

# FROM THE EDITOR



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## ON THE VERGE OF CHANGE

We live in times when the situation in the world, in Russia, and in specific territories is changing quite rapidly. Changes are also taking place in the journal "Problems of Territory's Development". Summing up the results of 2025, we note that this year saw the preparation of our first thematic issue. We have begun translating the journal into English and, aiming to enhance the quality of published articles, have strengthened our peer-review procedures, among other initiatives. A number of changes await us in 2026 as well. However, on the whole, we stay true to our traditions, and the journal's thematic focus remains linked to the search for solutions to the numerous problems of development at various territorial levels.

Thus, in the article by *E.V. Balatsky*, the most important institutional advantages of the Chinese governance model are systematized, demonstrating its substantial difference from Western and Russian models. The work outlines the fundamental principles and characteristic features of Chinese elites, which include an immunity to degradation and degeneration, historical continuity in strategic decision-making, the formation of a state instinct, a weakening of foreign policy aggressiveness during the transition of the old world order, timely balancing of all aspects of Chinese society's life, and the achievement of permanent managerial responsibility. The author suggests that certain elements of the Chinese governance system could be utilized in Russian practice.

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**For citation:** Uskova T.V. (2025). On the verge of change. *Problems of Territory's Development*, 29(6), 7–9. DOI: 10.15838/ptd.2025.6.140.1

The problems and prospects of digitizing the budgetary process at the municipal level are examined in the work by *S.N. Rastvortseva* and *E.V. Panina*. The role of the internal public finance management system is defined, the specifics and emerging problems of budget process digitization in municipalities are identified, and a set of measures to improve the situation in this sphere is substantiated. The authors' conclusions are based on in-depth interviews with experts in the field of budget system development.

Addressing the numerous tasks of socio-economic development of territories is largely determined by the availability of investments. In this regard, *S.G. Pyankova* and *L.A.-N. Baizhanova* have undertaken an attempt to reveal the methodological possibilities for assessing the investment potential of Russian regions under conditions of economic uncertainty. The study concludes that to account for the multidirectional and multi-level nature of modern investment processes, a comprehensive methodological toolkit for assessing regional investment potential should be employed.

*V.I. Belov* and *G.V. Gioev* investigate the influence of the livestock industry on the sustainable development of rural areas. The work identifies current trends in livestock development, reveals a number of factors that have the greatest impact on the sustainable development of rural territories, and proposes the authors' own methodology for such assessment.

Issues of sustainable development of Russian territories are also reflected in the article by *A.G. Ataeva* and *A.G. Ulyaeva*. The researchers dedicated their work to elucidating methodological approaches for integrating sustainability principles into regional socio-economic development strategies. To improve the methodological toolkit of strategic planning for regional development, they propose an applied framework for integrating sustainability at all stages of the strategic cycle.

Issues of adaptation by Russian enterprises to changing geopolitical conditions and increasing sanction pressure are examined by *E.Yu. Shirokova* and *E.V. Lukin*. The work demonstrates the dynamics of key processes occurring at enterprises in Northwestern Russia, highlights key trends, identifies management responses to important external and internal factors, and proposes measures for adaptation to a situation of economic uncertainty.

The mutual influence between scientific-technological development and the economic structure of Russian regions is revealed in the article by *N.N. Volkova* and *E.I. Romanyuk*. The existence of a stable interdependence between these aspects of regional development is proven. It is revealed that regions with a diversified economic structure have a higher index of scientific-technological development.

An assessment of regional differences in Russia's natural population growth is given in the work of *V.N. Arkhangelskiy*, *E.P. Sigareva*, and *S.Yu. Sivoplyasova*. The authors propose a new approach to the statistical analysis of natural population growth components at the regional level, which allows for the adjustment of regional policy measures aimed at demographic stabilization, taking into account changes in individual elements of the population reproduction process.

In the study by *A.V. Korolenko*, theoretical and methodological approaches to studying the demographic potential of territories are systematized, and a methodology for its assessment at the regional level is developed and tested. The conducted research confirmed the close interconnection between the quantitative and qualitative components of a territory's demographic potential.

An assessment of the relationship between regional economic growth and environmental pollution is conducted in the work of *S.S. Patrakova* and *D.S. Palkina*. It is established that an increase in the gross regional product

is accompanied by growth in emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere from stationary sources and in the number of passenger cars, but the volume of polluted wastewater discharged into surface water bodies decreases.

Traditionally, the issue concludes with the "Monitoring of Changes" section. It reflects the results of monitoring the economy of

Northwestern Russia for September 2025, prepared by *M.A. Sidorov* and *E.V. Lukin*, as well as the main trends in the social well-being of the population in the Vologda Region in October 2025, presented by *M.V. Morev* and *E.E. Leonidova*.

We hope that the articles published in the journal will be of interest to our readers and that our readership will continue to expand.

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