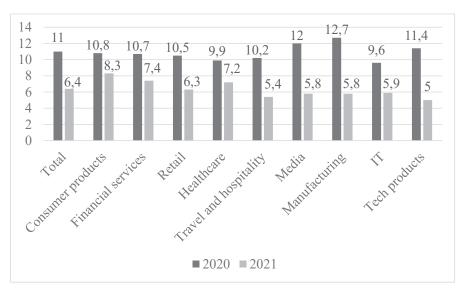


Figure 2. Percentage of revenue allocated to 2021 marketing compared to 2020, %

Source: [11]

market research; analysis of competitors; marketing audit; internal records of marketing effectiveness. Industry and market analysis is always taken into account before the budgeting. Among the marketing costs, there is SMM, the use of mobile promotion tools, marketing training for employees, the development (or acquisition) of sales tools. There are other costs dependent on the startup niche and company policy.

According to Gartner, the cost of marketing technology is the largest investment within the budget allocated for startup promotion. It includes mobile marketing tools, as well as content, project management platforms and analytics tools [11].

The marketing channels must be in line with the business goals. In a startup, they will depend on the total startup capital and secured investments. For example, a short-term goal involves attracting a certain number of customers and obtaining new funding. Scaling and expanding the range of services is a long-term goal. Objectively, a startup cannot pursue a large number of goals. There is still no complete understanding of the specifics of the industry and customer's reaction to a product or service. Therefore, it is important to form the most important goals and choose the optimal channels for their promotion. Marketing audit and analysis of competitors will give an idea of the number of potential customers.

Startups with a limited budget should examine the possibilities of free advertising (or with a minimum cost). It is important to analyze what value the startup will provide to the potential customers through content. The budget should be based on the cost of creating content (texts, blogs, reports, statistics).

In the situation of zero funding for startup marketing, it is useful to have an idea of the strategies and tools available for free (or for a nominal fee). One of such a tactic is to communicate with influential people in the industry to let a potential customer know about startup's existence to create minimal brand recognition.

Research conclusions. The key to a successful investment in marketing is experimentation and testing. It is necessary to check the effectiveness of creative ads. The analysis of findings will help to form the final budget for marketing and achieve the highest return on investment. Thus, the marketing budget will be directly proportional to the amount of funding and will not exceed the allowable. The discussed recommendations for startup marketing budgeting should be adapted to each specific case linked to the market and the research results of target audience.

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