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**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW
NORMAL: ECONOMIC POLICY AND SYSTEM ASSESSMENTS**

Specialty 5.2.3. – Regional and sectoral economy

Abstract of the dissertation
for the degree of Candidate of Economic Sciences

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The relevance of the research topic. The current growth rates of the global economy are closely intertwined with numerous parallel areas of society, ranging from sociology to scientific and technological progress. Such changes not only focus on expanding opportunities for the economic sector but also redefine fundamental goals and objectives. The growth of external and internal factors influencing regional economic processes leads to an increase in the quality requirements for systems of assessment, analysis, and planning of management decisions in the field of economic activity development. Thus, achieving dynamically changing goals and objectives of comprehensive and stable regional development requires the presence of similar flexible and comprehensive analytical systems that are capable not only of meeting current needs but also of adapting to the conditions of the new normality of the modern global community.

Updating modern systems and principles of regional management requires the formation of new systems for analyzing and planning economic activity that will take into account not only economic indicators but also related areas of society. In addition, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of using quantitative and qualitative indicators of regional economic activity and, accordingly, to combine them into a single analytical system. In the process of studying the principles of regional development under the conditions of the new normal, we must not forget about the close interconnection between the socio-economic development of indicators and the emergence of various conflicts and contradictions related to the formation of the most effective and safe path for the development of economic activity. These contradictions are not limited to the economic impact of regional policy and affect all spheres of regional life. In addition, it is worth considering the effect of addressing the reproduction-related contradictions in the efficiency of regional development, which can have both a positive impact on the structure of final financial activity and a negative effect on the living conditions of the population. In this regard, it is necessary to find a balance to minimize the potential negative effect and maximize the overall positive impact of decision-making. As a result of the theoretical analysis of the goals and objectives of regional development under the

new normal, it becomes possible to carry out analytical activities to identify trends in changes in socio-economic indicators.

The final results make it possible to formulate a strategy for forecasting further changes in the structure of regional activity, which should take into account not only optimal options but also the factors of interaction between external and internal threats. The data obtained as a result of the practical economic and mathematical analysis of the region's development indicators make it possible to identify and outline current trends. Thus, there is an opportunity to modernize the current regional policy not only taking into account the conditions of the new normal, but also taking into account the primary problems and prospects in order to identify the most effective and stable path for socio-economic development. The ultimate goal of the presented model is to create conditions for further strengthening and adapting the systems of regional life activity to the impact of internal and external threats, which tend to undergo rapid dynamic changes in the conditions of the new normal.

The identified structural problems of the study are a direct reflection of the relevance of our dissertation research. It should be noted that the presented results have sufficient practical value for further replication as methodological material for identifying the most promising method of socio-economic development of the region. The final positive outcome is an improvement in the region's financial security, the population's standard of living, and the creation of a favourable environment for attracting external investment funds and highly specialised, highly qualified personnel.

The degree of development of the research topic. To determine the state of the theoretical and methodological basis for the systemic assessment of the effectiveness of regional development under the conditions of the new normal, we used current scientific data from the following economists: S. S. Artobolevsky, T. L. Borodina, O. B. Glezer, V. E. Komov, V. N. Leksin, O. V. Pivovarova, T. V. Uskova, T. K. Chernysheva, and Yu. N. Shedko.

To conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current socio-economic development of the Stavropol Territory under the conditions of the new normal, we

used the latest methodological developments by the following economists: L. G. Demidova, E. G. Efimova, B. S. Zhikharevich, N. V. Zubarevich, S. A. Lipina, L. E. Limonov, O. V. Rusetskaya, O. L. Taran, and A. A. Tatuev.

To develop a strategy for forecasting and analyzing potential structural changes in the socio-economic development of the Stavropol Territory under the conditions of the new normal, we used the current methodological developments of the following economists: A. N. Bufetova, I. A. Vizhina, V. V. Vorobyova, S. S. Galazova, T. F. Kreidenko, I. A. Rozhdestvenskaya, P. V. Stroev, and Z. K. Tavbulatova.

However, the scope and depth of the comprehensive study conducted into the conditions for the formation and development of socio-economic regional systems require additional research and broader coverage in the scientific community regarding the implementation and assessment of the effectiveness of structural changes in the regional policy of the Russian Federation.

The goal of the dissertation research is to develop and substantiate theoretical provisions on the transformation of modern economic processes and the methodology for assessing and forecasting changes in the socio-economic state of a region under the conditions of the new normal, in order to find the optimal and most effective path for its development.

To achieve this goal, we have identified the following **tasks**:

- □ to clarify the content of the categories “new normal”, “efficiency of regional development” and “region” in the context of modern socio-economic regional development and its specific impact on the mechanisms of regional management;
- to identify and classify the main reproduction contradictions in the socio-economic development of a region under the conditions of the new normal;
- to identify a system of criteria and indicators for assessing the effectiveness of regional development under the conditions of the new normal;
- to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of socio-economic development using the example of the Stavropol Territory, applying correlation analysis methods;

- to develop a model for strategic forecasting of regional development under the conditions of the new normal based on a variable scenario approach.
- to substantiate the mechanism of adaptive management of regional socio-economic policy, ensuring efficiency, sustainability, and balanced development under the new normal.

The object of the study is the processes of socio-economic development of the region in the context of the new normal.

The subject of the study is the methods for assessing the effectiveness and strategic forecasting of regional development, which ensure the formation of an adaptive regional policy.

The relevance of the dissertation topic to the requirements of the VAK Specialties Passport (in the field of economic sciences). The dissertation research was carried out within the framework of the passport of the scientific specialty 5.2.3. “Regional and sectoral economics: regional economics” (clause 1.7. “Factors of the sustainability of regional economic systems”).

The theoretical and methodological basis of the study. The theoretical and methodological foundation of the dissertation research consists of fundamental and applied scientific studies by domestic and foreign authors on the theoretical aspects of regional economic development. In the preparation and implementation of the analytical part of the study, methods of mathematical analysis of the region’s socio-economic indicators were used to identify their structural interactions and to develop a further strategy for forecasting changes in the region. To obtain the final result, methods of quantitative and qualitative analysis of socio-economic indicators characterizing the operational state of the region were used.

The instrumental and methodological basis of the study consists of such scientific research methods as:

- structural analysis of regulatory and scientific literature in the field of regional development;
- comparative analysis of the correlation of data on the socio-economic development of the region;

- development of a comprehensive system for ranking the results of the analysis to provide a comprehensive assessment of the current regional development;
- statistical and expert methods for developing a strategy to forecast changes in the socio-economic development of the region.

The use of these methods provided a sufficient basis for conducting a comprehensive and integrated analysis of the region's socio-economic indicators, as well as for developing recommendations to modify its economic policy in order to achieve the most effective development.

The information and empirical basis of the study consisted of regulatory and legal acts of the Russian Federation and the constituent entities of the Russian Federation in the field of implementing regional economic policy, as well as statistical data from the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation and open data from federal and regional government bodies available on the Internet.

The research hypothesis is that increasing the effectiveness of economic policy for regional development in the context of the new normal can be achieved through the implementation of a system assessment model based on a correlation analysis system and strategic forecasting based on variable scenarios and an adaptive management mechanism that combines economic, social, and institutional development factors.

The propositions to be defended:

1. The modern theoretical and methodological concept of studying socio-economic regional development should be aimed at examining its opportunities and potential to increase its overall resilience to external and internal threats, as well as at changing systemic assessments of efficiency in accordance with the development priorities of the region in the context of the new normal.

2. The main structural and reproductive contradictions of regional development manifest themselves in an imbalance between the strategic priorities of the regional economy and the structure of the population's needs, the centralization of production capacities in the face of the need for territorial balance in development, as well as in a

conflict between the use of private capital and ensuring the financial security of the region.

3. The system for assessing the effectiveness of regional development in the context of the new normal should include not only an analysis of the region's current quantitative and qualitative socio-economic indicators, but also an analysis of indicators reflecting the economic situation, social equality, as well as demographic and environmental conditions, taking into account the region's initial goals and objectives within the framework of the national development strategy.

4. To form a comprehensive understanding of the operational socio-economic development of a region and its possible changes under the new normal, the analysis model must include a comprehensive assessment of changes in key indicators, the dynamics of growth rates, and the correlation between key production factors, and must also be adaptable to the individual characteristics of the object under study.

5. Conducting a superficial forecasting of changes in the region's socio-economic indicators cannot provide sufficient information about potential threats and development prospects under the conditions of the new normal, without using additional methods to verify scenarios of trend changes that ensure a higher quality of final management decisions under the conditions of high dynamics of external and internal threats characteristic of the new normal.

6. The formation of regional management policy should be focused on creating an optimal and effective system for the comprehensive development of the region based on the synthesis of the region's economic, innovative, demographic, resource, and institutional potentials, taking into account potential external and internal threats.

The scientific novelty of the research is to develop theoretical and methodological apparatus of strategic management of regional development in the new normal, presented the following results:

1. Clarified the meaning of "new normal" in the regional management system, revealing the features of the modern perception of the development of the region as the ability of socio-economic system to adapt to rapid and potential threats, which allowed us to identify key attributes of a modern regional processes, characterized by

a high degree of uncertainty and the priority development of the long-term sustainability above the current efficiency in the structure of regional policy (p. 14-19).

2. Identified and sequenced the structural reproduction of the contradictions of regional development in the new normal, which includes the development strategy and the needs of the population, the centralization of production and territorial balance, private equity and financial security, maintenance of territorial resources and environmental constraints, the scale of industrial development and increase the quality of human capital, providing the ability to predict the qualitative effects of the implementation of socio-economic development policy of the region (pp. 44-57).

3. Systematic criteria for a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of regional development in the new normal, which includes, along with economic indicators of social stability, the ecological state of the territories, the demographic of the level and quality of human capital, which defines new targets for regional economic policies conducive to the development of methodological basis for current estimates of regional efficiency (pp. 65-80).

4. The author has developed a model system for the analysis of socio-economic development of the region, formed from the assessment of changes in regional indicators, their growth, as well as correlation analysis using Spearman and Pearson coefficients, providing a qualitative understanding of structural relationships, and the growth of regional industrial development in the new normal with the possibility of placing a final rating assessment (pp. 112-116).

5. Presents a model of strategic forecasting of socio-economic regional development, based on variable scenario approach and incorporating subsequent verification of the obtained data with the official forecast, which allows to identify operational and potential problems of the current economic policy of the region, and to identify opportunities for further development and innovation in the new normality (p. 119-128).

6. The proposed concept of transformation of regional economic policy in the new normal, which served as the basis of the systematization of the received in the

course of scientific research results of the characteristics of the changes of global economic processes, ensuring the formation of a sustainable and resilient model of socio-economic development of the region taking into account reasonable individual approach and scenario-based risk management (pp. 146-162).

The theoretical significance of the study lies in the fact that it develops the theoretical framework of socio-economic regional development under the conditions of a new normal, characterized by a high level of instability and the presence of external and internal threats, and also complements the scientific understanding of the criteria for assessing the effectiveness of regional systems at the current stage of global economic development. The final data and conclusions develop and supplement the current understanding of the regional economy within the framework of conducting comprehensive assessments and making forecasts regarding changes in indicators.

The practical significance of the study is expressed in the possibility of using the final data and recommendations when adjusting long-term strategies for socio-economic development and for developing operational plans in crisis situations.

Testing and implementation of the research results. The main scientific provisions and practical proposals were presented in the form of reports at the VI International Scientific and Practical Conference "Statistical Methods for studying Socio-economic and Environmental systems of the region" (Tambov, 2022); V All-Russian Forum "Strategies for Countering Threats to Russia's Economic Security" (Tambov, 2022); V All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference "Modern Science: the Innovative View of Youth" (Pyatigorsk, 2023); National Scientific and Practical Conference with international participation dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Department of Management and Marketing of KBSU (Nalchik, 2024); "University Readings - 2024"; All-Russian Conference with International Participation (Pyatigorsk, 2024); XII International Scientific and Practical Conference practical conference "Science and Enlightenment" (Penza, 2025).

A number of conclusions and proposals contained in the dissertation research have found practical application in the activities of the Economic Development Department of the Administration of the City of Pyatigorsk. Certain theoretical provisions and proposals regarding the strategy of regional development are used in the educational process at the Department of Economics, Management and Finance of the Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education "Pyatigorsk State University," which is confirmed by the relevant certificates.

Publications and structure of the work. The main provisions of the dissertation research are reflected in 12 publications with a total volume of 5.05 p. l., including 5 works with a volume of 2.14 p. l. published in peer-reviewed scientific journals designated by the Higher Attestation Commission (VAK) under the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation.

The sequence of presentation of the material is based on the logic of presenting the materials to solve the set tasks within the framework of the established research goal. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters (nine subsections), a conclusion, a bibliography containing 129 items, and a list of illustrative material. The dissertation is 194 pages long and contains 7 formulas, 10 figures, and 28 tables.



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