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Economy, Standard of Living and Quality of Life in the Region (Reflections on the Dictionary-Reference Book *Regional Economics* Vologda Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences¹)



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¹ Ilyin V.A., Shabunova A.A. (Eds.). (2021). *Regional Economics: Dictionary-Reference Book*. Moscow: INFRA-M. 358 p.

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Abstract. At the new stage of Russia's development, it becomes especially important to find solutions to urgent economic and social issues of regional development so as to ensure full economic sovereignty and decent living standards and quality of life for Russian citizens. The article discusses the issues related to increasing the role of scientific support in addressing these problems through the prism of a notable scientific and practical phenomenon – the publication of the dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics* in 2021; the book was prepared by a team of authors at RAS Vologda Research Center and contains the results of the 30-year work of VolRC RAS on providing scientific and practical support to regional and local authorities of the Vologda Oblast, which contributed to the development of the region's economy, raising the standard of living and improving the quality of life. The published scientific and practical methods for solving regional demographic, economic and social problems and improving the performance of regional and local government bodies represent the main achievements of the book. The article shows that theoretical, methodological and practical solutions to topical regional issues, using the example of the Vologda Oblast, provide scientific and practical communities of other Russian regions with tools for addressing similar problems, taking into account Russia's spatial features. We outline a number of considerations to develop the theoretical, methodological and practical base of the book so that its methods could be applied creatively in other regions of Russia.

Key words: dictionary-reference book, regional economy, economic sphere of the region, social sphere of the region, regional management, effectiveness of budget regulation, production, scientific, technological and human resources potential, tourism and development, demography, human potential, quality of life of the population, management of regional and municipal socio-economic systems, management of inter- and intraregional socio-economic communications, methodology.

Introduction

The federal structure of the Russian Federation is based on its state integrity, the unity of the state authority system, the delimitation of subjects of competence and powers between the Russian state authorities and the state authorities of Russia's entities, equality and self-determination of peoples in Russia². Currently, there are 85 constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

The federal structure of the Russian Federation provides for the conduct of the Russian Federation, the joint conduct of the Russian Federation and Russia's entities. Out of bounds of the conduct of the Russian Federation and the powers of the

Russian Federation on entities of joint conduct of the Russian Federation and Russia's entities, Russia's entities have full state power³.

Local self-government is carried out in urban, rural settlements and other territories taking into account historical and other local traditions. Local self-government in the Russian Federation is guaranteed by the right to judicial protection, to compensation for additional expenses incurred as a result of decisions taken by state authorities, a ban on restricting the rights of local self-government established by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and federal laws⁴.

The key current documents regulating the regional development of the country are the RF Presidential Decree 13, dated January 16, 2017 "On approval of the Fundamentals of the State Policy of Regional Development of the Russian Federation

² Constitution of the Russian Federation (adopted by popular vote on December 12, 1993) (subject to amendments made by the Laws of the Russian Federation on Amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation 6-FKZ, dated December 30, 2008; 7-FKZ, dated December 30, 2008; 2-FKZ, dated February 05, 2014; 11-FKZ, dated July 01, 2020), paragraph 3, Article 5. Official website of the President of RF. Available at: <http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/constitution/item> (accessed: July 7, 2022).

³ Ibidem. Articles 71–73.

⁴ Ibidem. Articles 131, 133.

for the period through to 2025”⁵ and the Spatial Development Strategy of the Russian Federation approved by the RF Governmental Decree 207-р, dated February 13, 2019 for the period through to 2025⁶.

The results of the research developments, presented in scientific monographs and articles, as well as textbooks and study aids, encyclopedic and scientific-practical dictionaries, play an important role in Russia’s regional development. The popular scientific library⁷ has many Russian-language publications on various aspects of regional socio-economic development and management. A number of scientific monographs are devoted to these issues (Zubarevich, 2010; Minakir, 2017; Vasilyeva et al., 2018; Levchenko et al., 2018; Bazhutova et al., 2019; Chereshev et al., 2019; Bukhvald et al., 2020; Ilyin et al., 2020; Bobkov et al., 2021; Suslov et al., 2022; Shabunova et al., 2022), textbooks and study aids⁸, numerous scientific articles on the regional

development issues in respected scientific journals⁹. Together, they provide a good basis for improving the scientific development level of Russian regions.

Dictionaries occupy a special place among publications, devoted to regional economic and social policy. Their important role and place are due to the fact that they reveal the essence of economic and social processes, their attitude to certain provisions of the theory, the history of origin and development, critical attitude to the already existing interpretations of the concepts under consideration, and present systematized literature lists. This genre of studying regional socio-economic systems, as a rule, allows giving a concentrated view of the diversity of socio-

⁵ On approval of the Fundamentals of the State Policy of Regional Development of the Russian Federation for the period through to 2025: RF Presidential Decree 13, dated January 16, 2017. Official website of the President of RF. Available at: <http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/41641> (accessed: July 7, 2022).

⁶ On the approval of the Spatial Development Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period through to 2025: RF Governmental Decree 207-р, dated February 13, 2019. Official website of the Russian Government. Available at: <http://government.ru/docs/35733/> (accessed: July 7, 2022).

⁷ Scientific Electronic Library of the RSCI. Available at: <https://www.elibrary.ru/defaultx.asp?> (accessed: July 7, 2022).

⁸ Belokrylova O.S., Kiseleva N.N., Khubulova V.V. (2019). *Regional Economics and Management: Textbook*. Moscow: NITs INFRA-M; Burov M.P. (2019). *Regional Economics and Territorial Development Management: textbook for Master's Degree Student*. Moscow: Dashkov i K°.; Ermoshina G.P., Pozdnyakov V.Ya. (2019). *Regional Economy: Textbook*. Moscow: NITs INFRA-M; Kulakova L.I. (2020). *Management of Regional Economic Systems: Textbook*. Orel: Srednerusskii institut upravleniya – filiala RANKhiGS; Manaeva I.V. (2020). *Socio-Economic Inequality of Russia's Regions: Theory and Practice: Textbook*. Belgorod: ID BelGU; Morozova G.G. (2017). *Regional Economy: Textbook for Students Studying in Economic Specialties. 4th Edition*. Moscow: YuNITI-DANA; Nikiforova V.D., Putikhin Yu.E., Nikiforov A.A. (2020). *Regional Economy: Textbook*. Moscow: RIOR; Selishcheva T.A. (2018). *Regional Economy: Textbook*. Moscow: INFRA-M; Urunov A.A. (2020). *Regional Economy: Textbook and Practicum*. Moscow: INFRA-M; Fetisov G.G., Oreshin V.P. (2022). *Regional Economy and Management: Textbook*. Moscow: INFRA-M.

⁹ Arctic: Ecology and Economy (Nuclear Safety Institute of RAS, Moscow);

Bulletin of the IE RAS (Institute of Economics of RAS, Moscow);

Voprosy Ekonomiki (Non-profit Partnership “Redaktsiya zhurnala “Voprosy Ekonomiki”, Moscow);

Territorial Development Issues (Vologda Research Center of RAS, Vologda);

Journal of the New Economic Association (Journal of the New Economic Association, Moscow);

Population (ISESP FCTAS RAS, Moscow);

Society and Economics (RAS, Moscow);

Problems of Territory’s Development (Vologda Research Center of RAS, Vologda);

Spatial Economics (Economic Research Institute, Far-Eastern Branch of RAS, Khabarovsk);

Regionalistics (Economic Research Institute, Far-Eastern Branch of RAS, Khabarovsk);

Region: Economics and Sociology (Institute of Economics and Industrial Engineering within the Siberian Branch of RAS, Novosibirsk);

Russian Economic Journal (EZH MEDIA, CJSC, Moscow);

Social Area (Vologda Research Center of RAS, Vologda);

Living Standards of the population in the Regions of Russia (Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of RAS, Moscow);

Ekonomika Severo-Zapada: problemy i perspektivy razvitiya (Institute for Problems of Regional Economics of RAS, Saint Petersburg);

Economy of Region (Institute of Economics of the Ural Branch of RAS, Ural Federal University, Yekaterinburg);

Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast (Vologda Research Center of RAS, Vologda);

The All-Russian ECO Journal (Siberian Branch of RAS, Institute of Economics and Industrial Engineering within the Siberian Branch of RAS, Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk);

Russian Economic Development (Gaidar Institute for Economic Policy, Moscow).

economic relations and practices and to orient users in understanding the essence and direction of their actions. Our study of numerous dictionaries¹⁰ has shown that many of them give general brief characteristics of economic categories that are transferred from dictionary to dictionary, so often the reader is not dealing with author's developments and clarifications of terminology. In addition, often theoretical descriptions are not supported by practical recommendations for their use in socio-economic policy.

We should note that most dictionaries released in recent years are focused on the disclosure of general economic and financial terms and concepts. These dictionaries are of interest to teachers, students of economic universities and faculties rather than to practical workers – economists and managers.

The increasing importance of regional economic policy inevitably leads to the emergence of new assessment and management tools, as a result of which there is a growing need for understanding concepts and terms reflecting socio-economic relations at the regional level. However, there are very few noteworthy dictionaries focused on the regional level of the country's development.

We have studied a large list of dictionaries; the dictionary on regional economics, published in 2011 by the publishing house of the Southern Federal University, attracts attention with its focus on regional issues¹¹. It contains representation of more than 750 terms and concepts related to regional

topics in alphabetical order. It provides a general and specialized representation of terms which made it a useful source of information for a wide range of readers.

A new notable phenomenon in the study of the regional economy, the standard of living and quality of life was the publication of the dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics* under the general editorship of V.A. Ilyin and A.A. Shabunova. It differs from other representatives of this scientific genre in its focus on revealing the contemporary features of the regional socio-economic system, focusing on the essence of the most important regional characteristics, presenting methodological foundations and the results of the impact of socio-economic generalizations made on the practical development of regional economies and the social sphere, confirmed by the experience of implementing scientific and practical projects at Vologda Research Center of RAS.

The publication includes 5 sections.

The 1st section presents the most general concepts, used in the regional economy. Sections 2–4 are devoted to the economic, social and managerial spheres of the region, respectively. The final 5th section contains the scientific works of economic scientists which are the methodological basis of research on regional topics for the period from 1924 to 2020.

The purpose of our research is to characterize the innovations of this dictionary, to highlight its features and practical significance, as well as to reflect on possible new frontiers of improvement of this publication, which are quite accessible to a highly qualified team of authors, based on the studies of Vologda Research Center of RAS.

The research hypothesis is that the publication of the dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics*, prepared at Vologda Research Center of RAS, brings the genre of theoretical and applied dictionary publications to a new level, which allow combining the theory of regional development and practice

¹⁰ Azriliyan A.N., Kvardakova O.V., Azriliyan O.M. (2015). *Economic Dictionary*. Moscow: Omega L; Arkhipov A.I., Balashov S.A., Bagudina E.G. (2019). *Economic Dictionary*. Moscow: RG-Press; Gorsheneva O.V. (2011). *Dictionary of Terms and Concepts on Regional Economy*. Rostov-on-Don: Yuzhnyi federal'nyi universitet; Pushkareva V.M. (2019). *Economy. Dictionary: Textbook*. Moscow: INFRA-M; Raizberg B.A. (2021). *Modern Socio-Economic Dictionary*. Moscow: INFRA-M; Bobkov V.N. (Ed.). (2014). *Social Policy, Standard and Quality of Life: Dictionary. 2nd Edition*. Moscow: VTsUZh.

¹¹ Gorsheneva O.V. (2011). *Dictionary of Terms and Concepts on Regional Economy*. Rostov-on-Don: Yuzhnyi federal'nyi universitet.

through published methods that have been tested. This greatly facilitates the work of research teams and governing bodies of Russia's entities which can use sound scientific and methodological tools taking into account the features of the country's spatial development.

Theoretical and methodological tools of the dictionary-reference book

The dictionary-reference book includes 165 terms, as well as classifications introduced into circulation by Russian scientists-regionalists¹² (including the authors of the dictionary). Section 1 "Region as a management object" presents the most common terms used in the regional economics. Section 2 "Economic sphere of the region" contains functional blocks: manufacturing sector (21 terms), small business (8 terms), innovation (12 terms), foreign economic activity (10 terms), and financial system (17 terms). Section 3 "Social sphere of the region" includes the following subsections: demography (23 terms), quality of life (15 terms), labor market (8 terms), and education (11 terms). Section 4 "Management of the region" includes the following blocks: management of socio-economic processes in the region (14 terms) and local self-government (17 terms).

The methodological tools of the publication are reflected in scientific publications of Vologda Research Center of RAS (formerly – the Institute of Socio-Economic Development of Territories of RAS): monographs, articles, scientific reports, preprints and reports (there are 243 sources that Russian and foreign scientists refer to in their research¹³).

Section 5 "Russian scientists whose works are the methodological basis of research on regional topics" presents some publications of 72 Russian scientists¹⁴.

¹² Ilyin V.A., Shabunova A.A. (Eds.). (2021). *Regional Economics: Dictionary-Reference Book*. Moscow: INFRA-M. Pp. 29; 38–39; 121–123; 127–128; 129–130; 132–133; 240–253.

¹³ Ibidem. Pp. 43–51; 152–157; 264–267.

¹⁴ Ibidem. Pp. 327–349.

Data and methods

In the dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics*, tabular and graphical data of calculated indicators (102 tables, graphs and figures) are usually preceded by schemes of interrelations within individual concepts characterizing regional development, as well as indicators characterizing the socio-economic dynamics of the Russian Federation and the subjects of the Northwestern Federal District (60 schemes). They explain the concepts presented, consider them in the system of internal and external factors of the region's development¹⁵.

The author's methods, in which the theoretical and methodological definitions presented by the terms and classifications of the dictionary, as well as algorithms and formulas for their practical application have been applied, are supported by publications of monographs, educational and methodological manuals, articles in authoritative journals, as well as research reports carried out at VolRC RAS. Methodological tools, algorithms of step-by-step actions, as well as the evaluation of the research results by VolRC RAS are reflected in 43 methods. All this gives a comprehensive view in the chain: the concept – relationships – level and dynamics – methodological grounds for the application of concepts and the results of practical application.

Thus, the dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics* provides a comprehensive theoretical understanding of the conceptual apparatus, methodological and methodic tools of its application, involved in regional studies, supported by the approbation results.

In the most advanced editions of the dictionary genre, as a rule, the following types of possible author's articles are presented in detail: 1) term (concept); 2) model (law, method), 3) economic school / theory. The type of article "methodology"

¹⁵ Ibidem. Pp. 6–8; 10–17; 19; 21–22; 24–28; 30–31; 33–35; 41; 124; 128–129; 130–146; 149–150; 257; 260.

is definitely an innovation of the author's collective of the Vologda dictionary-reference book and its cardinal difference from all similar publications known to us. Section 2 "Economic sphere of the region" presents 18 methods. With their help, three main issues are solved from different sides: a) *the effectiveness of budget regulation in the region* (method for assessing the impact of budget threats on the stability of the revenue base of the consolidated budgets of Russia's entities¹⁶; method for assessing the effectiveness of inter-budget regulation in the region¹⁷ (Pechenskaya, 2015); method for assessing the level of budget potential of municipalities¹⁸ (Pechenskaya, 2019); method for assessing the region's budget security level¹⁹ (Pechenskaya, Povarova, 2010); method for assessing the region's tax potential level²⁰ (Uskova et al., 2019)); b) *production, scientific, technological and human resource potential of the region* (method for assessing the scientific and technological potential of territories²¹ (Gulin et al., 2018a); method for assessing the human resource potential of small businesses²² (Terebova et al., 2011); method for assessing the food security of the region²³; method for assessing the expert specialization of small and medium-sized businesses²⁴ (Yakushev, 2019); method for assessing the effectiveness of state support for small businesses at the regional level²⁵ (Kremin, 2017); method for comparative

assessment of the development level of the regions' industrial complex, based on the calculation of an integral indicator²⁶ (Mazilov, 2015); method for the formation of production clusters in the region²⁷ (Uskova et al., 2010); methodological tools for assessing the vertical integration level of economic entities²⁸ (Kozhevnikov, 2016); methodological approach to the classification and evaluation of non-primary exports²⁹ (Gulin et al., 2018b)); c) *tourism and development of the region* (method for assessing the tourism impact on the regional development³⁰ (Lukin et al., 2018); method for assessing the region's tourist infrastructure development³¹ (Uskova, Velichkina, 2014); method for assessing the tourist potential of the territory³² (Pechenskaya, Povarova, 2010; Uskova et al., 2010; Terebova et al., 2011; Kremin, 2017; Mazilov, 2015; Kozhevnikov, 2016; Gulin et al., 2018a; Gulin et al., 2018b; Lukin et al., 2018; Uskova, Velichkina, 2014; Uskova et al., 2019; Yakushev, 2019)).

Section 3 "Social sphere of the region" presents 14 methods³³. They can be divided into three blocks: 1) *demography*, 2) *human resource potential* (especially in terms of labor potential) and 3) *quality of life*. The demographic block includes two methods (method for modeling self-preservation and reproductive behavior using the decision tree method³⁴ (Korolenko, 2018a; Korolenko, 2018b; Kalachikova, Korolenko, 2018); method for determining the stages of the demographic dividend³⁵ (Barsukov, 2019)). The unit of estimation of human resource potential includes 5 methods (method of integrated assessment of the region's labor potential³⁶

¹⁶ Ilyin V.A., Shabunova A.A. (Eds.). (2021). *Regional Economics: Dictionary-Reference Book*. Moscow: INFRA-M. Pp. 51–53; Galukhin A.V. (2017). Managing the sustainability of the revenue base of the consolidated budgets of Russia's entities (case study of the subjects of the Northwestern Federal District): *Candidate of Sciences (Economics), Abstract of Thesis*. Saint Petersburg State University.

¹⁷ Ilyin V.A., Shabunova A.A. (Eds.). (2021). *Regional Economics: Dictionary-Reference Book*. Moscow: INFRA-M. Pp. 78–80.

¹⁸ Ibidem. Pp. 88–92.

¹⁹ Ibidem. Pp. 92–95.

²⁰ Ibidem. Pp. 95–98.

²¹ Ibidem. Pp. 63–67.

²² Ibidem. Pp. 56–62.

²³ Ibidem. Pp. 68–72.

²⁴ Ibidem. Pp. 99–100.

²⁵ Ibidem. Pp. 101–105.

²⁶ Ibidem. Pp. 105–110.

²⁷ Ibidem. Pp. 110–113.

²⁸ Ibidem. Pp. 113–118.

²⁹ Ibidem. Pp. 118–119.

³⁰ Ibidem. Pp. 54–57.

³¹ Ibidem. Pp. 72–77.

³² Ibidem. Pp. 83–88.

³³ Ibidem. Pp. 158–239.

³⁴ Ibidem. Pp. 186–195.

³⁵ Ibidem. Pp. 196–199.

³⁶ Ibidem. Pp. 175–179.

(Popov, 2019); method of complex evaluation of the tripartite labor unrealized potential of the region³⁷ (Leonidova etc., 2018; Chekmareva, Rossoshanskaya, 2017); method for assessing labor potential quality of the region's population³⁸ (Leonidova etc., 2018); method for assessing under-utilization of labor potential quality in the region³⁹ (Leonidova, Chekmareva, 2009; Chekmareva, 2011); method for assessing the development of human resource potential of children⁴⁰ (Korolenko, Gordievskaya, 2018)). The block of quality of life is represented by 7 methods (method for measuring the family of centile coefficients of income inequality of the macrostrate population⁴¹ (Lapin et al., 2020a; Lapin et al., 2020b); method for measuring social health⁴² (Shabunova, Morev, 2015); method for index assessment of the quality of life of Russia's regions⁴³ (Rossoshanskii, 2016); method for assessing the subjective perception of the quality of life⁴⁴ (Rossoshanskii, 2019); method for assessing the subjective quality of working life⁴⁵ (Leonidova et al., 2018; Belekova, 2019); method for calculating the "price of disability"⁴⁶ (Shabunova et al., 2014); calculation of the integral index of the education development level in the region⁴⁷ (Leonidova et al., 2014)).

Section 4 "Region management" presents 11 methods. They can be divided into three blocks: 1) *management of regional socio-economic systems*, 2) *management of municipal socio-economic systems*; 3) *management of inter- and intraregional socio-economic communications*. Block 1 contains 4

methods (method for comprehensive assessment of the competitiveness of the regional socio-economic system⁴⁸ (Uskova et al., 2010); method for assessing the socio-economic development level of regions⁴⁹ (Voroshilov, 2019; Gubanova, Voroshilov, 2019); method for assessing the sustainability of the regional socio-economic system⁵⁰ (Uskova, 2009); method for calculating the index of environmental sustainability of regional development⁵¹ (Selimenkov, Kuznetsov, 2014)). The block related to the management of municipal socio-economic systems is represented by five methods (method for assessing the state of housing and communal services in municipalities⁵² (Kozhevnikov, 2013); method for assessing the socio-economic potential of municipalities⁵³; method for assessing the socio-economic development level of municipalities⁵⁴; method for assessing the effectiveness of regional policy for the municipalities' development⁵⁵ (Uskova, Voroshilov, 2015; Voroshilov, 2019); method for calculating the gross urban product⁵⁶ (Uskova et al., 2011; Chekavinskii, Gutnikova, 2012)). The block for inter- and intraregional socio-economic communications includes two methods (method for assessing the effectiveness of the management of the agro-industrial complex at different levels of the hierarchy⁵⁷ (Uskova et al., 2013) and methodological tools for activating interregional interaction as a factor in the economic development of an industrial region⁵⁸ (Uskova et al., 2016)).

³⁷ Ilyin V.A., Shabunova A.A. (Eds.). (2021). *Regional Economics: Dictionary-Reference Book*. Moscow: INFRA-M. Pp. 183–186.

³⁸ Ibidem. Pp. 199–204.

³⁹ Ibidem. Pp. 204–208.

⁴⁰ Ibidem. Pp. 219–228.

⁴¹ Ibidem. Pp. 158–163.

⁴² Ibidem. Pp. 163–169.

⁴³ Ibidem. Pp. 169–175.

⁴⁴ Ibidem. Pp. 208–211.

⁴⁵ Ibidem. Pp. 211–216.

⁴⁶ Ibidem. Pp. 228–231.

⁴⁷ Ibidem. Pp. 231–239.

⁴⁸ Ibidem. Pp. 267–275.

⁴⁹ Ibidem. Pp. 291–295.

⁵⁰ Ibidem. Pp. 295–302.

⁵¹ Ibidem. Pp. 317–322.

⁵² Ibidem. Pp. 275–279.

⁵³ Ibidem. Pp. 279–287; Uskova T.V., Voroshilov N.V. (2017). *Regional Politics to Develop Municipal Formations: Textbook*. Vologda: VolRC RAS.

⁵⁴ Ilyin V.A., Shabunova A.A. (Eds.). (2021). *Regional Economics: Dictionary-Reference Book*. Moscow: INFRA-M. Pp. 287–291.

⁵⁵ Ibidem. Pp. 302–303.

⁵⁶ Ibidem. Pp. 313–317.

⁵⁷ Ibidem. Pp. 306–313.

⁵⁸ Ibidem. Pp. 322–326.

Discussion of the results presented in the dictionary-reference book

About the structure of terms (concepts)

The content of terms in the dictionary-reference book is revealed unevenly. Here, the team, perhaps, has the greatest need to further improve the quality of the presented material. In classical dictionary editions, **the following so-called basic requirements are imposed on the term (concept):** 1) the so-called “*headword*” in Russian and English (full and abbreviated name); etymology – the origin of the word (if it is applicable); 2) *definition* – scope; 3) *history* – author(s), references, time, place, first publication (title in the original language and translation); 4) *application* – indicators (if it is applicable): absolute, relative; subjects (if it is applicable); legal regulation (if it is applicable); application examples (references): positive, negative; 5) *attitude to economic theory* (references) – proponents, separators, opponents; 6) *criticism*; 7) *literature*: scientific publications over the past 10 years in Russian and foreign languages, the most cited; publications of subjects of application. It goes without saying that articles about terms (concepts) should be copyrighted.

Of course, in this case, the dictionary-reference book is not classical, but applied, and terminology

is not its main achievement. Nevertheless, the high potential of its developers allows additionally taking into account a number of the above basic requirements for the disclosure of concepts and comply with them in further editions of the dictionary-reference book. This will help to reveal the terms more fully, and the fixed authorship will increase the responsibility of specific performers.

About the structure of methods

Currently, there are no uniform state requirements for methodological recommendations (methods). Our analysis of the structure of the methods, which are presented in the dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics*, has proved that the development stages of the methods could be grouped into the following logical blocks (sections): 1) definition of indicators, criteria, formation of tables, qualitative and mathematical models; 2) data collection and preparation of the research information base; 3) calculation of indicators; 4) analysis, assessment and interpretation of results; 4) approbation of the results.

We think such a structure of disclosure of methods is quite acceptable. However, not all logical blocks are equally represented in relation to the methods described in the dictionary-reference book (*Table*).

Development stages of methods and their implementation in the dictionary-reference book

no. p. p.	Stage*	Mentions of the stage in the methods			
		Total, number of methods	Including the areas of analysis, the number of methods		
			Economic sphere of the region	Social sphere of the region	Region management
1	Definition of indicators, criteria, formation of tables, qualitative and mathematical models	26	12	3	11
2	Data collection and preparation of the research information base	22	8	11	3
3	Calculation	31	13	8	10
4	Analysis, evaluation and interpretation of results**	25	4	10	11
5	Evaluation of results	43	18	14	11

* The authors of the article carried out logical grouping of the stages of the methods.
 ** Partially it is taken out of the stage “Evaluation results”.
 According to: Ilyin V.A, Shabunova A.A (Eds.). (2021). *Regional Economics: Dictionary-Reference Book*. Moscow: INFRA-M.

All the methods have a stage of “Evaluation of results” (100%), which reflects their practical implementation and deserves high praise. The stage “Calculation” is indicated in 72.1% of the methods (including in the economic sphere of the region – in 72.2%; in the social sphere of the region – 57.1%; in the management of the region – in 90.9%). The stage “Determination of indicators, criteria, formation of tables, qualitative and mathematical models” is indicated in 60.5% of methods (including in the economic sphere of the region – in 66.7%; in the social sphere of the region – in 21.4%; in regional management – 100%). The stage “Analysis, evaluation and interpretation of results” is present in the description of 58.1% of the methods (including the economic sphere of the region – in 22.2%; the social sphere of the region – 71.4%; regional management – 100%). Less often than others, the stage “Data collection and preparation of the research information base” is indicated – 51.2% of methods (including in the economic sphere of the region – in 44.4%; in the social sphere of the region – 78.6%; in regional management – 27.3%).

Therefore, the stages of creating methods are not unified. Most likely, this is due to the various time stages of their development. In addition, the implementation stages of the methods designed to analyze different areas of the region vary significantly. For example, the stages “Calculation” and “Determination of indicators, criteria, formation of tables, qualitative and mathematical models” are least indicated in the methods for studying the social sphere of the region (respectively, in 57.1 and 21.4% of the methods), the stage “Analysis, evaluation and interpretation of results” is least represented in the methods of analysis of the spheres of the region (in 22.2% of the methods), and the stage “Data collection and preparation of the research information base” is least indicated in the methods of regional management analysis (27.3%). In the future, when updating already developed and creating new methods, it is advisable,

in our opinion, for the authors of the dictionary-reference book to be guided by unified stages so that all of them are indicated in the methods. This will certainly improve their quality.

Reflection in the methods of studying the standard of living and quality of life as the ultimate goals of economic and social development of the region

The dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics* widely presents the study of the issues of the region’s quality of life and standard of living. The basis for this conclusion is the *table developed by us “Studying the components of the standard of living and quality of life in the methods of the dictionary-reference book Regional Economics (Appendix)*, which is based on a comparison of the content of the methods of the dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics* with the components of the standard of living and quality of life, developed and confirmed by the publications of the All-Russian Center for Living Standards and Institute of Socio-Economic Studies of Population of RAS (Bobkov et al., 2007; Bobkov, 2017; Bobkov, Gulyugina, 2021; Bobkov et al., 2022). The table proves that all the main components of the standard of living and quality of life were taken into account when developing methods, namely, they were studied: 1) the quality of society; 2) the quality of working life; 3) the quality of social infrastructure; 4) the life safety; 5) the environmental quality; 6) the standard of living (consumption); 7) people’s satisfaction with the standard of living and quality of their lives. However, not all of them are fully disclosed in special methods.

The *Appendix* analyzes 34 methods including the study of various aspects of the standard of living and quality of life. The methods are conventionally arranged into two groups: revealing the study of certain aspects of the economic impact on the standard of living and quality of life (24 methods) and showing the characteristics of the economic, social and managerial potential of the region (10 methods).

It is important that the authors of the dictionary-reference book do not focus only on the development of tools for assessing certain aspects of the economic impact on the standard of living and quality of life. They study the potential of the economic, social and managerial spheres of the region quite extensively (these methods are highlighted in italics in the *Appendix*) which makes it possible to identify a “gap” between the actual state of affairs and potential opportunities for its improvement. In VolRC RAS, the culture of sociological research is well developed which allows sociological methods to study various aspects of the region’s development potential. All methods, aimed at identifying the potential of economic, social and managerial aspects of the region’s development, in our opinion, are relevant and have high practical significance. Among them, we should highlight method 20 “Assessment of the formation of the human resource potential of children” for its novelty and thoroughness of approaches to identifying the potential of the younger generation that determines the future of the country.

If we are guided by the components’ structure of the standard of living and quality of life used by the authors of the article, the research of the “*quality of society*” is most fully analyzed in the methods of studying the social sphere of the region (methods 11–18). They comprehensively consider the aspects of “health” and “education” (method 13 “Social health” and method 15 “Calculation of the integral index of education development in the region”). The remaining indicators of the “quality of society” component are dispersed according to different methods.

The component “*quality of working life*” is not represented by separate methods that characterize its integral aspects, such as, for example, “quality of employment” or “quality of jobs”, etc. The study of individual indicators characterizing the quality of working life is dispersed in various methods of studying the economic sphere (methods 1–3), the

social sphere (methods 7–9 and 14) and the sphere of regional management (methods 25–28 and 31). These issues have been extensively and thoroughly studied in the methods of identifying labor potential (methods 21–24). However, we should remember that the category “potential” characterizes only the prerequisites for the standard of living and quality of life – “opportunities”. When the actual standard of living and quality of life or their individual components are studied, the “conditions” for the realization/non-realization of the existing potential are also identified and the problem is considered in the paradigms of opportunity – realization terms.

The component “quality of social infrastructure” is studied in parts in the methods of studying the economic sphere (method 4), the social sphere (methods 15 and 17) and the sphere of regional management (methods 25, 28–29; 31 and 33).

The components “environmental quality” and “life satisfaction (subjective component)” are well represented by complex methods 32 “Calculation of the index of environmental sustainability of the region’s development”, 17 “Assessment of subjective perception of quality of life” and 18 “Assessment of subjective quality of working life”. In addition, a number of indicators of these components of quality of life are present in other methods.

The component “standard of living” is studied in complex methods 3 “Assessment of food security of the region” and 16 “Centile coefficients of income inequality”. A number of indicators of this component are partly presented in other methods.

Perhaps less than others, the methods of the dictionary-reference book reflect issues related to the disclosure of such a component of the standard of living and quality of life as “*life safety*”. They are partially indicated only in 4 methods devoted to the disclosure of other problems.

Method 19 “Index assessment of the quality of life”, presented in the dictionary-reference, deserves high praise. It contains indicators characterizing the quality of society, quality of working life, life

safety and the standard of living in the region. If it is subsequently supplemented with indicators characterizing the development of social infrastructure and subjective assessments of people's satisfaction with life, then such a method would allow a comprehensive assessment of the standard of living and quality of life in the region.

Once again, we should emphasize the high novelty and practical significance of the analytical materials and methods, presented in the dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics*. At the same time, it is worth noting that its developers have a great potential for their development and inclusion in the research field of new, not yet fully studied areas in which the standard of living and quality of life of the region are formed.

Conclusion

The issues of increasing the scientific support rate for the economic and social development of regions, the effectiveness of legislative and executive authorities and local self-government at a new development stage of the Russian Federation are becoming increasingly important. There is still a lot to be done to achieve full economic sovereignty of the country, to improve the standard of living and quality of life of Russian citizens.

The release of the dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics* is a notable event in scientific and practical life which makes it possible to equip regional scientific communities and authorities with scientific and methodological tools for solving

practical socio-economic issues, tested during evaluation in regional and municipal formations of the Vologda Oblast, as well as partially applied to assess the situation in other Russian regions. The wide implementation of the methods in the Vologda Oblast and their creative adaptation in other regions of the country will undoubtedly make it possible to more productively solve the urgent tasks of Russia's economic and social development and increase the scientific validity of public and municipal administration.

In the article, we have confirmed the proposed hypothesis. The publication of the dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics*, prepared at VoIRC RAS, takes the genre of dictionary and practical research to a new level allowing combining the theory of regional development and practice through published methods that have been evaluated. This greatly facilitates the work of research teams and governing bodies of Russia's entities.

The team of authors of the dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics*, representing the fruitfully developing Vologda Research Center of RAS, taking into account practical feedback from colleagues from other regions about this scientific and practical manual, as well as recommendations from representatives of the scientific community and all interested parties, undoubtedly in the future realizes the possibility of issuing its second, even more perfect edition.

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APPENDIX

Studying the components of the standard of living and quality of life
in the methods of the dictionary-reference book *Regional Economics*

In methods of the dictionary-reference book	Components of the standards of living and quality of life in the authors' classifications of the article (Bobkov et al., 2022)						
	Quality of society	Quality of working life	Quality of social infrastructure	Life safety	Environmental quality	Standard of living (consumption)	Life satisfaction (subjective component)
Methods of studying the economic sphere of the region							
1. Comparative assessment of the development level of the regions' industrial complex based on the calculation of the integral indicator		X					
2. Assessment of the effectiveness of state support for small businesses at the regional level	X	X					
3. Assessment of food security of the region		X				X	
4. Assessment of the tourist infrastructure development of the region			X	X	X		
5. Assessment of the effectiveness of managing the sustainability of the revenue base consolidated budgets of Russia's entities						X	
6. Assessment of the region's budget security level						X	
7. <i>Assessment of the human resource potential of small businesses</i>	X	X					
8. <i>Assessment of the tourist potential of the territory</i>		X	X		X		
9. <i>Assessment of the region's tax potential level</i>		X					
10. <i>Assessment of the level of budget potential of municipalities</i>						X	

In methods of the dictionary-reference book	Components of the standards of living and quality of life in the authors' classifications of the article (Bobkov et al., 2022)						
	Quality of society	Quality of working life	Quality of social infrastructure	Life safety	Environmental quality	Standard of living (consumption)	Life satisfaction (subjective component)
Methods of studying the social sphere of the region							
11. Determination of the implementation stages of the demographic dividend	X						X
12. Self-preservation and reproductive behavior	X						X
13. Social health	X						
14. Calculation of the "price of disability"	X	X				X	
15. Calculation of the integral index of education development in the region	X		X			X	
16. Centile coefficients of income inequality						X	
17. Assessment of subjective perception of quality of life	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
18. Assessment of the subjective quality of working life		X					X
19. Index assessment of the quality of life	X	X		X		X	
20. Assessment of the formation of the human resource potential of children	X						X
21. Comprehensive assessment of the region's labor potential	X					X	
22. Assessment of the quality of the labor potential of the region	X						X
23. Comprehensive tripartite assessment of the unrealized labor potential of the region	X	X					
24. Assessment of underutilization of the quality of labor potential	X	X					X

In methods of the dictionary-reference book	Components of the standards of living and quality of life in the authors' classifications of the article (Bobkov et al., 2022)						
	Quality of society	Quality of working life	Quality of social infrastructure	Life safety	Environmental quality	Standard of living (consumption)	Life satisfaction (subjective component)
Methods of studying regional management							
25. Assessment of the level of socio-economic development of the regions	X	X	X			X	
26. Assessment of the effectiveness of the management of the agro-industrial complex at different levels of the hierarchy		X				X	X
27. Calculation of gross urban product		X					
28. Assessment of the level of socio-economic development of municipalities	X	X	X			X	
29. Assessment of the state of housing and communal services in municipalities			X		X	X	
30. Evaluation of the effectiveness of regional policy for the municipalities' development	X						X
31. Assessment of the stability of the regional socio-economic system	X	X	X	X	X	X	
32. Calculation of the index of environmental sustainability of the region's development					X		
33. Tools for enhancing interregional cooperation as a factor in the economic development of an industrial region	X		X				
34. Assessment of the socio-economic potential of municipalities	X	X	X		X	X	

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