

Summary

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Priorities of long-term socio-economic development

On December 9, 2013 the report “Russia on the way to the modern, dynamic and efficient economy”, prepared by the group of authors under the editorship of Academicians A.D. Nekipelov, V.V. Ivanter, S.Yu. Glazyev, was published on the website of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The report has been prepared on instructions from the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin; the Academicians were to develop a set of measures to ensure sustainable development of Russia under the conditions of global instability. The report includes four sections: 1) General conditions of socio-economic development; 2) Priorities of long-term socio-economic development; 3) Improvement of institutions; 4) Socio-economic policy. The text of the report is provided with six appendices .

The Editorial Board decided to publish the second section of the report in the Journal for the readers' consideration.

Ilyin V.A., Leonidova G.V., Popova V.I.

ISEDТ RAS Research and Education Centre – a focal point for the growth of the region's science and technology potential

During the years of market transformation Russia witnessed significant reduction in the share of science-intensive sector in the national and regional economy (there has been a decrease in the demand for the results of R&D; the real wages of researchers declined; the value of professional research activity decreased in the eyes of the public; the inflow of young people in science reduced as well). Overcoming these negative trends requires new approaches to the formation of the country's research potential. The integration of education and science is the most important of these approaches.

The article covers the experience in this area, gained at the Institute of Socio-Economic Development of Territories of RAS through the establishment and organization of the work of the Research and Education Centre (REC) for Economics and Information Technologies, which has been functioning for ten years already.

The article presents certain conceptual and methodological approaches to the formation of REC, the teaching methods used for educating young people in the chain “school – university – postgraduate studies – research activity”. The article shows the performance and efficiency of the work of REC in the development of regional scientific and technological potential. The article emphasizes the importance of joint work of school education, higher education, science, regional and municipal authorities.

The article provides the assessments of young people, who study at the Research and Education Centre, regarding their opinions on the forms and methods of teaching and on the efficiency of studying for the choice of profession.

Based on the accumulated practice and performance of the Research and Education Centre, the authors substantiate the prospects of its development as an educational institution of a new type that implements the full cycle of training of highly qualified personnel in the field of economy, management, and information technologies.

Key words: science and technology potential of the region, training of researchers, ISEDТ RAS Research and Education Centre, talented youth, organization of research activities.

Uskova T.V.

On the role of investments in sustainable economic growth

The article raises one of the most acute problems of the economy – promotion of sustainable economic growth. The article substantiates the relevance of the issue for global, national and regional economies. It argues that the goal of ensuring high economic growth rates is a strategic one for the Russian Federation; the achievement of this goal will allow Russia to retain its position among the world leaders. However, this requires, first of all, the transition from the model of economy oriented to raw materials export to the innovation model.

The article shows that investments play the most important part in the promotion of sustainable economic growth. Endogenous models indicate that long-term sustainable economic growth requires investments in machinery and equipment, in human capital and in the knowledge sector. At that, the investments in human capital and knowledge are more preferable.

The results of the investment processes analysis presented in the article allowed us to draw some conclusions concerning the situation that is taking shape in the Russian Federation. In particular, there has been a decline in the share of investment in machinery, equipment and vehicles; the structure of investments in fixed capital is not optimal; the share of investment in agriculture, manufacturing and construction is reducing; investments in mechanical engineering are extremely low while this sphere is crucial for the state of country's productive capacity. The knowledge sector and branches aimed at human capital development are funded on leftovers.

The current situation is largely determined by the fact that economic entities experience a shortage of equity capital; by unfavourable lending conditions that banks offer to the real sector of the economy; by the budget crisis and the low attractiveness of the Russian economy to foreign investors.

The article concludes that to change the situation it is necessary to adjust the socio-economic policy, to abandon the resource-based model of economic development.

Key words: economic growth, endogenous economic growth models, investments, investment structure, investment sources, socio-economic policy.

Skufyina T.P.

Socio-economic differentiation of space: inconsistencies between the theory and regulation practice

The article notes the inconsistency between significant efforts aimed at resolving the differentiation issue of the social-economic development and low effectiveness of countries, regions. The article analyzes the theories relating to the subject matter of asymmetric development and current reality. The author argues that the modern economic theory leaves unanswered the question concerning the possibilities to eliminate the issue of inequalities within the existing world order, which can potentially result in social tensions and conflicts. The article notes the specifics of the Russian research experience with regard to the socio-economic differentiation: great number of scientific works, extrinsic interest of the management system, lack of theoretical development, research bias. The criticism of the basic research and regulation postulates of the differentiation in Russia allowed determining the main problem – the necessity to develop the quantitative analysis of the differentiation issue.

Key words: socio-economic differentiation, globalization, regionalization, economic theory, research postulates.

Toskunina V.E., Gubina O.V., Provorova A.A., Karmakulova A.V., Voronina L.V.

Several approaches to the determination of the southern border of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation

The article presents a research into the approaches to the zoning of the Russian Federation aimed at defining the southern border of the Arctic zone. The conducted analysis of legal documents and scientific literature devoted to the substantiation of the Arctic zone revealed the lack of definite criteria for determining the list of territories included in this zone. As a result of the research, several recommendations have been worked out that substantiate the inclusion of specific administrative-territorial formations of the Russian Federation in the Arctic zone.

Key words: Arctic zone of the Russian Federation, region, zoning, criteria.

Gaynanov D.A., Kirillova S.A., Kuznetsova Yu.A.

Russian Arctic in the context of sustainable development

The article analyzes the socio-economic potential of Russian Arctic regions, by applying a standard statistical reporting for 1990–2011. The analysis is based on the method of critical indicators that made it possible to determine and get an objective assessment of processes taking place in the megaregion. The performed analysis has established that the situation in the Arctic regions sets the development of megaregion within resource-oriented paradigm. The preservation of current trends does not create opportunities even for simple reproduction, imposing significant restrictions on the transition to sustainable territorial development.

Key words: sustainable development, critical limit indicators, social and economic potential, reproduction, Russian Arctic regions.

Ivanov V.A., Ponomareva A.S.

Specifics and current status of modernization processes in the agriculture of peripheral northern territories

The specifics of agricultural development management in the remote northern territories should be always taken into consideration; otherwise modernization processes in the agricultural sector would be impeded. The article defines the concept of agriculture modernization and highlights its necessity. It reveals the peculiarities, opportunities and limitations of technological and socio-economic development of agriculture in the peripheral northern rural territories of the Komi Republic. The article studies agriculture modernization for the period of the 1960s–1980s, and under market reforms. It shows the impact of market reforms on the change of economic and social conditions of agriculture in the peripheral areas of the northern region. For stimulating agricultural production modernization, the authors propose a target-programme method of managing the agriculture in peripheral territories

Key words: modernization, agriculture, peripheral areas, Republic of Komi, factors, conditions, development trends.

Chekavinskiy A.N.

Organizational and economic mechanism of agriculture modernization

The article substantiates the preconditions for the modernization of Russian agriculture. The effectiveness of the authorities' measures to stimulate the sector transfer to the intensive way of development is briefly described and evaluated. The article defines main disadvantages of the organizational and economic mechanism of the production modernization in the agricultural sector, consisting in different orientation of operations tools regulating the agrarian and industrial complex, absence of the accounting of climatic conditions and industry specialization. The methodological recommendations with regard to the allocation of budget support funds between different types of agricultural producers depending on their susceptibility to the use of scientific and technological progress are defined.

Key words: agriculture, modernization, organizational and economic mechanism, susceptibility of agricultural producers to the use of scientific and technological progress.

Trudov Yu.N.

Assessment of the tourist potential of the region's hunting sector (case study of the Vologda Oblast)

The author, using his own methodology, through the example of the Vologda Oblast, reveals the main parameters of gross turnover in the hunting sector with regard to hunting services; provides methodological tools for calculating gross turnover of tourist services in hunting, determines the degree of development and prospects of the tourism potential of the hunting sector, the role of hunting tourism in the region's economic development.

Key words: Vologda Oblast, hunting industry, tourist services, estimation of the amount of services, development prospects.

Sztompka P.

Modernization as social becoming (ten theses on modernization)

The paper presents thesis characteristic of modernization in keeping with the key ideas of the social establishment theory. Modernization is a specific way of social establishment that provides the population with wide-open access to the expanding capabilities of human potential implementation. The important task for the pro-modernization authorities is creating the structural and institutional grounds on which people can implement their human potential completely. The era of globalization incorporates numerous types of modernization. Mutual adaptation of that types as well as preservation of local traditions and conditions within the frames of transformation is of crucial importance for the era of globalization and modernization. The composition of innovations with social memory and traditions is the optimal course of modernization. It is important to understand that, besides creation of the new, modernization involves destruction of the old. That is why the ambivalent balance is significant.

Key words: modernization; social establishment theory; social, cultural, human potential.

Rimashevskaya N.M.

Three suggestions for the improvement of demographic and family policy

The article states the reasons for the low level of birth rate in Russia. It shows that the reduction in the intensity of births is caused by changes in the demographic behavior resulting from the sexual revolution, the significant differentiation of the population by income levels – poverty and low welfare of families with children, the decline in reproductive health and reproductive potential. Meanwhile, mortality rate in Russia is comparable with that in the developing countries; the difference between life expectancy in women and men is 12 years, but women suffer from various diseases more often, and this fact significantly increases the risk of disability by the end of employment. It is therefore proposed to improve the practice of maternity/family capital, to introduce a system of wholesome nutrition for pregnant women, preserve the retirement age for women.

Key words: demographic policy, maternity capital, retirement age, children's health.

Aleksandrova O.A., Nenakhova Yu.S.

Education opportunities for the population in the changing socio-economic context

Opportunities for the people in the field of education are not just an indicator of achieved social progress, but also a factor that determines the path of future development. That is why the information about the accessibility of quality education for residents of Russia, which is on the difficult way from socialism to capitalism, is so important. Reforms in education were implemented during the whole post-Soviet period, but the most fundamental changes have occurred in recent years. The paper is based on the analysis of evolution of educational legislation in relation to each of the stages of education system, and it also uses the results of sociological research. The article shows the process of further exacerbating and institutionalization of inequality of educational opportunities for families with different incomes and places of residence. It proves that in the emerging socio-economic and institutional context the access to the full value education for a significant share of households is being increasingly restricted. It excludes the system of education from the list of effective tools for social mobility and aggravates the degradation of human capital of territories. As a result, socio-economic stagnation is conserved. Negative tendencies can be overcome, if the federal government reconsiders its point of view on social overhead costs. Nowadays such costs are considered as nonproductive and, because of that, they are “optimized” as much as possible. Also serious changes are needed in the inter-budgetary relations. Primarily, the government should put an end to the practice of shifting the burden of unbearable expenditure commitments to the regions, because this leads to the situation, when regional authorities in implementing even good ideas – like raising the salaries of teachers – are often forced to use measures, that result in a reduction in the quality of education and the increase of budget debt. The state can find the funds, necessary to carry out more efficient social and regional policies, if it abandons the practice of accumulating unreasonably high volumes of proceeds from the sales of Russian energy resources in the so-called reserve funds.

Key words: education, regional development, human potential, availability, quality, social progress, education reform, education system.

Afanasyev D.V., Guzhavina T.A.

Preconditions for the transformation of population's attitudes from political discontent to protest behaviour (as exemplified in the materials of ISEDT RAS, Vologda)

The article considers the issue concerning the transformation of political discontent to protest behaviour, which is insufficiently examined in the domestic scientific literature; the processes and factors facilitating this process are analysed. The authors apply the empirical data of the monitoring of the public opinion of the Vologda Oblast residents, conducted by the Institute of Socio-Economic Development of Territories of the Russian Academy of Sciences. A new integrated model of protest is presented.

Key words: political discontent, trust, protest potential, protest repertoire, protest participation model.

Fokin V.Ya.

Impact of the geographical differentiation of the quality and security of population employment on the territorial shrinkage in Perm Krai rural areas

The article presents the analysis and indicates the extent of the problem concerning territorial differentiation of the quality and security of the rural population employment, as compared with the city residents of Perm Krai by indicators of wages and unemployment level. The impact of territorial differentiation of the quality and security of employment on the shrinkage in Perm Krai rural areas is revealed. Territorial shrinkage is characterized by rural population decrease, higher employee attrition rate, as compared to cities, reduction in the number of workers per one pensioner, deterioration of agricultural material and technical base; crop areas reduction.

Key words: territorial differentiation, quality of employment, security of employment, unemployment, territorial shrinkage, population decline, reduction in cultivated areas.

Shabunova A.A.

Acute issues of Russia's socio-cultural modernization

The need of socio-economic modernization is one of the main challenges of the 21st century facing the government, business and population of many countries. The solution to modernization tasks is unique for each country and is stipulated by a particular situation. Of special importance for Russia is the issue concerning the gap between population's living standards in different, sometimes neighbouring, regions and, an overall significant lag in the living conditions of the Russians compared with the inhabitants of developed countries. A necessary condition for successful modernization policy is the elaboration of specific national modernization strategies, considering the specifics of socio-cultural development of not only the whole Russia, but of each region.

Key words: regional modernization, socio-economic development, levels of modernization and innovation.

Povarova A.I.

The issues of tax burden distribution in Russia's economy

Tax burden has a direct influence on socio-economic processes and is one of the main criteria for evaluating the current tax system. But there still exist certain simplified views on the level of tax burden, which is identified with the actual transfer of payments to the budget.

The article highlights the results of a research into the tax burden of Russia's economy. The main goal was to identify the trends in the distribution of tax burden and its actual level.

The main conclusion of the study consists in the following: the ongoing tax reforms have not led to the establishment of an efficient fiscal mechanism, which will facilitate the implementation of taxation equality principle and take into consideration the opportunities of tax-payers to pay compulsory payments and develop the production. Meanwhile, there is the potential for tax maneuver with regard to a number of industries.

Key words: tax burden, oil and gas revenues, oil and gas companies, manufacturing, tax benefits.

Tretyakova O.V., Kabakova Ye.A.

Opportunities for and prospects of using citation indices in evaluating the performance of research institution

The growing social importance of scientific knowledge leads to the gradual penetration of scientometric indicators in the sphere that regulates the activities of researchers. At present, publishing and citation indicators are declared in government documents as target indicators of the state of science.

The article presents general approaches to the scientometric analysis of activity of research institution; an attempt is made to estimate the publication activity of the institutions included in the Economics Section of the Social Sciences Department of RAS, as well as research and education organizations of the Vologda Oblast. The statistical data of the Russian Science Citation Index (RSCI) were used as a tool for evaluating the research work. Organizations have been ranked according to several criteria: the total number of publications in RSCI, the number of citations and the value of the Hirsch index.

The results of the research indicate that at present, efficient administrative decisions in the sphere of science require establishment of the system for objective evaluation of research results. The Russian Science Citation Index is viewed as part of such a system. Together with highly qualified expert assessments that make it possible to consider the specifics of research activity, the scientometric indicators presented in RSCI as well, in the long term can be used for objective and comprehensive evaluation of scientific potential of the regions and the country as a whole.

Key words: scientometrics, citation index, RSCI, abstract database, assessment of the efficiency of research activities, publication activity.

Sychev M.F., Zagrebelnyy A.V.

On the compliance of a modern scientific journal with international quality standards

The article considers the issue concerning the degree of compliance of a modern scientific publication with international quality standards using the example of the scientific journal “Economic and social changes: facts, trends, forecast”. The authors introduce the concept “international quality standard of a scientific journal”, and give its definition. They have analysed the journal’s issues for 2013, revealed the degree of its compliance with international quality standards, and identified certain goals and objectives for the “development” of the journal in 2014.

Key words: international quality standard of a scientific journal, “development” of a journal, questionnaire survey, Scopus, RSCI, impact factor.

Morev M.V., Kaminskiy V.S.

Issues of state-society relations

The issues of state-society relations that have become especially acute in the conditions of the world financial and economic crisis cannot be neglected, because it can trigger the growth of protest moods. This calls for the necessity to provide public authorities with a constructive, science-based programme. In 2013 the Institute of Socio-Economic Development of Territories of RAS (ISED T RAS) carried out a research aimed at analyzing whether the state policy corresponds to the main requirements of the modern Russian society.

In order to achieve this goal, the following tasks were set out: to review the state of the civil society in Russia and in the Vologda Oblast, in particular after the 2008 global financial crisis; to identify the socio-economic and socio-political problems, which arouse main concern among the population of the Russian Federation and the Vologda Oblast in the post-crisis period; to describe the measures undertaken by the government to address these issues.

The authors came to the following conclusions:

1. Civil society both at the federal and at the regional levels is at the stage of formation; nevertheless, it possesses significant potential. This has been proved by the protest actions (December 2011) that made it clear to the authorities that it was necessary to respond to the demands of the growing civil society.
2. The citizens of Russia and the region express their concern at similar issues. At the same time, the

Vologda Oblast residents compared with the Russians in general express more concern about the condition of the housing sector, and less concern – about socio-political (corruption), ecological and ethical issues.

3. After V.V. Putin was elected President in March 2012, the social policy was focused on handling those issues that have long become vital in the society. However, the reforms are characterized by the discrepancy between the declared and the actual objectives, by the declarative nature in many aspects, by shifting the responsibility to the regional authorities.

Therefore, the authors suggest the implementation of the following measures: to revise the approach to many issues at which the people express their concern; to abandon imitation in the execution of reforms; to promote further development of civil society.

Key words: civil society, authority, public opinion monitoring, protest potential, the level of trust.

Kozhevnikov S.A.

Complex assessment of housing and communal sector in the region's municipalities

At present, the functioning of housing and communal sector in most regions of the country is characterized by mounting crisis. The key problems in this sphere include poor quality of provided services, high depreciation of fixed assets, large non-productive resource losses, etc. These are the issues that the authorities should address to at all levels. At the same time it should be noted that municipal entities may considerably differ in the level of housing improvement, state of engineering infrastructure, and the possibilities of introducing market mechanisms of economic management. Therefore, the state policy in the housing and communal sector should be based on the use of economic instruments and incentives, taking the fullest account of the current state, sectorial and regional peculiarities. The article analyses the state of housing and utilities infrastructure in the Vologda Oblast municipalities on the basis of the integral estimation methodology; it distinguishes the territories with similar characteristics and problems concerning the functioning of this sphere, presents group characteristics. The key directions and instruments of state policy, the implementation of which will make it possible to use limited financial resources more efficiently, to optimize the territorial-production structure and to enhance the overall functioning efficiency of housing and communal services in different types of the region's municipalities, are offered.

Key words: housing and communal sector, municipalities, typologization, investment processes, public and private partnership, Vologda Oblast.