



DOI: 10.15838/esc.2017.2.50.2

UDC 001.92, LBC 76.02.712

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## Reflections upon the Results of the Fiftieth Issue of the Journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast”



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**For citation:** Ilyin V.A., Tret'yakova O.V., Morev M.V. Reflections upon the results of the fiftieth issue of the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast”. *Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast*, 2017, vol. 10, no. 2, pp. 30-59. DOI: 10.15838/esc/2017.2.50.2



### *Dear reader!*

You are looking at the 50th issue of the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast”, the leading periodical of RAS Institute of Socio-Economic Development of Territories.

In cooperation with the Department of Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences, regional government and Vologda City Administration, ISEDT RAS promotes academic scientific knowledge in the Vologda Oblast for over 25 years. Throughout its development the Institute has always focused on deep historical traditions of domestic and world science and, simultaneously, on innovation trends emerging in accordance with the needs of socio-economic and socio-political life. **The system built in a quarter of a century was formed exclusively for one purpose – to create a cell of self-developing fundamental scientific knowledge in the Vologda Oblast.**

The history of the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” largely reflects the development of ISEDT RAS itself and the Department of Social Sciences. In this regard, the Journals’ Editorial Board conducted a scientific analysis of the main stages of formation of the Journal and criteria for assessing its efficiency. The results of this work show that **mutual interest and joint efforts of the academic community and local authorities can produce effective results in the creation of a high-quality scientific journal as one of the most important components in the development of scientific potential of territories.**

*«Anyone who embarks on informing the public of what is contained in the new works must first consider their own strength. Indeed, they are about to do a difficult and very complex job, in which it is necessary to report not about ordinary things or common places, but to grasp something new and significant that is contained in the works produced often by the greatest people».*

M.V. Lomonosov. The argument about the responsibilities of journalists in presenting their essays, to maintain the freedom of philosophy (1755)

### **1. A scientific journal in Russia: history and modernity**

In the world of high technology, rapid innovation and turbulence of political processes the role of basic scientific knowledge is difficult to overestimate. “The new century, according to the forecasts and conclusions of futurology, is to be the century of the triumph of scientific worldview; it is to show the world qualitatively new principles and approaches

to the world community oriented toward unification, to the management of each country and society”<sup>1</sup>.

Today, the more urgent is the question of establishing a system for accumulation,

<sup>1</sup> Osipov G.V. Ne upustit' predostavivshiisya shans! [Do not Miss This Chance!]. *Sotsiologiya i ekonomika sovremennoi sotsial'noi real'nosti. Sotsial'naya i sotsial'no-politicheskaya situatsiya v Rossii v 2013 godu* [Sociology and Economics of the Current Social Reality. Social and Socio-Political Situation in Russia in 2013]. Moscow: ISPI RAN. P. 9.

preservation and transfer of fundamental scientific knowledge in the regions; in each particular division of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In our opinion, it is not so much a question of survival of Russian science or its **quality**, as a question of moral responsibility of its leading representatives on site, and first and foremost, leaders of scientific institutions.

There can be many criteria for assessing the efficiency at which this task is implemented: the number of graduate students who defended their dissertations, the academic status of employees, the dynamics of publication activity, etc. No doubt, these indicators, as we see it, are important, but **one of the most objective criteria is the quality of scientific products, especially periodicals, issued by a scientific organization.**

We all know that today many “advanced entrepreneurs” try to turn a scientific journal into a tool for earning money. The Internet is filled with proposals concerning the publication of manuscripts in journals on the VAK List, journals indexed in Scopus, etc. provided that a substantial sum will be paid for that. Those who can pay even more can speed up the publication of their papers... However, this is the very indicator of a crisis of scientific knowledge in our country: everything can be bought and sold, and it can become a fatal trend for science.

Continuing our speculations regarding the scientific journal as a criterion of the state of academic knowledge, we note that its role in the development of scientific and philosophical thought in Russia (as well as in the life of Russian society, science and government) is almost impossible to overestimate. To prove it, it is sufficient to glance at the history of Russian periodicals.



First Russian printed newspaper “Vedomosti” (1703)

The first regularly published newspaper in our country was “Vedomosti”, or, as Peter the Great (by whose order it was founded) called it, “Chimes”. It is possible that Peter the Great pursued higher goals when he established the newspaper, but the tasks and the content of its first issues were very utilitarian: “It stands to reason that the decree on the establishment of the newspaper dates back to 1702. The beginning of the Great Northern War was no success for Russia. After the defeat at Narva, the Russian army lost all its artillery. And then, when Russia was straining every nerve to fight the army of Charles XII, it was necessary to convince people of the need to continue the war with the Swedes, to explain the meaning of certain government measures, such as the confiscation of church bells to melt them into cannons. Finally, it was necessary to inform people that factories are increasing production of weapons and ammunition, that the tsar has the support of not only the Russian troops, but also the peoples of Russia...”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Rokhlenko D. Pervaya russkaya pechatnaya gazeta [The first Russian printed newspaper]. *Nauka i zhizn'* [Science and life], 2017, no. 4. Available at: <http://www.nkj.ru/archive/articles/9324/>

The newspaper was not divided into thematic sections, so many of its issues were a “patchwork of various information – from the description of a naval battle to the advertising of healing properties of mineral waters from Olonets Province”. The main topics covered the events of the Great Northern War (events that were mostly victorious for the Russian army). Also, the newspaper wrote about industry and trade; changes in education, etc. “Vedomosti” undoubtedly expanded the horizons of its readers, introduced them to the life of European countries, popularized geographical knowledge, systematically explained geographical terms, etc.”<sup>3</sup>.

However, after the death of Peter the Great, the “dearest publication” (as he himself called his “brainchild”) lasted less than two years. The subject of published materials was gradually narrowed, and the paper confined itself to the description of official celebrations. Publication frequency of the newspaper was very low, and in 1727 it was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Academy of Sciences, after which it was named “Sankt-Peterburgskie Vedomosti”.

Unlike the first newspaper, the first scientific journal in our country appeared, we might say, spontaneously, as a supplement to the newspaper. And this is very important feature of the scientific journal as a form of publication. Due to the fact that editor-in-chief of “Sankt-Peterburgskie Vedomosti” was G.F. Miller of German descent (also known for his historical essays on Siberia), the newspaper was published in two languages – Russian and German. Due to the abundance of terms that were difficult for readers to understand,

<sup>3</sup> *Ibidem*.



“Monthly historical, genealogical and geographical notes in “Vedomosti” (1729)

the so-called “Mesyachnye istoricheskie, genealogicheskie i geograficheskie primechaniya v Vedomostyakh” “Monthly historical, genealogical and geographical notes in “Vedomosti” (or simply the “Notes”) were established.

Many of the articles in the “Notes” were a continuation of or addition to the information already published in “Sankt-Peterburgskie Vedomosti”. To make this relationship clear to readers, the link to the issue of the newspaper was printed in the margin. Later, the remit of articles published in the journal was expanded and was only partially associated with the content of the newspaper. The “Notes” published poems of the poets mentioned in “Sankt-Peterburgskie Vedomosti”, or poems on the topic similar to that of the article in the newspaper. Then, prose appears and develops in the journal. In 1741 it began



to publish translated and original odes by M.V. Lomonosov, original texts of ancient poets and syllabic translations, series of articles on the history and theory of dramatic and poetic art, etc. Many publications were devoted to science: physics, mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, chemistry, natural science. The “Notes” also included the first printed review in Russian on a book on economic issues<sup>4</sup>.

This is how the first Russian scientific journal was founded. It was issued every month for about 15 years (1728–1742), and later it was reprinted several times in abridged form.

**Thus, the very history of the first scientific journal shows its role in Russia: just a summary of news, which was offered by the first printed newspaper (“Vedomosti”), did not suit Russian public. Despite the fact that the newspaper was established and maintained “from above” (Peter the Great himself edited the articles published in it).**

**We observe quite a different situation if we look at the history of the first Russian journal that was originally conceived as a reference edition and was eventually turned into a regular publication with comprehensive thematic coverage, which became the prototype of the so-called “thick journal” – a purely Russian phenomenon, which indicates that Russian readers need deeper and more comprehensive information.**

<sup>4</sup> Kozlova M.M. *Istoriya otechestvennykh sredstv massovoi informatsii: ucheb. pos.* [The history of Russian media: textbook]. Ulyanovsk, 2000. Available at: [http://evartist.narod.ru/text3/09.htm#%D0%B7\\_02](http://evartist.narod.ru/text3/09.htm#%D0%B7_02)

<sup>5</sup> *Ukazatel' zhurnal'noi literatury* [Index of journal literature]. Compiled by N.A. Ulyanov. Saint Petersburg, 1912. P. 6.

**N.A. Ulyanov:** “Our Russian literature (in general) has, among others, one original feature that distinguishes it from Western European literature. This feature consists in the significant expansion of the so-called thick journals”<sup>5</sup>.

“Russian thick monthly that remained the main type of periodicals for a very long time was formed in specific Russian conditions: the lack of books and the enormous extent of territory left the readers who did not live in big cities with the possibility to obtain the information they need and to find good literature only inside a journal. This publication combined a collection of literature, a political newspaper, and a kind of encyclopedia. Russian journalists called it the “journal of the usual Russian type”. The fact that a thick journal is a type of periodicals brought to life by specific Russian conditions plays a special role in Russian journalism was noted by all those who wrote about the development of the press in the country”<sup>6</sup>.

The Academy of Sciences published three journals: “Ezhemesyachnye sochineniya k pol'ze i uveseleniyu sluzhashchie” (“Monthly writings for benefit and entertainment”) (1755–1764); “Akademicheskie izvestiya” (“Academic news”) (1779–1781) and “Novye ezhemesyachnye sochineniya” (“New monthly writings”) (1786–1796). “All these publications sought to popularize science among Russian readers, and also tried to unite the best literary forces. Doing good deeds and

<sup>6</sup> Makhonina S.Ya. *Istoriya russkoi zhurnalistiki* [The history of Russian journalism]. Available at: [http://www.evartist.narod.ru/text1/93.htm#\\_top](http://www.evartist.narod.ru/text1/93.htm#_top)



serving the public good were also declared to be the tasks of these publications”<sup>7</sup>.

The comprehensive nature of the content that combined literary or artistic works, political news and encyclopedic information, along with a large number of pages (up to 300–500) were distinguishing features of a thick journal.

Journals such as “Zhizn’” (“Life”), “Obrazovanie” (“Education”) and others that emerged in the 1890s “were inevitably transformed into traditional thick journals. It was due to the demands of the audience and a more complicated social life in the pre-revolutionary period, which urged the editor to make broad generalizing coverage of events, to provide detailed comments, i.e. exactly what a thick journal did so well”<sup>8</sup>.

At the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century, the development of newspapers pushed journals into the background of the press. People talked about the end of this type of publications. Scientific and technological progress of the early 20th century increased readers’ needs in scientific knowledge; thus thick journals increased their encyclopedic content, and much attention was paid to education and enlightenment. Further differentiation of the sciences and an interest in the natural sciences gave rise to a large number of specialized publications (“Vestnik znaniya” (“Bulletin of knowledge”), “Vokrug sveta” (“Around the world”), “Priroda i lyudi” (“Nature and

people”), etc.). Thick journals with their comprehensive content find it more and more difficult to satisfy the needs of readers. The journal “Sovremennaya zhizn’” (“Modern life”) in 1906 wrote that journals are “too slow and too cumbersome to serve as the main channels of ideological currents in critical periods of public life. But one has to admit that their solidity and thoroughness in the development of tasks of the present is way above the techniques used by frivolous press. But as long as the center of gravity of interests lies in practical rather than theoretical work, as long as there is no voluntary or involuntary calm – this solidity is of little help to them”<sup>9</sup>.

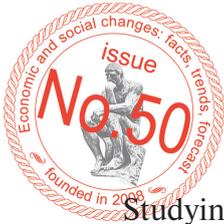
“However, despite all the talk about the end of the thick journal, it neither died nor disappeared, but once again proved the viability of the “ordinary Russian” publication in a qualitatively changed system of journalism. The journal “Sovremennaya zhizn’” was right: the thick journal, having receded into the background during the period of social upheaval, again took its usual place in a calm period, when it was time for an in-depth analysis of the revolutionary storms that people had lived through: a journal of this type proved once again that it was best suited for the job”<sup>10</sup>. Classic thick journals in Russia in the 20th century were “Vestnik Evropy” (“Herald of Europe”), “Russkoe bogatstvo” (“Russian wealth”), “Russkaya mysl’” (“Russian thought”), “Sovremennyyi mir” (“Modern world”), etc.

<sup>7</sup> Kozlova M.M. *Istoriya otechestvennykh sredstv massovoi informatsii: ucheb. pos.* [The history of Russian media: textbook]. Ulyanovsk, 2000. Available at: [http://evartist.narod.ru/text3/09.htm#%D0%B7\\_02](http://evartist.narod.ru/text3/09.htm#%D0%B7_02)

<sup>8</sup> *Ibidem.*

<sup>9</sup> *Sovremennaya zhizn’* [Modern life], 1906, no. 9–10, pp. 241.

<sup>10</sup> Kozlova M.M. *Istoriya otechestvennykh sredstv massovoi informatsii: ucheb. pos.* [The history of Russian media: textbook]. Ulyanovsk, 2000. Available at: [http://evartist.narod.ru/text3/09.htm#%D0%B7\\_02](http://evartist.narod.ru/text3/09.htm#%D0%B7_02).



Studying the content of and trends in the publications of his time, a distinguished literary critic and journalist Vissarion Belinsky formulated basic provisions of journalism as a profession. He considered that the journal must have its remit as a “necessary condition for the existence of the journal and for the trust of the public toward it”; he wrote: **“The journal must have a face, a character; it is the worst thing if the journal is impersonal like a literary miscellany. The face and character of the journal can be found in its remit, its opinion, its dominant doctrine, which it must be part of”**. According to Belinsky, in journalism, as well as in literature, it was very important to have a sense of “modernity”, i.e. **the ability to respond to urgent problems of life and to the needs of society**. To do this, one must study the readers and know them. Belinsky called “multiplication of the readers” the first and most sacred duty of the journalist. **The journalist must educate the taste of the reader, and the journal’s mission is to be a “leader of society”**. In his review “Russian literature in 1842” Belinsky touched upon the work with the fact – another aspect of journalism as a profession. A “vivid, restless, anxious” need to understand life requires more than just recording the facts: **“It’s all about understanding the value of the facts”**. **This is possible when the journalist clearly understands “the meaning and significance of the fact” and when he is able to “transform the fact into an idea”<sup>11</sup>**.

<sup>11</sup> V.G. Belinskii – zhurnalist i kritik [V. G. Belinsky – a journalist and critic]. *Informatsionnyi portal “Russkie pisateli i poety”* [Information portal “Russian writers and poets”]. Available at: [http://writerstob.narod.ru/raznoe/raznoe\\_belinsky.htm](http://writerstob.narod.ru/raznoe/raznoe_belinsky.htm)

At the same time (in the middle of the 19th century), Alexander Herzen in the Preface to the first issue of the journal “Kolokol” (“Bell”) wrote: *“Events in Russia are going at full speed, they have to be hawked in the air and served immediately”<sup>12</sup>*.

Over the past half century, the mission and role of scientific journals have not lost their meaning and value. On the contrary, along with the acceleration of the pace of life, complexity of political processes and social relations, the growth of information technology (contributed to the dissemination of electronic resources), more complex, global challenges to the entire world civilization, to the country and to science began to emerge; on the other hand, there increased the need for high-quality and deep analytics, which is a distinctive feature of journals.

The above trends are particularly important for Russia. Our country has long existed in terms of the need to catch up with Western countries, but today this need has become urgent as ever: many experts (S.S. Gubanov, S.Yu. Glazyev, B.Yu. Titov, E.V. Balatsky and others) argue that Russia needs a breakthrough, based on the change of economic model and implementation of innovation technology. Such a breakthrough cannot occur if the authorities do not alter their understanding of the principles of modern economy; and this requires a strong base of fundamental scientific knowledge (“critical mass”), which is concentrated in research journals; its carriers (actors) are contributors to printed editions.

<sup>12</sup> Herzen A.I. Predislovie k zhurnalu “Kolokol” [Foreword to the journal “Kolokol”, 1857, no. 1]. *Informatsionnyi portal “Biografia.ru”* [Information portal “Biography.ru”]. Available at: <http://www.biografia.ru/arhiv/600.html>



## Experts on the modern role of the scientific journal

Expert	Opinion	Source
<p>N.M. Pliskevich (Ph.D. in Economics, economist, deputy chief editor of the journal "Social Sciences and Modernity")</p>	<p>"Globalization and informatization in the economy have reached such a level that the usual methods of state regulation of the economy are clearly inadequate. This, in particular, was clearly demonstrated during the latest economic crisis. The regulatory capacity of the state needs to be updated, as well as supplemented with modern mechanisms for self-regulation of economic processes. This new self-regulation implies a new and more complex role of the subject of economic relations, demanding specific requirements from this subject, new estimates of economic reality by the subject. In fact, all of this implies a revision of the ideas of economic rationality that are not limited to purely material criteria of economic efficiency, but include spiritual and moral components. Naturally, the development of new ideas of economic rationality that include intangible, spiritual aspects into the very body of economic theory as opposed to considering them only as a kind of external frame is impossible without cooperation of economists with philosophers, psychologists, sociologists, ecologists, and representatives of other disciplines. And in this case economic journals can become a platform for such cooperation".</p>	<p>Pliskevich N.M. An interdisciplinary approach to economic realities. <i>Social Sciences and Modernity</i>, 2011, no. 12, p. 180.</p>
<p>J.T. Toshchenko (RAS Corresponding Member, Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, Chef Research Associate at RAS Institute of Sociology)</p>	<p>"Society lives in anticipation of change. The analysis shows that the opportunities that opened in the early 2000s are now exhausted. We need a new qualitative leap in development. As a result, the government and the opposition forces (and of course, science) are looking for solutions to this difficult problem. This is particularly evident in the increasing number of those who are dissatisfied with the course of the ongoing changes. Therefore, the editor considers it of great importance to have the materials that analyze the status and problems of social and group consciousness, that describe the willingness to work for the implementation of what is ripe in the hearts and souls of people. Ultimately, the development will go in that direction, which is not embodied in the programs of the authorities or their opponents, but which reflects the expectations and attitudes of most people".</p>	<p>Toshchenko J.T. Acme time. <i>Sociological Studies</i>, 2014, no. 7, p. 7.</p>



Expert	Opinion	Source
<p>G.B. Kleiner (RAS Corresponding Member, Doctor of Economics, RAS Social Sciences Department, Economics Section)</p>	<p>“In Russia, under its current institutional framework, the Russian Academy of Sciences is the main institution that can be qualified to perform these functions. This is where vast research experience is accumulated, this is where the understanding, validation and adjustment (if necessary) of research results and their publication, etc. takes place. In fact, RAS itself is an extensive knowledge base, a powerful processor of knowledge and a network of non-governmental institutions, whose role is to receive, validate, store and publish knowledge. This first and primary mission of the Academy of Sciences is projected onto the activity of academic journals. They should publish, first of all, fundamental knowledge – the results of fundamental academic research, and the very fact of publication needs to be a link from information as raw material for science to knowledge as its socially recognized result. Thus, publication of basic research findings is the main component in the mission of an academic journal”.</p>	<p>Kleiner G.B. The mission of an academic journal: between fundamental approach and topicality. <i>The Journal of the New Economic Association</i>, 2011, no.12, p. 171.</p>
<p>E.V. Balatsky (Doctor of Economics, Professor, Chief Research Associate at CEMI RAS)</p>	<p>“Although the role of scientific journals is still of paramount importance in any assessments in the scientific world, we can already observe some new opposing trends...today the world of science is in a state when different trends clash: on the one hand, certain mechanisms have been formed that reinforce the role of academic journals and their rankings, on the other hand, there are certain factors that weaken the influence of journals on the development of science. At the moment, there is still a rough equality of the forces of colliding trends with a small advantage of the former trend”.</p>	<p>Balatsky E.V. The role of academic journals: a period of uncertainty. <i>The Journal of the New Economic Association</i>, 2011, no.12, p. 166.</p>



Leading modern Russian scientists note the exceptional role of a scientific journal in the development of economic, sociological and philosophical thought, which is a necessary condition for addressing major problems of our country and for its continued existence in the framework of global geopolitical competition (*Insert 1*).

**Thus, since the emergence of the scientific journal, the role it plays in the formation and development of scientific potential of Russia has not changed; it even became more important. As the pace of life accelerates and social and political processes become more complex, the requirements to such a publication become higher: it must combine interdisciplinary research; find a balance between classic and innovative work, between theoretical and experimental articles; keep a finger “on the pulse” of world events and a mainstream scientific and philosophical paradigm of development. Compliance with these requirements is an integral condition for ensuring continuity of academic knowledge, a critical task of modern science. And only the journal that sets before itself this very task can be considered a worthy representative of basic science.**

## **2. Main stages in the development of ISEDТ RAS journal in 2008–2016**

The journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” founded by RAS Institute of Socio-Economic Development of Territories in 2008 was **established with a deep understanding of historical and contemporary aspects of the mission of a scientific journal in our country.** The Journal’s editorial board completely agrees with the viewpoint of G.B. Kleiner who points out

that “when creating an academic journal that covers all aspects of the economy, one must consciously avoid any boundaries of subject, problem, or instrumental areas. Economics as a science is unified, because the world it explores is also unified, being diverse at the same time; and the main task of the journal is to integrate economic research and researchers, no matter what scientific school or organization they belong to”<sup>13</sup>.

It should be noted that the Journal was established in a period extremely difficult for Russia in both political and economic sense: after two presidential terms of Vladimir Putin, Dmitry Medvedev became president in 2000; this fact created some uncertainty concerning further development of internal and external political situation. In 2009 Russia (and especially the Vologda Oblast) fully felt the impact of the global financial crisis.

However, understanding the importance of promoting Russian academic science, especially at the regional level, led to the fact that during this period, Vologda Scientific-Coordination Center of RAS (eventually developed into ISEDТ RAS) put forward an initiative on the publication of an interregional journal. This initiative was supported by other economic institutions of RAS located in the Northwestern Federal District: RAS Institute for Regional Economic Studies (Saint Petersburg), Luzin Institute for Economic Studies, Kola Scientific Center of RAS (Apatity), Institute of Economics, Karelian

<sup>13</sup> Kleiner G.B. Missiya akademicheskogo zhurnalа: mezhdru fundamental’nost’yu i aktual’nost’yu [The Mission of an Academic Journal: Between Fundamental Approach and Topicality]. *Zhurnal novoi ekonomicheskoi assotsiatsii* [The Journal of the New Economic Association], 2011, no.12, p. 171.



Research Center of RAS, Institute for Socio-Economic and Energy Problems of the North, Komi Scientific Center, Ural Branch of RAS, and Saint Petersburg State University of Engineering and Economics. They took part in the formation of the editorial board and editorial staff of the Journal. The heads of RAS Institute of Economic Forecasting (Academician **V.V. Ivanter**), RAS Central Economics and Mathematics Institute (Academician **V.L. Makarov**), well-known scientists from the Republic of Belarus, People’s Republic of China, and Finland agreed to join the editorial board of the Journal.

Addressing the readers, authors, editorial board and staff members of the first issue of the Journal, RAS Vice-President, Academician A.D. Nekipelov noted that this new edition would help consolidate the efforts of academic institutions in addressing the challenges associated with scientific support of progressive development of the national economy, formation of effective interaction with state authorities and business structures by uniting the efforts of central and regional academic institutions in the substantiation of rational ways for economic and social development of the North-West of Russia<sup>14</sup>.

During the first three years since its foundation the journal was published quarterly. Each issue was devoted to the topic that was identified in the annual plan and which, in the opinion of the editorial board and editorial staff, had priority significance for

<sup>14</sup> Privetstvie vitse-prezidenta RAN akademika A.D. Nekipelova [Welcome speech by RAS Academician A.D. Nekipelov]. *Ekonomicheskie i sotsial'nye peremeny: fakty, tendentsii, prognoz* [Economic and social changes: facts, trends, forecast], 2008, no. 1, pp. 8-9.

the development of the northern regions. The main section – “Development Strategy” – in that period focused on analyzing the trends and results of market transformations in different regions of the North-West, on the justification of strategic directions and criteria for assessing the achievement of goals and stages of their implementation<sup>15</sup>.

The issues published in 2008 discussed the following issues: transition of regions to innovative development; increase in labor productivity in individual industries and in general in the regional economy. One of the main discussion topics was the development of the forest industry, which in North-West Russia has significant reserves for growth, because the territory has large areas of forest resources and many years of experience of their utilization.

In 2009 the Journal published a series of articles on boosting small business and agriculture and on promoting food security, on the prospects of development of engineering and regional tourism in the

<sup>15</sup> See, for example:

Gulin K.A. Kontseptsiya dolgosrochnogo sotsial'no-ekonomicheskogo razvitiya (“Rossiya – 2020”): vyzovy dlya regionov [The Concept for long-term socio-economic development (“Russia – 2020”): challenges for regions]. *Ekonomicheskie i sotsial'nye peremeny: fakty, tendentsii, prognoz* [Economic and social changes: facts, trends, forecast], 2008, no. 4, pp. 8-14;

Lazhentsev V.N. Dinamika sotsial'no-ekonomicheskogo razvitiya Respubliki Komi [Dynamics of socio-economic development of the Republic of Komi]. *Ibidem*, 2008, no. 1, pp. 18-35;

Shishkin A.I. Sotsial'no-ekonomicheskoe razvitiye Karelii [Socio-economic development of Karelia]. *Ibidem*, 2008, no. 2, pp. 6-13;

Larichkin F.D., Antonov S.A. Sovershenstvovanie strategicheskogo planirovaniya regional'nogo razvitiya s uchetom kachestva ekonomicheskogo rosta [Improving the strategic planning of regional development taking into account the quality of economic growth]. *Ibidem*, 2008, no. 2, pp. 14-20.



Russian North-West. The state of affairs in that period demanded that the Journal publish articles on the causes of the financial crisis in the world economy that affected Russia, and on the measures to overcome its consequences<sup>16</sup>.

In the framework of the Journal's thematic issues in 2010, its contributors discussed the improvement of local self-government, development of the energy base and energy security in the regions, and the issues of their social development. Moreover, the authors dwelled upon various aspects of foreign economic activity that acquired considerable importance in the Northwestern Federal District due to its orientation toward raw materials and semi-finished products on the

basis of production of iron ore and other mining and mineral resources.

As the number of annual issues of the Journal increased from four to six in 2011, it became possible to shift from thematic planning to problem-based planning. However, to date, some of the sections include thematic collections of articles. For instance, the series of articles published in 2012 were prepared as a result of cooperation of scientists from academic institutions of Russia and Belarus in the framework of the Union State; the articles describe the stages of development of this cooperation, directions of development of the common scientific space, development of trade and economic integration of the regions within the NWFD of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, major trends in their socio-demographic processes that are associated primarily with the organization of health care, education, and with the enhancement of people's welfare<sup>17</sup>.

In the run-up to the 9th Session of the Russia-Belarus InterAcademy Council on the

<sup>16</sup> See, for example:

Iogman L.G. *Ekonomika regiona: ot krizisa k ustoychivomu razvitiyu* [Economy of the region: from crisis to sustainable development]. *Ekonomicheskie i sotsial'nye peremeny: fakty, tendentsii, prognoz* [Economic and social changes: facts, trends, forecast], 2009, no. 3, pp. 14-24;

Kostygov N.V. *Vologodskaya oblast': antikrizisnaya programma deistvii* [The Vologda region: anti-crisis action program]. *Ibidem*, 2009, no. 1, pp. 14-17;

Gulin K.A., Dement'eva I.N. *Ekonomicheskoe polozhenie i sotsial'noe samochuvstvie naseleniya regionov Severo-Zapada Rossii v usloviyakh krizisa* [Economic status and social well-being of North-West Russia regions' population amid the economic crisis]. *Ibidem*, 2009, no. 4, pp. 18-28;

Sovetov P.M. *Reveransy antikrizisnykh vozdeistvii gosudarstva* [Anti-crisis influence reverences of the state]. *Ibidem*, 2009, no. 2, pp. 14-18;

Selin V.S. *Stsenarnyi prognoz razvitiya regiona v usloviyakh ekonomicheskoi nestabil'nosti* [Scenario development forecast of the region under the conditions of economic instability]. *Ibidem*, 2009, no. 1, p. 18-25;

Leus S.M., Istomin A.V. *Otsenka vliyaniya ekonomicheskogo krizisa na bazovye otrasli i perspektivnye proekty v Murmanskoi oblasti* [Evaluation of the economic crisis impact on the basic sectors and long-term projects in the Murmansk Region]. *Ibidem*, 2009, no. 2, pp. 19-29;

Nemkovich E.G., Kurilo A.E. *Vliyanie krizisa na ekonomiku Karelii i vozmozhnosti ego preodoleniya* [The crisis influence on economy of Karelia and opportunity of its overcoming]. *Ibidem*, 2009, no. 1, pp. 18-25.

<sup>17</sup> See, for example:

Dedkov S.M., Egorov V.K. *Rossiisko-beloruskoe nauchnoe sotrudnichestvo na pervom etape soyuznykh otnoshenii: vosstanovlenie edinogo nauchnogo prostranstva* [Scientific collaboration between Russia and Belarus at the first stage of allied relations: the restoration of a single research area]. *Ekonomicheskie i sotsial'nye peremeny: fakty, tendentsii, prognoz* [Economic and social changes: facts, trends, forecast], 2012, no. 2, pp. 50-59;

Uskova T.V., Selimenkov R.Yu., Asanovich V.Ya. *Modelirovanie vneshneekonomicheskoi deyatel'nosti regionov SZFO RF i Respubliki Belarus'* [Methodological modeling aspects of foreign-economic activity in the regions of the North-West Federal District and the Republic of Belarus]. *Ibidem*, pp. 60-70;

Shabunova A.A., Leonidova G.V., Shukhatovich V.R., Artyukhin M.I. *Sotsial'no-demograficheskie aspekty razvitiya trudovogo potentsiala* [Socio-demographic aspects of labor potential development]. *Ibidem*, pp. 71-82.



Issues of Development of the Union State and the International Research-to-Practice Conference “Integration within the Union State as the main tool for the implementation of Russia and Belarus security strategy” held in Vologda (July 03– 05) ISED T RAS published a thematic issue of the Journal dedicated to the economic and social aspects of integration and cooperation between Russia and Belarus.

In 2012-2013, the Journal’s editorial board directed its major efforts toward selecting such articles that revealed the reasons for a slow recovery trend in the Russian economy in general and in the context of its territories and the ways of overcoming the barriers to country’s transition to an innovative stage of development. Articles on the influence of interests of owners of private corporations on the formation of the regional budgets, and on escalating public debt of territories made up a qualitatively new bunch of publications<sup>18</sup>. In those years the Journal published a series of articles on the content and stages of socio-cultural modernization, without which it is impossible to increase economic efficiency

<sup>18</sup> See:

Ilyin V.A. Vliyanie interesov sobstvennikov metallurgicheskikh korporatsii na natsional’noe i regional’noe razvitiye [The influence of ferrous metallurgy corporations’ interests on the regional development]. *Ekonomicheskie i sotsial’nye peremeny: fakty, tendentsii, prognoz* [Economic and social changes: facts, trends, forecast], 2011, no. 3, pp. 14-38;

Povarova A.I. Vliyanie interesov sobstvennikov metallurgicheskoi korporatsii na finansovye rezul’taty golovnogo predpriyatiya (na primere OAO “Severstal”) [The influence of the metallurgical corporation owners’ interests on the financial performances of the parent enterprise (in case of OJSC “Severstal”)]. *Ibidem*, 2011, no. 5, pp. 36-51;

Il’in V.A., Povarova A.I. Byudzhethnyi krizis regionov v 2013–2015 godakh – ugroza bezopasnosti Rossii [Budget crisis of the regions in 2013–2015: a threat to Russia’s security]. *Ibidem*, 2012, no. 6, pp. 30-41.

and eliminate excessive differentiation of people’s incomes<sup>19</sup>.

**One of the indicators showing the quality and scientific level of the Journal was its inclusion in 2010 in the List of leading scientific publications recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission for publication of major findings of Ph.D. and doctor of science dissertations. In November 2015, the Journal was included in the international database “Web of Science” and is now covered in Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), which is a new database within Web of Science Core Collection<sup>20</sup>. It should be noted that initially this new database contained only 16 Russian journals, and the journal published by ISED T RAS was the only economic publication in this list.**

It became possible for the Journal to enter a leading international citation database because the Journal’s editorial board has consistently implemented the corresponding policy. During 2013–2015, several measures aimed at achieving a qualitatively new level corresponding to requirements of international standards were implemented (*Insert 2*).

<sup>19</sup> See:

Sztompka P. Modernizatsiya kak sotsial’noe stanovlenie (10 tezisev po modernizatsii) [Modernization as social becoming (ten theses on modernization)]. *Ekonomicheskie i sotsial’nye peremeny: fakty, tendentsii, prognoz* [Economic and social changes: facts, trends, forecast], 2013, no. 6, pp. 119-126;

Lastochkina M.A., Shabunova A.A. Vozmozhnosti i ogranicheniya modernizatsionnogo razvitiya regionov Severo-Zapadnogo federal’nogo okruga [Opportunities for and constraints in the modernization development of the regions of the Northwestern Federal District]. *Ibidem*, 2013, no. 5, pp. 39-52.

<sup>20</sup> Web of Science Core Collection includes eight science citation indices: Science Citation Index Expanded – SCIE, Social Sciences Citation Index – SSCI, Arts & Humanities Citation Index – A&HCI, Emerging Sources Citation Index – ESCI and four citation indices for conference proceedings and books.



Tasks and areas of the work of the editorial board of the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” to bring the publication in line with international publishing standards and requirements of international scientometric databases

Tasks	Measures taken
Bringing the Journal in line with requirements of international databases	<p><b>October-November, 2013.</b> Development and adoption of Regulations on publication ethics of the journal, based on international standards proposed by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).</p> <p><b>January, 2014.</b> In the Russian version of the Journal, abstracts in English, as well as data on affiliation of its authors (address of the place of work), were moved from the end of the Journal and are now placed directly with the article.</p> <p><b>January, 2014.</b> A new method of placing the parts of the article was approved: the entire English part is now placed at the end of the article.</p> <p><b>January, 2014.</b> References are given in the Roman alphabet.</p> <p><b>June, 2014.</b> ISSN is received for the online version of the Journal.</p> <p><b>August 2014.</b> Data on affiliation of editorial board members are supplemented.</p>
Improving the quality of the articles in accordance with the requirements of foreign databases	<p><b>January, 2014.</b> Requirements to the manuscripts submitted to ISEDТ RAS journals are revised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- requirements to abstracts are changed (length of the abstract is increased up to 1800 characters (200–250 words); clear structuring of the article is required that contains the following sections: introduction, goals and objectives, methodology, results, conclusion;</li> <li>- samples of abstracts in Russian and English are developed.</li> </ul> <p><b>January, 2014.</b> New rules for authors are adopted, the rules are posted on the websites.</p> <p><b>October – December, 2014.</b> Changes are made to the Provision on peer review in ISEDТ RAS journals: the reviewers are to review articles for their compliance with all the requirements to manuscripts submitted to the editor of the journal (scope and content of the abstract; references and page references in accordance with state standards; size of the article; foreign sources).</p>



Tasks	Measures taken
Expanding the Journal’s editorial board by inviting foreign scientists, whose citation metrics in foreign databases is high	<p>The editorial board of the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” is joined by the following scientists:</p> <p><b>August, 2014.</b> Piotr Sztompka, Professor, Head of the Center for Theoretical Sociology at Jagiellonian University (Poland).</p> <p><b>July, 2016.</b> Peter Oeij, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist and Consultant, Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (Leiden, the Netherlands).</p> <p><b>September, 2016.</b> Julien Vercueil, Professor, Director of International Trade Department, National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations INALCO, (Paris, France)</p>
Promoting the Journal’s distribution abroad	<p><b>June, 2014.</b> The German National Library of Economics included the Journal into its fund.</p> <p><b>July, 2014.</b> The U.S. Library of Congress included the Journal into its fund.</p>
Increasing international visibility of the Journal: expanding its presence in international systems	<p><b>2013.</b> The Journal is included in the international reference system Ulrich’s Periodicals Directory.</p> <p><b>2013.</b> The Journal is included in the international database ProQuest (ProQuest Natural Sciences Journals; ProQuest SciTech Journals; ProQuest Sustainability Science Collection; ProQuest Illustrata: Natural Science).</p> <p><b>2013.</b> The Journal is included in databases of EBSCO Information Services, EBSCOhost platform.</p> <p><b>September, 2014.</b> Joining PILA international organization, agreement with CrossRef to receive DOIs for articles.</p> <p><b>May, 2015.</b> The Journal is included in DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), the largest international database of open access journals.</p> <p><b>August, 2015.</b> The Journal began exporting its materials to the international open repositories of scientific information Google Scholar, OCLC WorldCat, ROAR, BASE, OpenAIRE, RePEc, Socionet via “CyberLeninka” scientific electronic library.</p> <p><b>November, 2015.</b> Journal is included in the Emerging Sources Citation Index, a new database within the Web of Science Core Collection.</p>



Starting in 2012, members of the editorial staff of the Journal are regular participants of the annual international research-to-practice conference “Scientific publication of the international level” held by the non-profit partnership “National Electronic Information Consortium” jointly with representatives of the largest international publishing houses and editors of leading international journals. Systematic participation in the event allows the editorial staff to shape the publication policy that involves the Journal’s compliance with international standards and promotion of publications and titles in the global scientific community. In May 2016, according to the results of participation in the exhibition “Scientific journals of Russia and CIS countries as a source of information about research findings for the international community”, which took place in the framework of the above mentioned conference, the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” received a quality certificate confirming its compliance with international standards and criteria of Scopus database. Preparing the applications for inclusion of the Journal in this database, as well as strengthening the Journal’s position and its further promotion in the international information space – these are the tasks for the editorial staff for the near future.

**Based on the conviction that the mission of a scientific journal is to bring together representatives of the scientific community, to accumulate world experience and basic scientific knowledge and transfer it to future generations, the most important criterion for the Journal’s development is to enhance the academic status**

**of ISEDТ RAS staff and increase the number of publications of young authors.**

Given the fact that modern economy (especially in Russia) is objectively in need of innovative development, it should be noted that it is representatives of the younger generation that are bearers of innovative knowledge. **Therefore, one of the main tasks for publishers of a scientific journal is to ensure the continuity of basic knowledge – to transfer the knowledge from generation to generation, which should be organized at the system-wide level.**

In this context it must be stressed that many authors who published their articles in the Journal as research associates and laboratory assistants eventually achieved success not only in their career but also in terms of personal growth; they became winners of prestigious Russian and international awards, received grant support from leading Russian funds and won many contests. Today they are making a solid foundation for the prosperity of academic research at the regional level; they train a new generation of young scientists acting as scientific advisors to graduate students and working as teachers at ISEDТ RAS Research and Education Center, actively participate in the life of the youth Parliament of the Vologda Oblast and in the Regional Council of Young Scientists.

**Thus, from its very first issue, the Journal received comprehensive support from the leading scientific institutions of Russia. This suggests that the need for the preservation and development of scientific potential in the regions was always understood by the scientific community, and that initiatives to address this**



**problem, resonate with people not indifferent to the destiny of Russian academic science.**

**A brief analysis of the dynamics of the Journal’s content shows that its remit transformed depending on the requirements of the time. And it is an important criterion that proves that the work of the editorial staff and the Journals’ contributors is efficient. Through the pages of its issues published in different years, we can trace the key milestones in economic and social development of Russian regions, see the dynamics of the most important problems that are of interest to the academic community in Russia and abroad.**

**The ability to be in the mainstream and monitor major trends in science and public life contributes to the development of the scientific potential of the Journal’s authors and editorial staff. Perhaps we can call it the main task, the implementation of which was and will remain in the focus of attention of the editors.**

### **3. Trends in the quantitative indicators of the Journal**

In our opinion, the results of almost 10 years of work of the editorial staff, authors, reviewers, and professionals engaged in marketing activities to promote the Journal, and many others can be assessed with the help of two groups of criteria:

1. The first group is the most extensive one. It includes **classic quantitative indicators of journal development** describing the geography of the authors, website traffic, a set of bibliometric indicators to assess its relevance, etc.

2. The second group of indicators is **the feedback** from readers, authors and everyone interested. We believe these indicators should draw the attention of any scientific journal’s

publisher. A qualitative criterion does not require additional comment; however, it is a no less important aspect of performance evaluation.

Speaking about the first group of indicators, it should be noted that in the period since its first issue the Journal gradually acquired its range of authors and readership, which is increasing every year, and it occupied its own niche in the field of economic periodicals<sup>21</sup>.

In 2008–2016, over 700 scientific articles were published in the Journal (*Fig. 1*); the topics of the articles correspond to the priority directions of fundamental and applied research in the field of economic knowledge.

The Journal’s contributors include famous Russian and foreign scientists in economics and sociology<sup>22</sup>.

During this period, over a thousand authors published their papers in the Journal, of which around 800 people have an academic degree. Consequently, the share of articles by highly qualified authors exceeds 70%: 3.8% in the volume of publications falls on the articles of RAS academicians and corresponding members, 29.6% are written by doctors of sciences, 39.9% – by Ph.D.’s and 26.7% – by researchers without a degree and by graduate students (*Fig. 2*).

<sup>21</sup> Tret’yakova O.V. Ekonomicheskii zhurnal: problemy i perspektivy prodvizheniya na natsional’nom i mezhdunarodnom urovne [Economic journal: problems and prospects of promotion at the national and international level]. *Ekonomicheskie i sotsial’nye peremeny: fakty, tendentsii, prognoz* [Economic and social changes: facts, trends, forecast], 2014, no. 3, p. 212. DOI: 10.15838/esc/2014.3.33.16

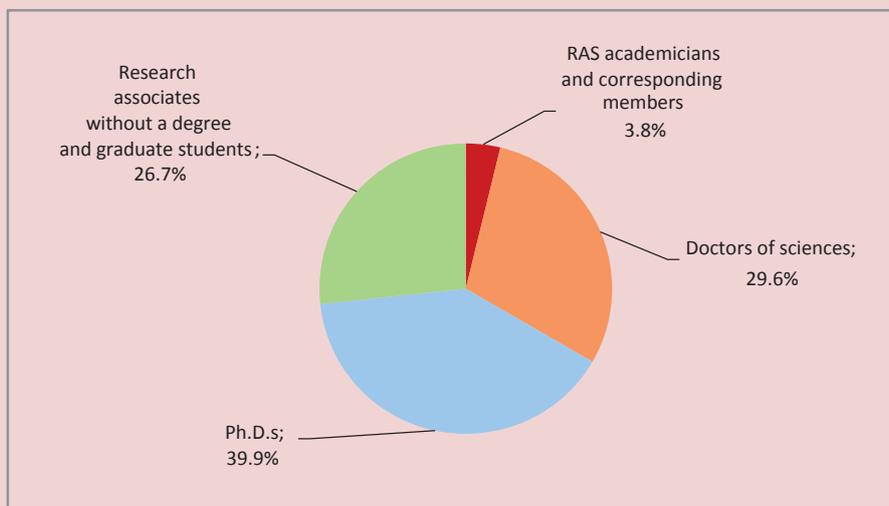
<sup>22</sup> The full list and geography of the authors whose papers are published in the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” are given at the end of issue (pp. 308-315).



Figure 1. Dynamics of the number of scientific articles published in the journal "Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast" in 2008–2016



Figure 2. Composition of authors who submitted their papers to the journal "Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast" in 2008–2016



Guided by the opinion that a modern scientific journal should not be just a discussion platform for domestic scientists, but also a platform that brings together the

achievements of researchers from different countries, the editorial staff is consistently implementing several measures to attract foreign authors. Since its foundation, the

Figure 3. Dynamics of the number of RF constituent entities and federal districts, the authors from which published articles in the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” in 2008–2016

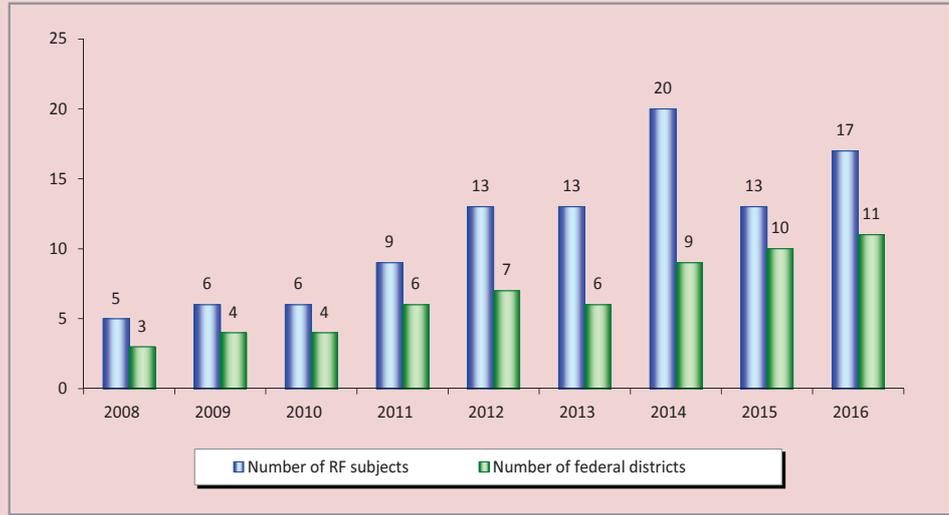
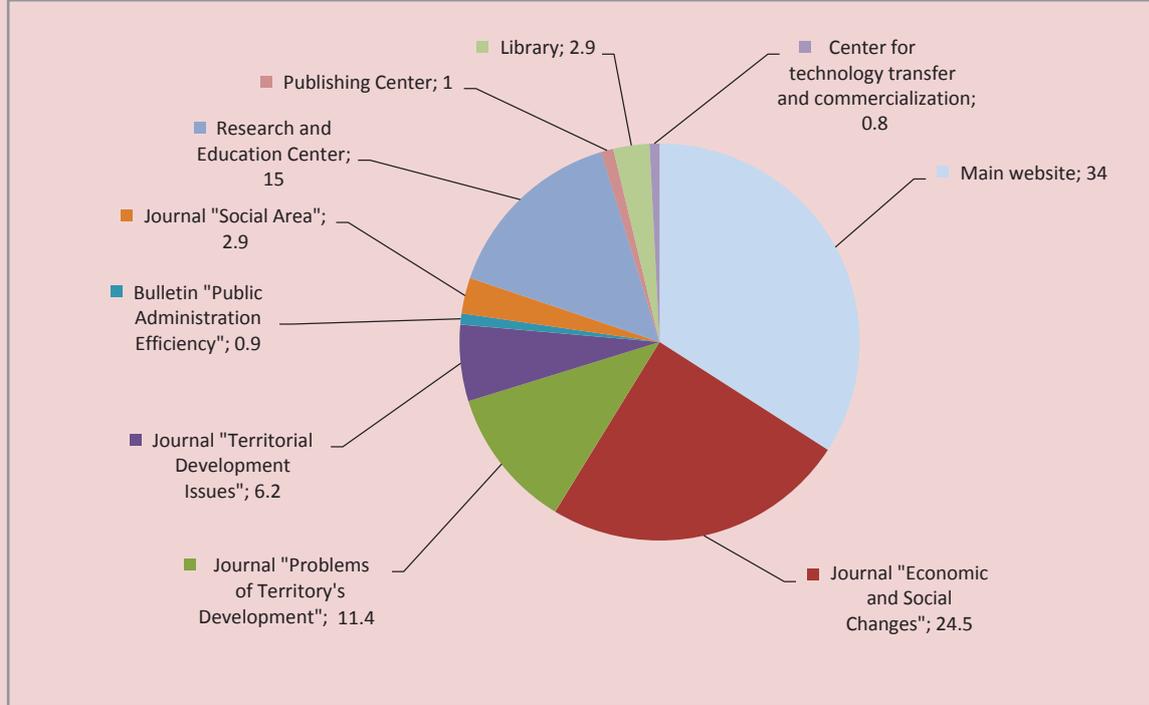


Figure 4. Structure of ISEDТ RAS website traffic in 2016, %





Journal has published papers of researchers from 16 countries<sup>23</sup>. The share of foreign articles is about 8% in the total number of publications. A considerable part of them belongs to scientists from China (43%) and Belarus (34%), which is a result of close cooperation of ISEDT RAS with Jiangxi Academy of Social Sciences (Jiangxi province, China) and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. Many joint articles by Russian and foreign authors were published, which proves that scientific cooperation with colleagues from abroad has reached a higher quality level.

The geography of Russian authors is also gradually expanding. For the period from 2008 to 2016, the number of federal districts, the authors of which published their papers in the Journal during the year, increased from three to eleven, and the number of constituent entities – from five to seventeen (*Fig. 3*).

In general, authors from 11 federal districts, two cities of federal importance and more than 30 constituent entities of the Russian Federation published their papers in the Journal. **The fact that the geography of the authors is expanding proves the following two facts: first, that the work on attracting members of the scientific community from different regions of Russia and foreign countries have become systematic; second, that the Journal is gaining more and more recognition in the Russian scientific community and among the readers of scientific literature.**

**The results of system-wide policy of the Journal are clearly reflected in the continuous**

<sup>23</sup> For the period from 2008 to 2016 the Journal published papers of scientists from China, Poland, France, Finland, Czech Republic, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, UK, Iran, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine.

**growth of statistical indicators of its website.** In 2016–2017 the number of its views increased by 73% (from 50,878 to 87,816), which, in our opinion, is due to the increase in the Journal's international visibility. According to the data as of 2016, the share of Journal accounts for 25% of all the pageviews of ISEDT RAS portal (*Fig. 4*).

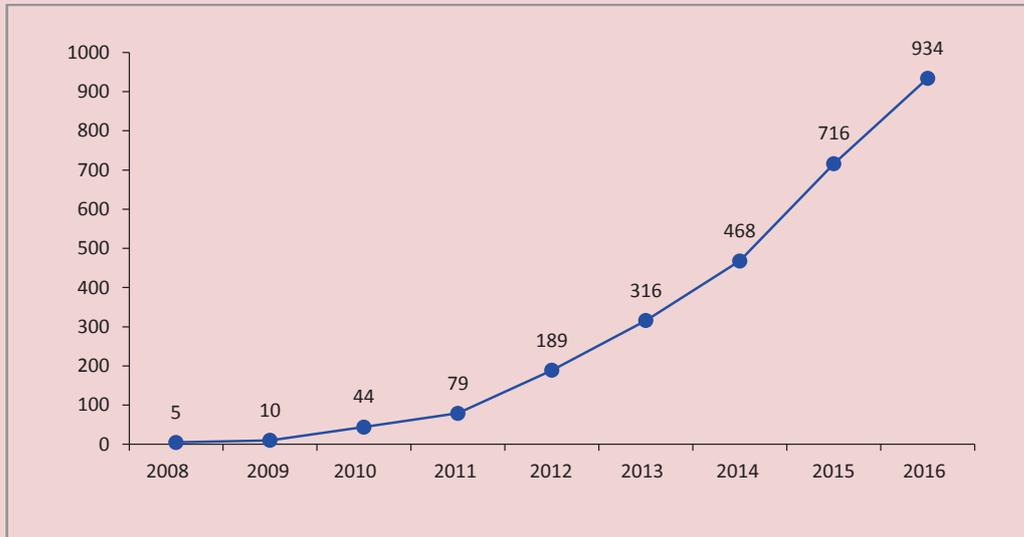
Significant popularity of the website of the Journal's website is evidenced by the number of downloads from it. Thus, for the period from January to November 2016, more than half of all downloads (52%) from the resources of the Institute fall on the Journal's website.

**Due to the fact that a free open access to research results helps increase global exchange of knowledge, the Journal provides such access to full-text electronic versions of the articles and other materials published in it.** It is the presence of a large number of full-text scientific articles available for download that provides a significant advantage to the Journal's website by the number of downloads.

In addition, in 2016, compared to the same period of the previous year, the number of unique visitors<sup>24</sup> to the Journal's website increased by 16% (from 39,387 to 45,588). The highest number (31%) of users of ISEDT RAS portal visited it, which is a kind of indicator of the success of editorial policy and means that the work for the improvement and optimization of websites of scientific journals is going on in the right direction.

<sup>24</sup> It should be noted that Piwik system monitors the uniqueness of the visitors with the help of cookies (a piece of data sent by a web server and stored on the user's computer). When taking account of unique visitors, their repeat visits to the website are not counted (they are taken into account when considering a different metric – the number of visits).

Figure 5. Dynamics of the total number of citations of the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” in the RSCI (data as of 23.03.2017)



The relevance of the Journal in Russian academic circles is indirectly confirmed by the data on its scientometric indicators in the Russian Science Citation Index: their continuous positive dynamics are obvious. The total number of citations of the publication in the RSCI is increasing (*Fig. 5*).

The notion of citation as an indicator of impact, usefulness and importance of cited documents, and also as a tool for evaluating scientific contribution allows us to make a conclusion about the growth of scientific authority of the Journal. This is confirmed by the positive dynamics of the values of the impact factor in the RSCI, which on average increased 5-fold in 2015 compared to 2011 (*Fig. 6*). The growth rate of the values of the impact factor are in the range from 430 to 580%.

If we compare the values of the two-year impact factor<sup>25</sup> of economic journals that are published by Russian institutes subordinate to FANO and included in the “Economic science, economic geography”<sup>26</sup> reference group, it should be noted that, according to this indicator, the Journal is among leading editions. *Table 1* lists the five journals published by RAS economic institutes, which have the highest values of the two-year impact factor.

<sup>25</sup> Traditional classic indicator, which is calculated by the most prestigious database Web of Science and is recognized throughout the world as the basis for the ranking of journals relative to each other; one of the basic scientometric indicators to evaluate an academic journal.

<sup>26</sup> The reference groups of scientific organizations were formed in the federal system for monitoring and evaluating the performance of research organizations for the execution of the plan on implementation of the state program of the Russian Federation “Development of science and technology” for 2013–2020.



Figure 6. Dynamics of the values of the impact factor of the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” in the RSCI (data as of 23.03.2017)

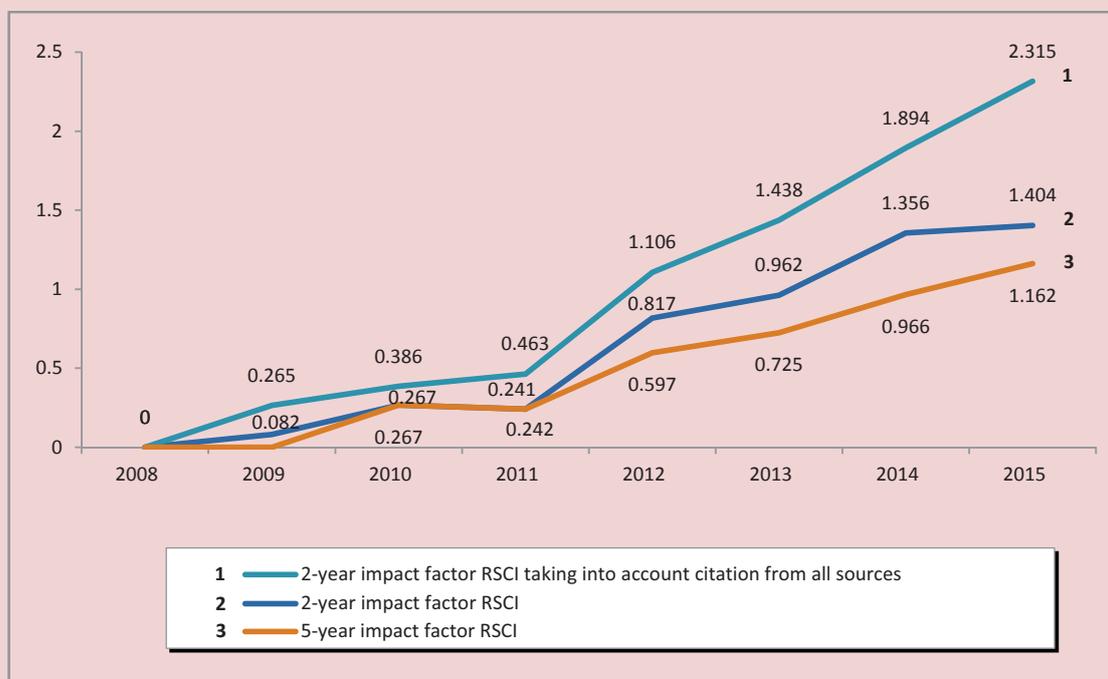


Table 1. Top-5 economic journals published by RAS institutes, ranked by the value of the two-year impact factor RSCI

No.	Journal	RAS institute	IF2 2015
1.	Voprosy ekonomiki (Issues of Economy)	RAS Institute of Economics	6.567
2.	Ekonomika regiona (Economy of Region)	Institute of Economics, Ural Branch of RAS	2.324
3.	Problemy prognozirovaniya (Studies on Russian Economic Development)	Institute of Economic Forecasting, RAS	2.209
4.	Prostranstvennaya ekonomika (Spatial Economics)	Economic Research Institute, Far Eastern Branch of RAS	2.048
5.	<b>Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast</b>	<b>Institute of Socio-Economic Development Of Territories of RAS</b>	<b>1.404</b>

It is important to note that the increase in the impact factor of the publication is provided by the citations in external sources, but not at the expense of self-citation, it is indicated by the reduction in the five-year self-citation coefficient of the Journal: from 28% in 2012 to 17% in 2015. This level of self-citation is low.

For comparison, 80% of journals included in Web of Science have the ratio of self-citation about 20%<sup>27</sup>.

<sup>27</sup> Rossiiskie nauchnye zhurnaly v Web of Science [Russian scientific journals in Web of Science]. *Okna rosta: informats.-analitich. byull. NIU VShE* [Windows of growth: information and analytical bulletin of NRU HSE], 2014, no. 19 (95), p. 4.



Overall, judging by the results of the analysis of quantitative indicators of our Journal in the Russian Science Citation Index, it ranks quite high in relation to other publications of the same remit and has good conditions for the integration in the national and international information space.

**Thus, the dynamics of the main indicators of the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” allows us to speak with confidence about systematic and integrated approach to addressing key issues of the publication; it also shows that the Journal now complies with all the requirements of a modern print edition devoted to the problems of academic science.**

**Over the years of its publication the journal has acquired its own distinctive features, it has become well-known in the scientific world; it is expanding its horizons from the point of view of geographical distribution of authors, as well as from the standpoint of the content of its issues. Quantitative indicators reflecting the dynamics of development of the Journal clearly indicate that the work is headed in the right direction.**

**However, the geography and status of authors and the ranking in the RISC are not the only indicators by which the development of the publication can be assessed. No less**

**important is the opinion of the very actors of this system: authors, readers, and editorial staff.**

#### **4. Assessment of the Journal by the scientific community**

Since 2010, the Institute of Socio-Economic Development of Territories of the Russian Academy of Sciences carries out annual expert evaluation of its scientific journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast”. The Journal’s editorial staff, authors, and receivers participate in the questionnaire survey. In general, in 2010–2016, 760 people were surveyed (*Tab. 2*). The number of participants of the monitoring increased from 94 in 2010 to 125 in 2016.

The vast majority of experts who have agreed to evaluate the content and design of the Journal, assess the changes taking place in it as being positive (83% in 2010, 82% in 2016, *Fig. 7*). Over the past three years (from 2014 to 2016), the proportion of experts who express positive judgments about the dynamics of the Journal’s development increased from 75 to 82%.

Since 2013 there is a stable positive dynamics of assessment of the quality of published papers. In general, during 2010–2016, the percentage of positive responses increased by 8 p.p. (from 89 to 97%; *Fig. 8*).

Table 2. Dynamics of the number of respondents who participated in an expert assessment survey of the scientific journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” in 2010–2016, people

Group of respondents	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Growth rate 2016 to 2015, %
Editorial board and editorial staff members	13	20	17	11	13	17	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>
ISED T RAS staff	81	86	86	82	88	75	<b>73</b>	<b>97</b>
Journal readers	-	-	-	-	13	33	<b>35</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>



Figure 7. Dynamics of the share of respondents who answered the question: “How would you assess the changes that the Journal has undergone?”, for 2010–2016, %

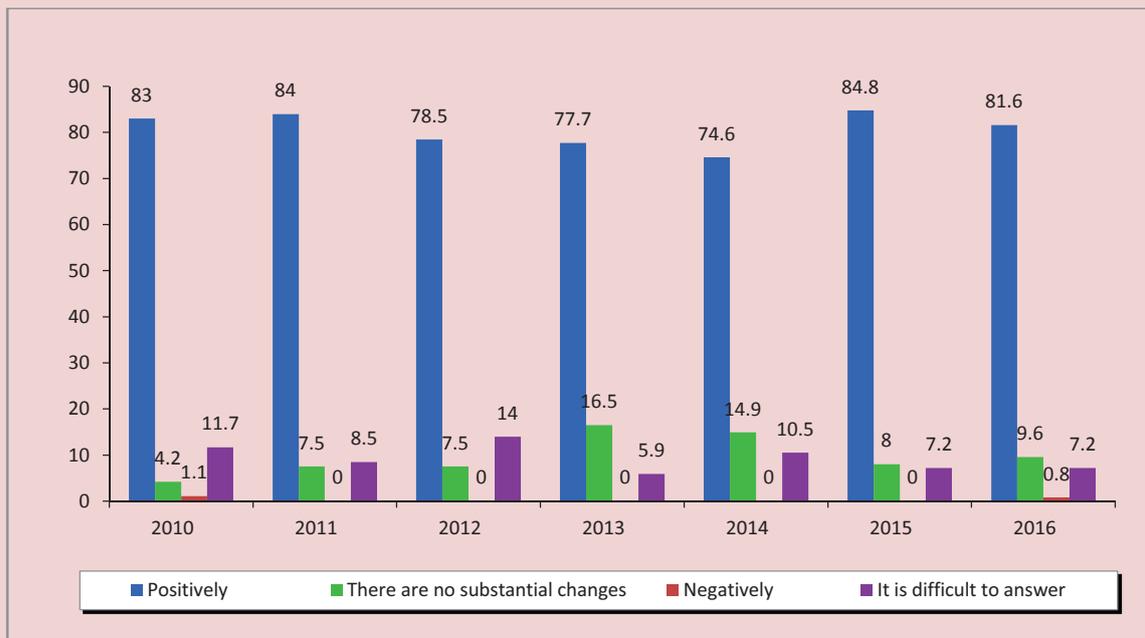
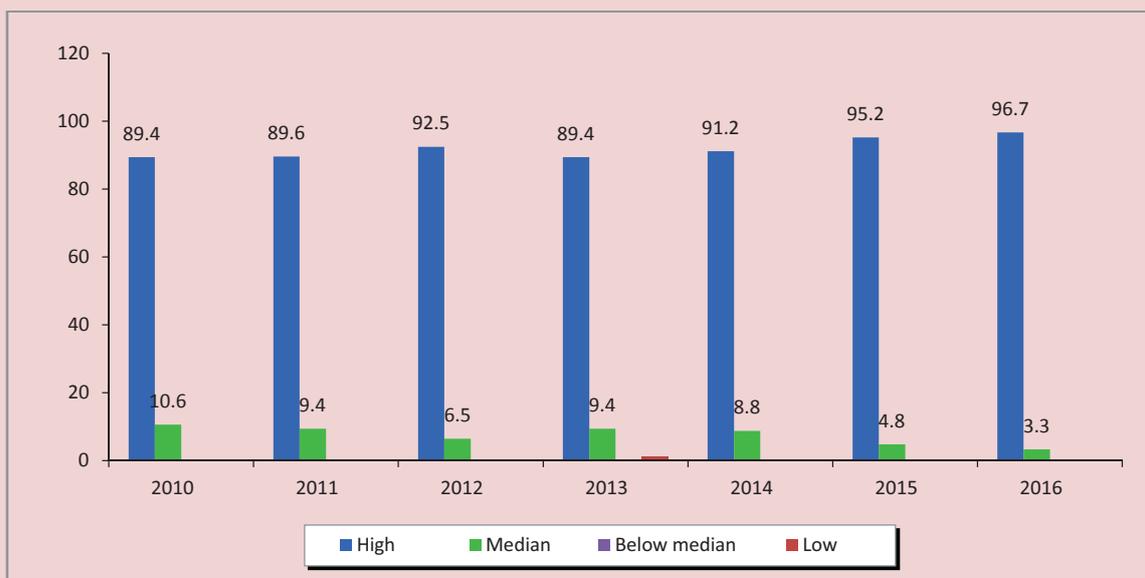


Figure 8. Dynamics of the share of respondents who answered the question: “How would you assess the level of materials published in the Journal?”, for 2010–2016, %





Thematic issues addressed in the Journal are grouped in 20 sections<sup>28</sup>. Their large number is due, on the one hand, to the complex ideological approach to the Journal’s content, with the understanding of the need for a multifaceted vision of economic and social aspects of development of territories; on the other hand, with granting potential authors more opportunities to submit their manuscripts to the editor. For instance, there are special sections for young authors, for those willing to share foreign experience, etc.

As the results of the annual monitoring of the Journal’s development effectiveness, readers find the sections “From the chief editor” and “Socio-economic development strategy” most interesting (*Tab. 3*). At the

same time, expert estimates for all the sections in the period under review have positive dynamics. According to the results of the latest survey, none of the sections received an expert assessment below 7.8 points (on a 10-point scale).

The Journal is currently published in four versions: printed Russian, online Russian, printed English, and online English. Judging by the results of the ongoing monitoring, the relevance of each of the versions is growing. The only exception is the Russian-language printed version; this fact may be associated with an irreversible trend of development of information technology and virtual networks, which increasingly become a platform for periodicals (*Tab. 4*).

Table 3. Answers of respondents to the question: “What sections, in your opinion, are of greatest interest”? (average score on a 10-point scale)

Section	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016, +/- to 2010
From the chief editor	8.7	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.9	9.0	<b>0</b>
Socio-economic development strategy	6.7	8.6	8.2	8.5	8.7	8.9	9.0	<b>+2</b>
Social development	8.7	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.8	8.8	8.8	<b>0</b>
Regional economy	5.6	8.7	8.7	8.4	8.5	8.8	8.8	<b>+3</b>
Innovation development	5.0	8.6	8.3	8.2	8.5	8.6	8.6	<b>+4</b>
Branch-wise economy	5.6	8.7	8.7	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.3	<b>+3</b>

<sup>28</sup> Full list of sections in the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast”:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. From the chief editor                                    | 11. Innovation development                            |
| 2. Socio-economic development strategy                      | 12. Nature management                                 |
| 3. Issues of theory   | 13. Modeling and forecast of socio-economic processes |
| 4. Spatial aspects of territorial development               | 14. Economics of the agro-industrial complex          |
| 5. Branch-wise economy                                      | 15. Labor economics                                   |
| 6. Regional economics                                       | 16. History of economic and sociological thought      |
| 7. Social development                                       | 17. Foreign experience                                |
| 8. Public finance   | 18. Discussion platform                               |
| 9. Economics and sociology of public health and health care | 19. Young researchers                                 |
| 10. Critical economic issues                                | 20. Scientific reviews. Opinions.                     |



## Reviews of the journal "Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast"

Author of the review	Date of the interview	Content
<b>P.A. Vityaz</b> , Academician, Head of the Administration of NAS of Belarus	September 2015	"The journals "Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast", "Problems of territory's development", electronic journal "Territorial Development Issues"; the information-analytical bulletin "Public administration efficiency in the estimates of the population" founded and produced by the efforts of ISEDT RAS staff have become an intellectual platform for representatives of various scientific schools to exchange opinions on the economic and socio-political development of regions of Russia, former soviet states and other countries. ISEDT RAS periodicals in a short time have gained wide international recognition in the scientific world; this was due, among other things, to the fact that the editorial boards of these publications contain well-known foreign scientists".
<b>V.M. Kalyasin</b> , Chairperson, Vologda Oblast Federation of Trade Unions	December 2015	The journals "Problems of territory's development" and "Economic and Social Changes" are in demand among trade union members. The journals publish articles in which on the basis of deep scientific analysis the urgency and topicality of current socio-economic problems are assessed, and conceptual approaches to their solution are determined. The knowledge obtained allows us to take a more accurate position in negotiations with authorities and employers, protecting social and labor rights and interests of workers".
<b>A.I. Tatarkin</b> , RAS Academician	December 2015	"The importance of ISEDT RAS as a major center of economic and sociological research in the North-West of Russia is determined, among other facts, by the fact that the Institute publishes the journals "Problems of territory's development", "Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast", and the electronic journal "Territorial Development Issues" and the bulletin "Public administration efficiency in the estimates of the population". The availability of full-text versions of publications of these editions in the Internet expands the circle of individuals interested in the findings of the research carried out at ISEDT RAS".
<b>B.S. Pavlov</b> , Doctor of Philosophy, Professor (Yekaterinburg)	February 2016	"In general, having looked through several issues, I can say that the Journal's layout, design, its links to RSCI, and its culture of communication with authors, etc. make a very favorable impression".
<b>Yu M. Pasovets</b> , Ph.D. in Sociology	February 2016	"The work of the editorial staff is organized at a high level: the editorial staff set the necessary requirements to achieve high quality of research publications in the Journal, make sure that the authors follow these requirements; therefore, I wish them only to maintain that level of work".
<b>A.A. Kireeva</b> , Ph.D. in Economics (Kazakhstan)	February 2016	"I would like to thank the editorial staff for their efficiency and responsiveness in their work with authors!"



Reflections upon the Results of the Fiftieth Issue of the Journal “Economic and Social Changes...”

Author of the review	Date of the interview	Content
<b>J. Sapir</b> , Doctor of Economics, Professor, RAS Foreign Member	February 2017	“A very good professional journal. There is a need to expand the scope of the Journal and to increase the number of foreign authors”.
<b>F.D. Larichkin</b> , Doctor of Economics (Apatity)	February 2017	“The Journal’s level is high enough, the main thing is not to reduce it!”.
<b>V.V. Lokosov</b> , Doctor of Sociology, Professor (Moscow)	February 2017	“The Journal is popular, it has its readership”.
<b>N.V. Zvereva</b> , Doctor of Economics, Professor (Moscow)	February 2017	“I think the Journal is very good! Good luck to all of you!”
<b>O.A. Romanova</b> , Doctor of Economics, Professor (Yekaterinburg)	February 2017	“One of the best domestic journals, I wish you success!”.
<b>V.A. Bilkov</b> , Doctor of Agriculture (Vologda)	February 2017	“In my opinion, ISEDТ RAS and, mainly, its editorial staff, managed to create one of the best journals in the field in terms of quality and design of the material published. Hence, I can only wish you to maintain such a high standard in the future”.
<b>O.S. Miroshnichenko</b> , Doctor of Economics (Tyumen)	February 2017	“I Express my sincere gratitude for the higher academic culture, professional excellence, respectful and caring attitude to the authors, and a high quality of published materials! In addition to professional pleasure that I get when I read the materials published in the Journal (many of the articles resonate with me as a reader, I agree with the authors’ opinions), it also gives aesthetic pleasure; it is pleasant to handle it. I wish welfare and prosperity to the editorial staff of the Journal and to anyone who contributes to the publication of the Journal, to the increase in its ratings and various indicators!”.
<b>V.V. Voronov</b> , Doctor of Sociology (Latvia)	February 2017	“The work being done is enormous (color graphics, design, reviewing, etc.). Therefore, there is only one suggestion: keep it up!”.
<b>E.A. Derunova</b> , Ph.D. in Economics (Moscow)	February 2017	“The team of authors express sincere gratitude for high professionalism of the staff, for clear and systematically organized cooperation at all the stages from the moment of the first submission of the materials for review to sending the Journal and relevant documents after the publication of the article. At all the stages we felt the support and desire to help our team of authors, despite the fact that it is our first cooperation with the Journal’s editorial staff. We wish you success and prosperity!”



Table 4. Respondents' answers to the survey question: "In your opinion, how high is the demand for different versions of the Journal"? (% of the total number of respondents)

Answers	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016, +/- to 2015
<i>Printed Russian</i>								
In demand, very much in demand	93.6	90.5	90.3	87	90.7	93.5	88.8	- 4.8
Not much in demand, not in demand at all	3.3	5.7	5.4	10.6	9.3	6.6	11.2	+7.9
<i>Online Russian</i>								
In demand, very much in demand	90.4	93.4	90.3	92.9	97.1	97.5	98.3	+7.9
Not much in demand, not in demand at all	5.3	1.9	5.4	3.5	2.8	2.5	1.8	- 3.5
<i>Printed English</i>								
In demand, very much in demand	29.8	37.8	31.2	44.7	35.4	48.2	46.1	+16.3
Not much in demand, not in demand at all	68.1	55.7	62.4	47.1	64.7	51.8	53.8	- 14.3
<i>Online English</i>								
In demand, very much in demand	41.5	59.5	53.8	51.8	59.8	72.8	79.1	+37.6
Not much in demand, not in demand at all	47.9	34.9	38.8	41.2	40.2	27.3	21	- 26.9

Respondents regularly make suggestions that help the editorial staff to consider the needs of the Journal's receivers in building the policy of its promotion in the scientific space. *Taking this opportunity, we would like to thank all the participants of the continuous monitoring for the sincere support they provide to our work, for their constructive criticism and valuable suggestions that help improve the content and institutional framework of the Journal.*

Opinions of our readers need no comment, however, we cannot ignore them, as they are one of the most important criteria in assessing our activities (*Insert 3*).

**Thus, a systematically organized approach to obtaining feedback from the Journal's readers, experts and authors makes a significant contribution to its further development both from the viewpoint of improving its**

**content, and from the standpoint of its promotion in the scientific space. The results of the monitoring of expert assessments allow us to say that this work is carried out successfully and should be continued.**

\* \* \*

Summing up, we should note that to date, the Journal's editorial staff managed to solve some important problems in the development and promotion of the Journal at the national level and in the international information space. A sustainable system has been built that covers the full range of factors necessary to ensure the existence and competitiveness of the Journal. This system takes into account the depth and relevance of the scientific component of its content; systematically organized work with authors, reviewers and potential members of the editorial staff; contemporary trends in



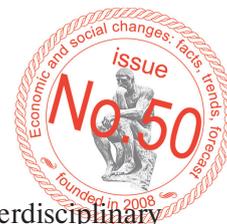
the use of information content (particularly, the spread of innovative means of virtual environment); the ability to be informed about the key global trends in publishing, while maintaining adherence to the classic publishing traditions of Russian scientific journals.

With the growth of achievements of global science and development of technological progress, there arises an objective necessity to specify the branches of scientific knowledge. In the framework of this trend, ISEDT RAS publishes along with the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” a few

others: “Problems of Territory’s Development” (included in the VAK list), “Territorial Development Issues”, “Social Space”, “Young Economist”. An important challenge facing the Institute is to promote these publications on the national and international level; this requires building a single ideological and organizational policy in this respect. The publishing experience accumulated by ISEDT RAS allows us to say with confidence that such a task is quite doable, and it will be another step in the strengthening of the scientific potential of Russia’s regions.

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