A Methodical Approach to the Assessment of Economic and Social Situation of the Regions of the Russian Federation

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Abstract

Authors developed a technique of a comparative assessment of the economic and social situation of regions of the Russian Federation. At the heart of a technique – comparison of the integral indicators calculated on regions concerning indicators of the basic analyzed region. At the first stage comparison of single indicators in groups of indicators of scale of economy, efficiency of economy, the budget sphere and social sphere is carried out, indexes on each analyzed indicator of group are calculated. At the second stage, the consolidated indexes on each group of indicators, on the third the generalizing consolidated index integrating the consolidated indexes on groups of indicators is calculated. An aggregation of socio-economic indexes and their comparison is carried out in three groups of regions of the Russian Federation: regions of the federal district, regions analogs and leading regions. The choice of regions of the federal district is caused by the importance of the development of regional donor-recipient relationships in the district. Three macroeconomic indicators determine the structure of leading regions: the amount of gross regional product, industrial output, the volume of investment in fixed capital. The number of leaders included the regions of the Russian Federation having preferential positions on all macroeconomic indicators. The choice of regions analogs is made by the form economic activity (indicators: number of the enterprises, quantity working turnovers of the organizations) and on similar socio-economic indexes. During the analysis of the calculated integral indicators, social and economic benefits of the compared regions and possibility of their application in development of the analyzed region are allocated. The empirical base made Kamchatka Territory of the Russian Federation.

Keywords: *social and economic development of the region, integral assessment, Russian Federation, Far Eastern Federal District, Kamchatka region.*

1. Introduction

Development of a strategy for the development of the region of the Russian Federation relies on the principles of strategic planning established Federal by the law "About strategic planning in the Russian Federation" of 28.06.2014 No. 172-Federal Law. The principles of unity and integrity, differentiation of powers belong to the specified principles, succession, and a continuity, balances of system of strategic planning, productivity and efficiency of strategic planning, responsibility of participants of strategic planning, transparency (openness) of strategic planning, realness, resource security, than the measurability are more whole, compliances of indicators to the purposes. The success of the implementation of the listed principles depends on many factors, among which – the applied methodical tools of an assessment of the economic and social situation in the region.

The analysis of the existing methodical approaches to an evaluation of the economic and social situation of the Russian regions showed a lack of the uniform commonly accepted the technique. Public authorities, rating agencies, scientists apply different indicators, methods of their forming and interpretation, proceeding from objectives of carrying out an assessment of the economic and social situation of the territory of the country.

Lack of a uniform technique generates some problems in the field of strategic planning of regional development. According to researchers, in some regions of the Russian Federation the relation to the development of regional strategic documents has formal character. Lag of the used methodology of strategic planning from real dynamics of social and economic development of regions of Russia is noted. It is indicated the need of essential updating of the used methodology, accounting for new knowledge, the saved-up domestic and foreign experience of regional development at development of decisions in the field of regional policy(Shelomentsev et al., 2014, p. 89). "Megalomania " of strategic projects, underestimation of real opportunities of territories, attempts to contain in a framework of strategy of social and economic development of the region result all possible projects and programs existing in the territory of the subject in

blurring and loss of integrity of the strategic document, complicate allocation of the priority directions of perspective development (Makovnik, 2012, p. 47). Also refer lack of accurately formulated selection criteria of representative set of initial factor characteristics of regional development to number of methodological problems of an assessment of economic and social situation of the Russian regions (Grishina and Polinev, 2012, p. 35).The situation is aggravated with the volatility of the state purposes and priorities of strategic regional development, their exposure to tactical changes (Vorozhbit and Pristup, 2014, p.110).

Due to the above, we consider that development of a methodical approach to an assessment of the economic and social situation of regions of the country has to be performed within legislatively established principles of strategic planning of regional development. It will allow increasing efficiency and productivity of strategic planning.

2. Research Methodology

The Russian and foreign scientists apply different evaluation methods of the economic and social situation of regions of the country. Shelomentsev et al. (2014) and Smirnov (2014) use methods of the comparative analysis, SWOT analysis. Grishina and Polinev (2012), experts of the RIA Rating (2014), Averin (2012), Ustyuzhina (2013), Tambourines (2010), Pursky and Moroz (2013), Petrova (2013), Lim et al. (2013) apply methods of an integral and rating assessment. Liebermann (2013) uses factor analysis.

For the purposes of a comparative assessment of the economic and social situation of regions of the country within strategic planning of regional development by the most acceptable, in our opinion, the method of an integral assessment is. This method providing aggregation of initial indicators and calculation on their basis of comparable indexes allows generalizing and comparing values of the most different initial socio-economic indexes of regions. Indicators of the analyzed region act basic for the purposes of a comparative assessment. Comparison of indicators of regions in different groups of regions is directed on identification of preferential positions of regional economies and opportunities of their embedding in the economy of the analyzed basic region.

Calculation of integral indexes is made based on the indicators offered by experts of the RIA Rating (2014, p. 68) for the purposes of a rating assessment of economic and social situation of regions of the country (Figure-1). Numerical values of these indicators form bodies of the state statistics of the Russian Federation and are is information the available. The structure of indicators is considered sufficient for providing a representativeness of an assessment of the economic and social situation of regions of the country. Availability and sufficiency of initial indicators promote the implementation of the principle of profitability providing compliance of labor costs on collecting and information analysis to effect from receipt of information. Let's note that the structure of initial indicators can be specified depending on effective objectives of strategic planning. Research period 2007-2012.

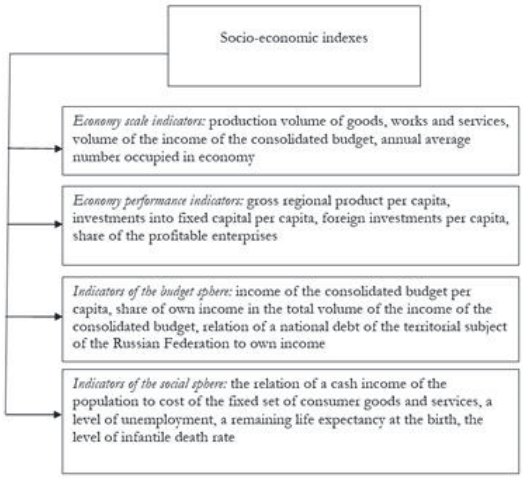

Figure 1. Structure of the indicators used for receipt of an integral assessment of economic and social situation of regions of the Russian Federation

For the implementation of the principle of unity and integrity of strategic planning of regional development, we consider it expedient to estimate the analyzed region in a group of the regions having similar positions on territorial and macroeconomic signs. With respect thereto we suggest carrying out comparative analysis and an assessment of social and economic development of regions in three groups of regions:

- regions of the federal district;
- leading regions;
- regions analogs.

Comparison of the basic region in a group of regions of the respective federal district allows to consider possibilities of development of donor-recipient relationships of regions with each other without the participation of the federal center. Economic integration of the analyzed region with stronger region of the district allows to strengthen commercial ties between partner regions, to eliminate their excess geoeconomic autonomy, to increase economical and political integrity of both the federal district, and the country in general (Gusev, 2013). With respect thereto, during comparison of indicators of the basic region and regions of the respective federal district those regions, which are specified: (1) have the greatest number of preferential positions in relation to the analyzed region; (2) are financially self-sufficient; (3) are geographically approached to the analyzed region. Further, during strategic planning of regional development stronger regions of the federal district can be considered as the next economic partners of the analyzed region.

The choice of leading regions is performed on three macroeconomic indicators: the amount of gross regional product, industrial output, the volume of investment in fixed capital. The number of leaders joins the regions of the Russian Federation having more mainly than a position on all macroeconomic indicators.

The choice of regions analogs is made by the form economic activity and on similar socio-economic indexes. A selection of regions by the form of economic activity is performed on three indicators: number of the enterprises, quantity working turnovers of the organizations. Selection by the criterion of similarity of socio-economic indexes is made on the basis of a rating of the economic and social situation of subjects published by the RIA Rating (2014).

On the basis of socio-economic indexes (Figure-1) are calculated:

1) indexes on each analyzed indicator;
2) the consolidated indexes on each group of indicators;
3) The generalizing consolidated index integrates four consolidated indexes. Allows to estimate in general economic and social situation of the analyzed region of rather compared regions in each group of regions.

The index is calculated from the relation of the corresponding indicator of the compared region, analyzed the region (basic) to an indicator:

$$i = \frac{n_{baz}}{n_{Xp}},$$

where

i – the index characterizing provision of the analyzed region on the corresponding indicator of the rather compared region;

nbaz – indicator of the basic analyzed region;

n_{Xp} – indicator of the compared region.

Interpretation of indexes is performed as follows:

equally 1 – an index of the analyzed region on each indicator;

more than 1 – the index shows the benefit of the analyzed region of the rather compared region: the value is higher, the benefit is more;

less than 1 – the index shows that the analyzed region has the worst positions of the rather compared region: the value is less, the positions of the analyzed region are weaker.

Application of a technique is implemented in the example of Kamchatka Territory. Comparative analysis of economic and social situation of Kamchatka Territory is carried out in three groups of regions:

- regions of the Far East federal district (8 regions);
- leading regions (5 regions);
- Regions analogs (5 regions).

The Far East federal district includes 9 subjects, including, Kamchatka Territory. For comparative analysis, all regions of the district are accepted.

The choice of leading regions is made on three macroeconomic indicators: the amount of gross regional product, industrial output, the volume of investment in fixed capital. For the purposes of the analysis, 5 regions leading on these

indicators are defined:

- Moscow region;
- Sverdlovsk region;
- Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area;
- Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area;
- The Republic of Tatarstan.

The cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are excluded from selection as the cities of federal value having managing conditions, other than other subjects.

Two criteria make the choice of regions analogs:

1) Regions analogs by the form economic activity "Fishery, fish breeding";
2) The regions have similar socio-economic indexes.

A selection of regions by the form of economic activity "Fishery, fish breeding" is made by three criteria: number of the enterprises, quantity-working turnovers of the organizations. The group of analogs by the form of economic activity included Murmansk region and the Astrakhan region. Murmansk region is included into the group of industrial regions. The Astrakhan region is accepted for comparison as the agro-industrial region.

Selection by the criterion of similarity of socio-economic indexes is made on the basis of the analysis of a rating of the economic and social situation of subjects published by the RIA Rating agency (2014). For carrying out selection generalization is made, and the regions that took positions in a rating are revealed is five points higher and below Kamchatka Territory. Selection is made on the basis of the analysis of dynamics of a cumulative rating of the economic and social situation of territorial subjects of the Russian Federation for 2010-2012. Indicators of ten regions entering into group agro-industrial, to similarly Kamchatka Territory are analyzed. The regions that are a part of the Far East Federal District were not accepted to selection. As a result of comparison of indicators of the regions which are entering into group the agro-industrial and having rating differing on five points from a score of Kamchatka Territory three regions are selected: Republic of Buryatia, Oryol region, Republic of Dagestan.

Thus, are selected by regions analogs:

- Murmansk Region;
- Astrakhan Region;
- Republic of Buryatia;
- Oryol Region;
- The Republic of Dagestan.

The information source of values of initial socio-economic indexes of regions of the Russian Federation is BGD Regions of Russia (2014).

3. Results and Discussion

In this article, taking into account limited amounts, intermediate results of calculations of indexes on separate indicators are not given. Results of calculations of the consolidated indexes on groups of indicators are shown in one of the groups of indicators of the scale of economy.

In the table, 1 results of calculations of the consolidated indexes on a group of indicators of the scale of economy in the group of regions of the Far East Federal District is provided.

Table 1 – Dynamics of the consolidated indexes of scale of economy of regions of the Far East federal district in comparison with the consolidated indexes of Kamchatka Territory for 2007-2012

Region	Years					
Russian Federation	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Kamchatka Territory	1	1	1	1	1	1
Primorye Territory	0,3022	0,2959	0,2779	0,3054	0,3192	0,3246
Khabarovsk Territory	0,3017	0,3085	0,3810	0,3791	0,4050	0,3748
Sakhalin Region	0,4610	0,4235	0,4804	0,5538	0,6050	0,4957
Amur Region	0,5965	0,5888	0,6345	0,6748	0,6887	0,6724
Magadan Region	1,7966	1,7220	1,8146	1,9066	1,9601	1,7430
Jewish Autonomous Region	2,7974	3,0377	3,4158	3,4289	4,1460	3,9717
Chukotka Autonomous Region	3,5079	2,8882	2,7263	3,4698	3,4462	3,6886
Republic of Sakha(Yakutia)	0,3121	0,3152	0,3445	0,3499	0,3464	0,3238

Among regions of the Far East federal district about Kamchatka Territory the Amur Region, the Sakhalin Region, Khabarovsk Territory, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) have preferential positions. From them financially self-sufficient region is the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)

Results of the calculation of the consolidated indexes of the scale of economy in the group of regions analogs are given in Table 2.

Table 2 – Dynamics of the consolidated indexes of scale of economy of regions analogs in comparison with the consolidated indexes of Kamchatka Territory for 2007-2012

Regions of Russian Federation	Years					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Kamchatka Territory	1	1	1	1	1	1
The Republic of Buryatia	0,6433	0,6253	0,6820	0,7867	0,8044	0,7863
Oryol Region	0,8491	0,8319	1,0348	1,0785	1,0933	1,0131
The Republic of Dagestan	0,3927	0,3674	0,3836	0,4518	0,4684	0,4281
Murmansk Region	0,4196	0,4403	0,5322	0,5519	0,5923	0,6066
Astrakhan Region	0,5761	0,5407	0,7659	0,9003	0,9049	0,8216

Preferential positions about Kamchatka Territory have regions analogs the Republic of Buryatia, the Republic of Dagestan, Murmansk and Astrakhan Regions. These regions are subsidized, geographically and significantly are removed from Kamchatka Territory (except for the Republic of Buryatia).

Results of the calculation of the consolidated indexes of the scale of economy in the group of leading regions are given in Table 3.

Table 3 – Dynamics of the consolidated indexes of scale of economy of leading regions in comparison with the consolidated indexes of Kamchatka Territory for 2007-2012

Regions of Russian Federation	Years					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Kamchatka Territory	1	1	1	1	1	1
Moscow Region	0,0648	0,0640	0,0751	0,0805	0,0853	0,0752
Sverdlovsk Region	0,1025	0,1062	0,1423	0,1445	0,1504	0,1382
Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area- Yugra	0,1312	0,1316	0,1638	0,1715	0,1711	0,1661
Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area	0,3037	0,3002	0,3411	0,3450	0,3387	0,3243
The Republic of Tatarstan	0,1199	0,2980	0,1428	0,1392	0,1483	0,1363

All leading regions have the preferential positions about Kamchatka Territory provided with essential financial and resource benefits of leading regions. The Moscow region, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area, the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area are financially self-sufficient regions.

The consolidated indexes on groups of performance indicators of the economy, the budget sphere, social sphere in groups of regions of the district, regions analogs and leading regions are similarly calculated.

Further on the basis of the received consolidated indexes on groups of indicators *the generalizing consolidated indexes* are calculated.

The generalizing consolidated indexes calculated for all four groups of indicators showing provision of Kamchatka Territory among regions of the Far East Federal district are given in Table 4.

Table 4 – The generalizing consolidated indexes of economic and social situation of regions of the Far East federal district of rather Kamchatka Territory in 2007-2012

Regions of Russian Federation	Years					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Kamchatka Territory	1	1	1	1	1	1
Primorye Territory	0,9453	0,9395	0,8810	0,8803	0,8604	0,9393
Khabarovsk Territory	0,7616	0,8275	0,9061	0,8814	0,8989	0,8603
Sakhalin Region	0,5450	0,5489	0,5547	0,6151	0,6238	0,5709
Amur Region	1,0356	1,0318	1,0431	1,1054	1,1395	1,1395
Magadan Region	1,1492	1,1283	1,1315	1,1432	1,0909	1,0247
Jewish Autonomous Region	1,5606	1,5941	1,7785	1,7801	2,0810	1,9988
Chukotka Autonomous Area	1,5838	1,2679	1,1948	1,5428	1,5530	1,6025
Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)	0,6596	0,6872	0,7135	0,7313	0,6970	0,6760

Preferential positions of the Sakhalin region, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) are explained by pronounced specialization of regions – from 60 to 75% of total production of goods, works and services mineral extraction borrows. The approximately same situation in the Magadan region which summary indicators slightly concede to Kamchatka Territory (to BGD Regions of Russia, 2014).

About 10 percent of industrial outputs fall to the share of mineral extraction in Kamchatka Territory. The modern enterprises of the mining industry of Kamchatka Territory develop in the conditions of a low degree of study of mineral resources of the region, a staffing deficit, and infrastructure. The high job cost interferes the development of the industry, the backwardness of the domestic market of mineral raw materials, an unstable environment of the world raw market (Vorozhbit and Pristup, 2014, p. 112).

In Primorye and Khabarovsk Territories the greatest specific weight in the total production of goods, works and services occupy the processing productions and paid services to the population (10-15% and 25% respectively). In Kamchatka Territory about 60 percent of industrial outputs of the region fall to the share of the processing productions. The greatest specific weight in the processing industry of Kamchatka Territory is occupied by the food (fish processing) industry of 89,3% in 2012 (BGD Regions of Russia, 2014).

The main problems of the processing industry – high degree of wear of fixed assets of the fishing organizations, low extent of processing of raw materials, under exploitation of opportunities of coastal fish processing, define severe losses of a value added and taxes. The operating mechanism of distribution of quotas also needs completion. As the main part of allowances according to different schemes is redeemed by the foreign companies, for export fish and seafood with low extent of processing, at the dumping prices (Vorozhbit and Pristup, 2014, p as a result leaves. 110).

The regions, which significantly are lagging behind on summary socio-economic indexes, Kamchatka Territory – the Jewish Autonomous Region, the Amur region – have the pronounced agricultural specialization creating a food basis of all the Far East federal district. The agricultural industry acts as a factor of food security and Kamchatka Territory, needing further development and the state support.

Demographic problems, actual for all regions of the Far East federal district, cause a growing demand of regions of the district for a manpower from the central part of Russia. The migratory problem resolution of a deficit of manpower leads to inflow, first of all, the seasonal low-qualified migrants (Liebensteiner, 2014) and demands, with respect thereto, serious justifications.

The generalizing consolidated indexes calculated for all four groups of indicators showing provision of Kamchatka Territory among regions analogs are given in Table 5.

Table 5 – The generalizing consolidated indexes of economic and social situation of regions analogs of rather Kamchatka Territory in 2007-2012

Regions of	Years					
Russian Federation	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Kamchatka Territory	1	1	1	1	1	1
The Republic of Buryatia	1,1019	1,1009	1,2930	1,3384	1,3103	1,3073
Oryol region	1,1795	1,1972	1,5211	1,6006	1,5493	1,3990
The Republic of Dagestan	2,9639	2,9177	1,5080	1,6977	1,7410	1,6878
Murmansk region	0,8232	1,1450	1,1833	1,2274	1,4627	1,2040
Astrakhan region	0,9845	1,0215	1,3079	1,5138	1,5155	1,3714

Among regions analogs on the generalizing summary socio-economic indexes, Kamchatka Territory is the undisputed leader. The Astrakhan region the Republic of Buryatia, the Oryol region, the Republic of Dagestan are included into the group of agro-industrial regions which also Kamchatka Territory treats. Murmansk region, entering into the group of industrial regions, has the best indicators after Kamchatka Territory in a group of regions analogs. For Murmansk region basing the economy on the processing productions including, fish processing, the same problems of the processing industry, as are actual for Kamchatka Territory: creation of the competitive coastal fish processing infrastructure providing release of high-quality and profitable fish products, "return" of processing of fish on the coast. The solution of these tasks in the specified regions significantly will increase amounts of products of the fish processing industry, will give for itself financial flows in the form of investment and tax resources of fish processors, activates transport and infrastructure construction.

The generalizing consolidated indexes calculated for all four groups of indicators showing provision of Kamchatka Territory among leading regions are given in Table 6.

Table 6 – The generalizing consolidated indexes of economic and social situation of leading regions of rather Kamchatka Territory in 2007-2012

Regions of	Years					
Russian Federation	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Kamchatka Krai	1	1	1	1	1	1
Moscow region	0,6886	0,7427	0,8740	0,8910	0,9040	0,8009
Sverdlovsk region	0,5484	0,6178	0,7027	0,7341	0,7357	0,6866
Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Are – Yugra	0,3741	0,4136	0,4984	0,4919	0,4732	0,4604
Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area	0,4501	0,4684	0,4735	0,4883	0,4908	0,4626
The Republic of Tatarstan	0,6823	0,7739	0,9058	0,9386	0,9749	0,9067

In a group of leading regions, Kamchatka Territory has the worst positions. The generalizing consolidated index of social and economic development in Kamchatka Territory is lower than all leading regions throughout all considered period. Lag of Kamchatka Territory in this group of industrial regions makes to 2-3 times. Competitive advantages of leading regions are provided with their industrial specialization, and also the best climatic, economic, geographical and geopolitical conditions.

4. Conclusion

In the conditions of lack of the uniform commonly accepted technique of an assessment of economic and social situation of regions of the Russian Federation acting as an element of strategic planning for regional development we offer:

1) to perform an evaluation of the analyzed region in groups of the regions created: on a territorial sign – regions of the respective federal district; by the form economic activity – regions analogs; on macroeconomic indicators – leading regions;
2) To use the indicators providing a representativeness of an assessment and being for the purposes of a comparative assessment it is available information indicators of the scale of economy, the efficiency of the economy, the budget sphere and social sphere. The structure of indicators can be specified depending on effective objectives of strategic planning;
3) To apply a method of an integral assessment. To make the calculation and comparison of integral indicators of regions concerning the indicators of the analyzed region acting as the basic. The structure of the calculated integral indicators to create the following: indexes on each analyzed indicator; the consolidated indexes on each group of indicators; the generalizing consolidated index integrating the consolidated indexes on groups of indicators;
4) on the basis of aggregation of socio-economic indexes and their comparison in groups of regions of the federal district, regions analogs and leading regions to define strong and weaknesses of regional economies and possibility of their accounting when developing strategy of social and economic development of the analyzed region.

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