

FROM THE EDITOR

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ON IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

The complexity and ambition of the tasks facing the Russian Federation, and the severity of the socio-economic problems that its territories are encountering, lend urgency to the question of how effective public administration is in developing socio-economic systems at various levels. This question occupies a central place in the work of Russian economists. A number of their recent studies are presented in the current issue of the journal.

For instance, noting the importance of the potential of the Arctic territories for achieving Russia's strategic objectives, *E.A. Kuklina* and *D.D. Ulzetueva* advance the methodology for modeling the development of a macro-region using modern data analysis techniques. The model they propose can be used by public authorities in drafting strategies for the sustainable development of the Arctic territories, in planning infrastructure projects, and in making managerial decisions – all of which will undoubtedly help to improve the effectiveness of public administration.

The ongoing sanctions pressure, the slowing economic growth of the territories, the declining investment activity of enterprises, and the high key interest rate, among other factors, only heighten the need to use the

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available resources of the territories effectively. At the same time, the constituent entities of the Russian Federation are obliged to meet the state's social commitments in full and to ensure that national goals are achieved. The principal source for performing the functions entrusted to public authorities is the budget. The article by *T.V. Uskova* and *E.D. Kopytova* identifies the specific features of the formation and execution of the regional budget of the Vologda Region, provides a comprehensive assessment of the new budget cycle, and compares its parameters with the previous planning period.

A.G. Karimov and *P.A. Ivanov* investigate the patterns and distinctive features of household financial behavior amid epidemiological and sanctions-related restrictions. Drawing on the results of sociological surveys in the Republic of Bashkortostan, the article identifies the factors influencing the dynamics of the population's financial behavior, analyzes the instruments for channeling household finances as an investment resource for ensuring the socio-economic development of the regions, and proposes a set of measures aimed at improving the population's financial literacy and the investment potential of households.

The study by *R.K. Polyakov* addresses the problem of the spatial analysis of clusters from the standpoint of the theory of the self-organization of complex adaptive systems. The author develops and tests a methodology for identifying and assessing the spatial patterns of self-organization, using the example of the shipbuilding and ship repair industry of the Kaliningrad Region. He establishes that the concentration of enterprises gravitates toward key infrastructure and manifests itself on specific spatial scales, i.e., radii. He concludes that agglomeration effects are present, and that conditions for synergistic interaction exist.

The work by *V.I. Belov* draws on the territorial approach, the method of groupings,

and correlation and regression analysis to demonstrate the influence of electricity consumption on regional economic growth. The author concludes that the use of electricity acts as a driver of economic growth and offers practical recommendations to the regional public authorities on how to adjust their tariff policy.

K.E. Kosygina and *N.N. Mikhalko* assess the resilience of the cultural sphere of the subjects of the Northwestern Federal District to crises. In the course of their study, they develop a methodology for the quantitative assessment of the resilience of the regions' cultural sphere and confirm that public cultural institutions can adapt to challenges and threats in much the same way as commercial organizations and regional and national economies. The findings may prove useful for improving the mechanisms for managing the cultural sphere at both the regional and the federal levels.

One of the Russian Federation's most important state objectives is to raise the population's life expectancy. Given the regions' limited financial resources, it becomes critically important to assess how efficiently the available regional resources are being transformed in pursuit of this objective. *M.N. Makarova* carries out such an assessment. She establishes that long-term growth in life expectancy is determined by the volume of available resources, the level of technological development, and the quality of governance. She concludes that a differentiated demographic policy is necessary.

The state of and trends in the development of the economy of Northwest Russia in March 2026 are presented in the section "Monitoring of Changes: Key Trends", prepared by *M.A. Sidorov* and *E.V. Lukin*.

We hope that the work of the scholars will find practical application and will help to improve the effectiveness of public administration.

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