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Blinova Tatyana Nikolaevna

IMPROVEMENT OF TERRITORIAL-INDUSTRIAL MECHANISMS FOR
MANAGING ACCESSIBILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES (ON THE
EXAMPLE OF THE FAR EASTERN FEDERAL DISTRICT)

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ANNOTATION OF THE DISSERTATION

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Fedotov A.V.

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Relevance of the research topic. Countries focused on creating conditions for their socio-economic development, as one of the tasks of state policy, set the task of ensuring a certain level of accessibility of higher education services for their citizens. In particular, access to education for all residents of the country is legally guaranteed in Russia, which is reflected in paragraph 3 of Art. 5 Federal Law of the Russian Federation «About Education in the Russian Federation». This guarantee is also reflected in the state program «Development of Education» for 2013-2020, which provides for measures that increase the level of accessibility of education for citizens. Creation of organizational mechanisms in 2019-2024 that increase the availability of education and create the conditions for individual development in the education system are provided for by the National Education Project. At the same time, it is declared that one of the priorities of state policy in the field of education is «equalizing the educational opportunities of Russian citizens regardless of the region of residence».

In Russia, macroregions differ from each other in a number of parameters: the area of the territory, the population, its distribution over the territory, the level of socio-economic development, the number of educational institutions of higher education in the region, the configuration of their distribution network, and other parameters. All this in one way or another affects the accessibility of higher education services for the population of the regions. The Far East is the largest macroregion in Russia by area. Moreover, in many of its regions, universities or their branches are deployed only in capitals. These factors limit the access to higher education services for residents of small towns and rural areas. In addition, the Far Eastern Federal District is characterized by a rather low level of economic development compared to other macro-regions, which, in turn, affects the ability of families to bear the costs associated with obtaining higher education.

In this regard, the study of factors affecting the accessibility of higher education services in the macro-regions of Russia, the improvement of methods for its determination, the development and justification of territorial and sectoral mechanisms for accessibility management, including through the impact on its individual components, is an urgent task facing both researchers in economics and higher education management, and in front of government at various levels.

The degree of development of a scientific problem. The problem of accessibility of higher education services has been studied quite widely by both Russian and foreign authors. So, the issue of the content of this term was considered in the works of E.A. Anikina, S.A. Belyakova, T.P. Evseenko, A.S. Klyueva, E.V. Lazarchuk, M.S. Rakhmanova, Y.M. Roshchina, V.I. Sukhocheva, V.I. Fursova, Ha Wang Hoang, V.I. Cecina. Methods for assessing the accessibility of higher education services and its individual components are described in publications by Canadian researchers of the Institute for Educational Policy A. Chervenak, J. Meadow, A. Usher, representatives of the OECD Directorate for Education and Training, S. A. Belyakova, V.I. Bogomolov, a team of authors led by A.D. Gromov (A.D. Gromov, D.P. Platonova, D.S. Semenova, T.L. Pyrova), V.I. Sukhocheva, S.A. Rakhmanova. The results of assessing the accessibility of higher education services or its individual components are given in the works of K. Bhopal, H. Henderson, Y Lee, R.M. Capraro, A. Bayser, J. Findley, C. Hermannsson, N. Netz, S. Finger, E. Brevis, M. Newvenhuis, A.S. Manstead, M.J. Easterbrook, B. Streitwizer, A. Gopal, T.L. Klyachko, Shishkina S.V. etc. However, methods for assessing the overall level of accessibility of higher education services based on an analysis of factors influencing it (accessibility components) are covered mainly in foreign sources. These methods are limitedly applicable for Russian conditions, because, firstly, they are not adapted to the domestic information and statistical base, and secondly, they are based mainly on generalized expert assessments of the social factors of the accessibility of higher education services. In addition, in studies on the subject of accessibility management, issues of sectoral and territorial instruments for managing the accessibility of higher education services for the population, taking into account the composition and quantitative characteristics of its main components, have not been worked out.

The purpose and objectives of the research. The purpose of the research is development scientific and methodological provisions and practical recommendations for improving the territorial and sectoral mechanisms for managing the accessibility of higher education services in the macroregions of Russia (using the example of the Far Eastern Federal District). Achieving this goal involves solving the following tasks:

- consider the content of the concept of «accessibility of higher education services» and highlight the main factors affecting the accessibility of higher education;
- develop a methodology for assessing the accessibility of higher education services, taking into account the main factors influencing it;
- evaluate the indicators of accessibility of higher education services and its individual components for the Far Eastern Federal District and the regions included in its composition;
- to analyze the condition, factors, features and compliance of the market for higher education services with regional development strategies in the Far Eastern Federal District;
- develop recommendations for improving the territorial and sectoral mechanisms for managing the accessibility of higher education services (for example, the Far Eastern Federal District).

Object and subject of research. The object of the research is the accessibility of higher education services. The subject of the research is the factors affecting the accessibility of higher education, and methods of managerial impact on these factors.

The theoretical basis of the research. As the theoretical basis of the dissertation, materials from Russian and foreign factual and scientific, including periodicals, scientific and practical conferences on the topic of research were used.

The methodological basis of the research. The methodological basis of the research was the analysis of statistical data, synthesis, induction, deduction, systematic methods for assessing the status and development trends of the higher education system of the Far Eastern Federal District, economic and mathematical modeling, logical and historical analysis.

The information base of the research was constituted by the legislative and regulatory legal acts of the Russian Federation in the field of higher education services management, data from the Federal State Statistics Service, the Unified Interdepartmental Information System, and the Unified Information System for Supporting the Activities of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

The research area is determined by the following paragraphs from the passport of the scientific specialty 08.00.05 «Economics and National Economy Management» of the Higher Attestation Commission of the Russian Ministry of Education and Science: 1.6.109. «Improving the organization and management of services in the market»; 1.6.118. «Formation and development of sectoral, regional and national markets for services»; 1.6.122. «The ratio of market and state regulators in the development of industries and complexes of the service sector».

The validity and reliability of the research results is confirmed by comparing the data obtained in the work with the use of economic-statistical methods corresponding to the research logic, with the results of scientific studies of other authors, discussing the results at international, all-Russian, regional scientific and practical conferences, publications in peer-reviewed scientific publications.

The scientific novelty of the research is as follows:

1) The content of the concept of «accessibility of higher education services» and the totality of factors affecting the availability of higher education are investigated, the main factors affecting the availability of higher education are identified and substantiated.

2) A methodology has been developed for determining the accessibility of higher education services, based on the decomposition of the overall indicator of the accessibility of higher education services into territorial, economic (financial), organizational and educational components.

The work substantiates the feasibility of determining the indicator of accessibility of higher education services through the inverse value - the indicator of inaccessibility, calculated by the formula:

$$LA = 0,2 * GIA + 0,26 * IHE + 0,25 * IE + 0,29 * LAC,$$

where LA is the lack of access to higher education services;

GIA is the geographical inaccessibility of higher education services;

IHE is an economic inaccessibility of higher education services;

IE is an educational inaccessibility of higher education services;

LAC is an organizational inaccessibility of higher education services;

The study showed that local indicators included in the calculation of the integrated indicator of the inaccessibility of higher education services can be determined as follows:

Indicator	Calculation formula	Explanations
GIA	D/Dmax	D is the population-weighted average distance from a regional centre to a university in a federal district (by the «population» here we mean young adults aged 18-30 living in the region); Dmax is the maximum population-weighted average distance from a regional centre to a university in a federal district (by the «population» here we mean young adults aged 18-30 living in the region).
IHE*	HEC/PCI	HEC is the annual cost of higher education services; PCI is the average annual per capita income in a region.
IE	EXAMact/EXAMav	EXAMact is the average score in the Unified State Exam and university entrance exams of applicants of higher education services in a specific region; EXAMav is the average score in the Unified State Exam and university entrance exams in a federal district.
LAC*	A/N	A is the number of applications for admission to places; N is the number of available places.

Note: * – the components of the accessibility of higher education services can be calculated for two groups of educational services: higher education services financed from budget funds within the PCC and higher education services financed from other sources (individuals and legal entities) under the relevant agreements on the provision of services

Accordingly, the accessibility of higher education services will be determined by the formula:

$$A = 1/LA$$

where A is access to higher education services.

3) The calculations of local and integral indicators of the accessibility of higher education for the Far Eastern Federal District and its constituent entities:

Regions of the Far Eastern Federal District	The value of the indicator of accessibility of higher education services for places within the CCP (ACCESS (CCP))	Regions of the Far Eastern Federal District	The value of the indicator of accessibility of higher education services for places with payment of cost (ACCESS (dog))
Chukotka Autonomous Area	1,03	Kamchatka Region	1,89
Kamchatka Region	0,68	Amursk Region	1,51
Sakhalin Region	0,66	Jewish Autonomous Area	1,40
Jewish Autonomous Area	0,54	Sakhalin Region	1,33
The Republic of Buryatia	0,53	The Republic of Buryatia	1,28
The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)	0,52	Chukotka Autonomous Area	1,19

Amursk Region	0,50	Magadan Region	1,16
Magadan Region	0,50	Transbaikal Region	1,13
Transbaikal Region	0,45	Khabarovsk Region	1,04
Khabarovsk Region	0,34	Primorsky Region	1,02
Primorsky Region	0,31	The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)	0,89
Far Eastern Federal District	0,42	Far Eastern Federal District	1,17

4) The state of the market of higher education services in the Far Eastern Federal District, the factors and features of its formation, the compliance of the structure and volume of higher education services with the strategies for long-term socio-economic development of the regions included in the Far Eastern Federal District are analyzed.

5) The directions of improving the territorial and sectoral mechanisms for managing the accessibility of higher education services are studied, recommendations are developed for improving the mechanisms for managing the availability of higher education services, and assessments are made of changes in the availability of higher education depending on the applied mechanisms for managing the accessibility of higher education through the impact on its various components:

Territorial mechanisms	Industry Mechanisms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - annual reimbursement of the cost of travel for students receiving higher education for the first time and living in a settlement in which there are no universities (branches) offering training in educational programs of higher education to the place of study in the same region and vice versa; - partial compensation for the cost of renting an apartment to nonresident students who are not provided with a place in a hostel by an educational institution of higher education; - harmonization of the structure by funded places from the state budget determined by strategic goal-setting documents, through the Ministry for the Development of Russia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - differentiation of the lower limit of the exam level the Unified State Exam annually established by the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science, indicating that students have successfully passed entrance examinations, for educational programs in various fields of knowledge; - restriction of the list of grounds and allowable sizes of discounts on prices for higher education services; - determination of the upper limits for the excess of the price of higher education services over the established standard, depending on the size and condition of the property complex of the university.

A quantitative analysis of the results of the implementation of territorial and sectoral mechanisms for managing the accessibility of higher education services has shown that for the Far Eastern macroregion, the proposed mechanisms contribute to an increase in the organizational and especially economic (financial) accessibility of higher education, which ultimately leads to an increase in the integrated indicators of the accessibility of higher

education services - both for places within the funded places from the state budget, and for places with payment of tuition. At the same time, the increase in the costs of regional budgets required to implement the proposed mechanisms to increase the availability of higher education in the Far East is relatively low and amounts to no more than 0.1% both for the consolidated budget of the macroregion, and for the budgets of the constituent entities of the Far Eastern Federal District.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The theoretical significance of the dissertation research lies in the fact that on the basis of theoretical principles and analytical estimates formulated in the work, directions for improving territorial and sectoral mechanisms for managing the accessibility of higher education services have been developed and justified (for example, the Far Eastern Federal District). Moreover, the theoretical contribution is the development of a detailed methodology for determining the accessibility of higher education for the macroregion and its constituent entities, based on a quantitative assessment of the impact on the accessibility of higher education of the main factors determining it. The practical significance of the research consists of the development of recommendations for improving the territorial and sectoral mechanisms for managing the accessibility of higher education services, which can be used by the relevant federal and regional government bodies to increase the availability of higher education services for residents of the Far Eastern macroregion and to harmonize the supply and demand of higher education services in accordance with long-term regional development strategies.

Testing the results of the research. The main provisions and results of the work are presented in Russian scientific periodicals, including publications from the list recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission, publications included in international citation databases (7 publications), materials from international, national and regional scientific and practical conferences (3 publications).

The structure and volume of work are determined by the purpose and objectives of the research. The work consists of introduction, three chapters, conclusion, list of used sources and applications. The dissertation is presented on 201 pages (including 41 pages of applications), contains 54 tables, 9 figures. The list used sources totals 163 items.