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**DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPALITIES,
ADJACENT TO A MAJOR CITY**

Specialty: 5.2.3 Regional and sectoral economics
(p. 1 Regional Economics)

ABSTRACT

dissertations for the degree
of Candidate of Economic Sciences

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Relevance of the research topic.

The issues of socio-economic development of urban agglomerations and municipalities have been widely discussed on a global scale since the end of the 20th century, since the adoption of the United Nations program for the creation of sustainable cities and the proclamation of the need to develop local strategies – Local agendas. At the beginning of the 21st century, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda by the global community, these issues were reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, the implementation of SDG 11 “Ensure inclusive and equitable access to safe and affordable housing and basic services for all” is of particular importance, both on a global scale and at the Russian level. This is due to the escalating problems characteristic of the entire global community, including Russia, such as the spread of urbanization, irrational urban planning, environmental pollution, social conflicts, and others.

The formation of a system of unified public authority in the Russian Federation, with municipal entities included in its structure, determines their significance as elements of the spatial organization of the economy for achieving the national development goals of our country. Today, many systemic problems have accumulated in the development of municipalities; in addition to an imperfect regulatory framework and a lack of their own revenue sources, they are linked to the absence of a differentiated socio-economic policy that takes into account the territorial and spatial specifics of the development of municipal entities — for example, such as a large city and the adjacent municipal district (area). The interests of modern science in the context of the Strategy for Spatial Development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2030, with a forecast up to 2036, are related to achieving national goals and ensuring the country’s national security, as well as to the development of four types of key settlements, including large cities and the urban agglomerations formed around them. At the same time, suburban municipal entities within urban agglomerations are promising territories, a rapidly developing part of urban systems, and play an increasingly important role in urbanization processes. Their territorial and spatial specificity is manifested in a

number of positive effects and limitations, which are determined by the influence of a large city. Under the current conditions, there is a need to develop scientifically grounded approaches to ensuring the effective socio-economic development of municipalities adjacent to a large city, including in terms of developing an organizational and economic mechanism for the development of such municipalities in order to expand the positive effects of cooperation between the city and the district/district for the economy of the region as a whole. The above circumstances have determined the subject matter of the dissertation research, which is relevant both in practical and scientific terms.

The level of development of the research topic.

The theoretical and practical issues of the formation and functioning of territories under the influence of cities were studied in the works of G.M. Lappo, D.A. Gainanov, A.G. Atayeva, K.V. Getmantsev, A.V. Rodin, M.K. Tamov, L.A. Dorofeeva, I.A. Skripil, A.Ya. Trotskovsky, N.V. Voroshilov, B. Surya, Syafri, H. Abubakar, H. Sahban, H. Hardian Sakti, K. Tokarczyk-Dorociak, J. Kazak, S. Szewrański, E. Zuzanska-Zysko, M. Dyszy, H. Long, Y. Liu et al.

The problems related to the methodological tools for analyzing and assessing the level of socio-economic development of municipal entities are reflected in the works of A. A. Mitroshin, A. A. Pobedin, A. A. Sidorov, I. G. Turkina, N. V. Voroshilov, E. S. Gubanova, E. A. Gutnikova, A. E. Chepik, and others.

E.M. Buchwald, A.G. Granberg, E.S. Gubanova, B.S. Zhikharevich, V.N. Leksin, P.A. Minakir, A.I. Tatarkin, A.N. Levin made a significant contribution to solving the problems of developing and implementing socio-economic policy, including regulating the development of municipalities of various territorial and spatial specifics. Shvetsov, T.V. Uskova, A.M. Khodachek, I. Ebrahimzadeh, N. Lewis, L. Servillo, A. Hamdouch, R. Atkinson, and others.

Recognizing the significant contribution of scholars to addressing these issues, we note that questions related to the comprehensive assessment of the socio-economic development of municipal districts/regions adjacent to a large city, as well as to the development of scientific and conceptual approaches and

organizational and economic mechanisms for ensuring the socio-economic development of suburban municipal entities, remain controversial. These circumstances underscore the importance of addressing this topic, as well as the purpose, objectives, and logic of the dissertation research.

The aim of the dissertation research is to improve the theoretical and methodological approaches to analyzing and assessing the socio-economic development processes of a municipal entity adjacent to a large city, as well as to the formation and implementation of a mechanism for ensuring the development of such a municipality.

The following tasks have been set and solved in the **work**:

1. To identify the factors influencing the development of municipal entities adjacent to a large city, based on the analysis and generalization of scientific works by domestic and foreign researchers.

2. To develop a methodology for a comprehensive assessment of the socio-economic development of a municipal entity (municipal district/district) adjacent to a large city.

3. To identify trends and key factors influencing the development of adjacent municipal entities in a macroregion (federal district), and to assess the impact of a large city on the socio-economic development of a suburban municipality.

4. Propose a scientific and conceptual approach to ensuring the socio-economic development of suburban municipal entities.

5. Develop and substantiate an organizational and economic mechanism and measures to improve the regulation of the development processes of a municipal entity adjacent to a large city.

The object of the study: municipal entities adjacent to a large city (using the Northwestern Federal District as an example).

The subject of the study: the set of economic relations that arise between state authorities, local self-government bodies, businesses, and the population in the processes of development of municipal entities adjacent to a large city, and that

ensure consideration of the specific features and factors influencing the development of such territories.

The research topic complies with the requirements of the VAK specialty passport. The dissertation work was carried out within the framework of specialty 08.00.06 – “Economics and Management of the National Economy”. Research area: 5.2.3 Regional and sectoral economics, item 1 Regional economics (items 1.3. Regional economic development and its factors. Problems of balanced regional development. Balanced regional socio-economic complexes; items 1.13. Economic and social problems of local self-government. Inter-municipal cooperation).

The theoretical foundation of the dissertation research consists of the fundamental works and concepts of domestic and foreign scholars in the field of regional economics and territorial development, including the concepts of agglomeration development (A. Weber, E.G. Animica, N.Y. Vlasova, A.A. G.M. Lappo, N.R. Izhguzina, V.V. Merkuryev, V.N. Leksin, and others), the theory of the "supporting framework" of the territory (B.B. Rodoman, G.M. Lappo, N.N. Baransky, E.N. Percik, A.E. Gutnov, I.M. Maergoiz, and others).

Methodological basis of the study. The research methodology is based on a territorial-spatial approach (E. G. Animitsa, M. K. Badman, S. G. Voronkov, A. G. Granberg, N. E. Kolesnikov, P. A. Minakir, S. A. Suspitsyn, and others), within which the region is considered in the work as an element of the country's spatial organization — a relatively integral territorial-spatial entity consisting of municipal entities and capable of self-development. The work employs a systems approach (I.M. Busygina, Yu.D. Denisov, L.D. Kazachenko, L.A. Savelyev, A.I. Tatarkin, and others), which defines a municipal entity as a socio-economic entity and, at the same time, as a managed socio-economic subsystem of a region (state) with strong interconnections among its main elements.

During the study, both general scientific methods of cognition were used: dialectical, deduction, induction, and the method of scientific abstraction, as well as special methods: the method of interregional comparisons, the method of expert

assessments, and questionnaires. Practical examples were analyzed using the method of specific situations (case studies) for municipal entities in the North-West of Russia.

The information basis of the study was made up of official materials from the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (Rosstat) and its territorial bodies; statistics from municipalities (Rosstat's Database of Municipal Indicators); data on financial and economic activities of enterprises downloaded from the Checco counterparty verification service (<https://checko.ru/>); data from geographic information systems (National System spatial data) on the boundaries of settlements and the location of capital construction facilities; regulatory legal acts of the Russian Federation, subjects of the Russian Federation, municipalities of the regions of the North-Western Federal District, documents of strategic development of the Russian Federation, subjects and municipalities of the regions of the North-Western Federal District, materials of periodicals on the problem under study, Internet resources and other sources. The results of an expert (questionnaire) survey of the heads of rural settlements, leaders of local government bodies, and heads of municipal enterprises and institutions in the Vologda Municipal District, conducted in 2022 with the direct participation of the author of this dissertation study, were also used.

The scientific novelty of the research results lies in the improvement of theoretical and methodological provisions for ensuring the development of a municipal entity adjacent to a large city, including in terms of substantiating and developing an organizational and economic mechanism for the development of a suburban municipality based on the formation of a system of interaction with the large city and the implementation of a project-based approach in management.

The main elements of scientific novelty are **the following provisions and results put forward for protection:**

1. Based on the results of the analysis and systematization of the provisions of spatial theories and theories of regional economics from the perspective of the core-periphery approach, it has been substantiated to supplement the theoretical

and methodological foundations for the development of suburban municipal entities in terms of typologizing factors according to the criteria of the degree of manageability, the level of management (the authorities that can influence the given factor), and the time required to obtain the result/effect of influencing the factor — factors that determine the trends and patterns of development of such municipal entities, as well as the positive and negative effects of the influence of a large city on such territories. This will make it possible to identify the specific features and challenges facing the development of adjacent municipal entities in a particular region, and to improve the selection of priorities and methods for their development, taking into account the distribution of the regulatory impact of government bodies on the factors influencing the development of municipalities in the short-, medium-, and long-term periods.

2. An improved methodological approach has been proposed for conducting a comprehensive assessment of the socio-economic development of municipal districts/areas adjacent to a large city. This approach includes an assessment of the overall level of development of such a municipality, an assessment of the degree of alignment between the strategic development guidelines of the large city and the adjacent municipality, and the degree of integration of the development processes in these territories. This will make it possible to identify priority areas for developing cooperation between the city and the adjacent municipality (including within the framework of the relevant urban agglomeration) in order to increase the positive effects of this cooperation on the economic development of the interacting municipalities and the region.

3. Based on an analysis and assessment of the development processes in major cities of the Northwestern Federal District and the adjacent municipal entities, it has been shown that there are basic, standard manifestations of the positive impact of a large city on the socio-economic development processes of the adjacent municipality; it has been demonstrated that there is an actual absence of economic effects at the micro level (at the level of enterprises); their weak internal integration has been identified (the presence of significant intra-municipal

differences in the adjacent municipalities under consideration) and weak external integration (low consistency of the strategic development guidelines of the city and the adjacent municipality, the absence or low number of joint inter-municipal projects and activities implemented by these territories).

4. A scientific and conceptual approach to ensuring the socio-economic development of suburban municipal entities has been developed; it is based on the principles of comprehensiveness, systematic approach, co-development with a large city, public involvement, adaptability, etc. (specific recommendations have been identified for government bodies on how to implement each principle in the practice of managing municipal development), as well as a differentiated approach to measures of regulatory influence on the development processes of such municipalities, taking into account their level of development and the degree of integration with the city, as well as the specific features of the development factors affecting each particular municipality.

5. An organizational and economic mechanism for the development of municipal entities adjacent to a large city has been proposed and substantiated. Unlike the existing mechanisms for managing municipalities, it предусматривает the need to include a spatial component in the municipality's development strategy (the study substantiates the structure and content of this component), to develop and implement a special action plan for the integrated spatial development of the municipal district/region (the content of the main elements of this plan has been defined), and to expand the functionality of municipal project offices in terms of addressing tasks related to organizing interaction with the large city and implementing the spatial development action plan. This will create the conditions for expanding the positive effects of cooperation between the city and the district/region within the framework of implementing the proposed basic projects of inter-municipal cooperation, both for each participating municipality and for the region's economy as a whole.

Theoretical significance of the research results.

The results of the dissertation research contribute to improving the methods and tools for the socio-economic development of municipal entities adjacent to a large city, as well as the tools for analyzing and assessing the development of such municipalities.

Practical significance of the research results.

The practical significance of the study lies in the possibility of using the obtained results by executive bodies of state power in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, local self-government bodies, research institutes and other organizations when developing methods and tools for managing territorial development, as well as in the educational process at higher education institutions in the discipline "Regional Economics" and in professional development programs for managers and specialists in government bodies.

Testing and implementation of the work results. The results and main provisions of the dissertation research were presented at scientific and practical conferences and seminars, such as: II Vologda Regional Forum with international participation "Law and Economics: Strategies of regional development" (Vologda, 2022), I All-Russian Forum of Young Researchers of Social Sciences (Vologda, 2022), XX All-Russian Strategists' Forum "Strategic Planning in Russian Regions and Cities" (Moscow, 2022), II All-Russian Forum "Transformation and Digitalization of the Economy and Social Sphere of Regions and Municipalities, training of regional and Municipal management teams" (Moscow, 2022), Round Table of the Committee on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and the Committee on Local Self-Government to the Self-government of the State Duma of the Russian Federation "Development of small and medium-sized enterprises at the municipal level: problems and prospects" (Moscow, 2023), Round table of the Committee on Local Self-Government of the State Duma of the Russian Federation "Prospects and problems of implementing measures of priority importance for residents of municipalities to resolve issues of local importance or other issues that local governments have the right to resolve through initiative projects (initiative budgeting)" (Moscow, 2023), the Final Forum "Community" The Public Chamber

of the Russian Federation (Moscow, 2023), the IX International Scientific and Practical Internet Conference "Problems of Economic Growth and Sustainable Development of Territories" (Vologda, 2024), other scientific events and received the support of the scientific community.

The scientific provisions and results of the dissertation:

- have been applied in the practical activities of state authorities and local self-government bodies of the Vologda Oblast (there are relevant certificates of implementation): were used by the Administration of the Vologda Municipal District of the Vologda Oblast during the transformation of the local self-government system, the development of inter-municipal cooperation, and project activities; by the Government of the Vologda Oblast during the establishment and organization of the work of the Project Office for the Territorial Development of the Vologda Oblast, as well as in the development of project activities of local self-government bodies.

- used by the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation in 2024 during the implementation of the professional development program for persons holding positions in public authorities of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic (transformation of the local government system, development of inter-municipal cooperation, project activities, etc.); Vologda Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences from 2025-2026 academic year during the implementation of the basic educational program of higher education – Master's degree in Economics, specialty "Regional economics and territorial development" in the framework of the discipline "Regional and municipal Administration".

The author has published 12 works on the topic of the dissertation research, including 6 published works in journals included in the List of Leading Peer-Reviewed Scientific Journals and Publications recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission under the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation.

Publications. The author has published 12 works on the topic of the dissertation research, including 7 published works in journals included in the List of Leading Peer-Reviewed Scientific Journals and Publications Recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission under the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation. The total volume of the works is 16.96 conventional printed pages.

A. Articles in publications indexed by international databases.

Ukhanova Y.V., Kopytova E.D., Zhestyannikov S.G. Impact of citizen participation on solving the social problems of small regional towns in Russia // *Changing Societies & Personalities*. 2024. Vol. 8. No. 1. pp. 57–77 (1,70 conventional printed pages).

Zhestyannikov S.G. Priorities and tools for the transformation of municipal governance in the context of the new reform of local self-government // *Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast*. 2022. Vol. 15. No.4. pp. 88–101. DOI: 10.15838/esc.2022.4.82.6 (1,63 conventional printed pages).

B. Articles in publications included in the List of Publications Recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission of Russia for the publication of the main scientific results of a dissertation for the degree of Candidate (Doctor) of Sciences.

Zhestyannikov S.G. Tools for the Development of Municipal Entities Located Near a Large City // *Problems of Territory Development*. 2024. Vol. 28. No. 3. Pp. 29–49 (2.45 conventional printed pages).

Zhestyannikov S.G. Public Participation as a Tool for Territory Development (Based on the Experience of the Vologda Municipal District of the Vologda Region) // *Problems of Territory Development*. 2021. Vol. 25. No. 1. Pp. 52–67 (1.87 conventional printed pages).

Zhestyannikov S.G. Modern Approaches to Municipal Management: Current Practices for the Socio-Economic Development of the Territory // *Municipal Academy*. 2021. No. 2. Pp. 136–143 (1.30 conventional printed pages).

Zhestyannikov S.G. Economics and Management of the Agro-Industrial Complex in the Context of Rural Development (on the Example of the Vologda Municipal District of the Vologda Region) // Municipal Academy. 2021. No. 4. Pp. 116–122 (1.13 conventional pages).

B. Articles in scientific publications indexed in the RSCI database.

Zhestyannikov S.G. Features of the Socio-Economic Development of Municipal Entities Located Near a Large City // Bulletin of the Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences. 2023. No. 3. Pp. 99–126 (2.27 conventional print pages).

G. Other works by the author.

Zhestyannikov S.G. Integrated development of the territory as a mechanism for implementing the national goal of population preservation at the municipal level (based on materials from the Vologda Municipal District of the Vologda Region) / “Law and Economics: Strategies for Regional Development”: collection of materials from the II Vologda Regional Forum with international participation (Vologda, March 22–23, 2022) / compiled by Yu.A. Peganova. Vologda, 2022. pp. 63–70 (0.5 conventional print pages).

Zhestyannikov S.G. Trends and actual tasks of civil society development in the context of systemic transformations of local government (Vologda region experience) / Proceedings of the I All-Russian Forum of Young Researchers of Social Sciences, II Youth Scientific and Practical Conference of Researchers of Social Sciences (Vologda, June 21–24, 2022). Vologda: Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 2022. pp. 65–69 (0.44 conventional print pages).

Zhestyannikov S.G. Improving the efficiency of implementing the tasks assigned to local self-government bodies within the unified system of public authority / Local Law. 2023. No. 1. Pp. 9–14 (0.70 conventional printed pages).

Zhestyannikov S.G. Migration — a challenge or an opportunity for Russia? // Problems of National Strategy. 2023. No. 4 (79). pp. 52–61 (0.81 conventional print pages).

Tinsyannikov S.G. Project office as a tool for strategic development of municipalities / Proceedings of the IX International Scientific and practical Internet Conference "Problems of economic growth and sustainable development of territories" (Vologda, May 13-15, 2024). Vologda: FGBUN VolSC RAS, 2024. – pp. 227-232 (0.53 conventional print pages).

Volume and structure of the dissertation. The work consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of references, and appendices. The main text of the dissertation contains 277 pages.