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**ASSESSMENT OF COMPETITIVENESS FACTORS OF SINGLE-
INDUSTRY TOWNS TO DETERMINE THEIR INDIVIDUAL
DEVELOPMENT TRAJECTORIES**

Scientific specialty: 5.2.3. Regional and sectoral economics

ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

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The relevance of the dissertation research topic. Issues related to the development of territories, in particular single-industry municipalities (single-industry towns), occupy a central place in the strategy for ensuring the effective formation of the national economy. Reducing socio-economic differentiation in regional development and improving the quality of life of the population is one of the priority tasks of state regulatory influence.

Single-industry towns, as a special type of settlement, reflect the result of spatial differentiation in the country's economic development, aimed at solving key scientific, industrial, and defense tasks and ensuring national security. Most single-industry towns were formed artificially as part of specific industrial projects, which predetermined their highly specialized functional profile and wide differentiation in terms of industry specialization, population size, geographical location, transport accessibility, resource potential, socio-economic status, and other factors.

As a key structural element of the regional economic system, single-industry towns are part of nationwide and interregional cooperation. Single-industry towns are home to about 9% of the country's population and are home to large mining and manufacturing industrial centers. Single-industry towns are included in the list of key settlements in Russia that form the basis for the implementation of the country's Spatial Development Strategy until 2036. The sustainable functioning of single-industry towns not only shapes positive trends in the economic indicators of a particular industry and region, but also affects the quality of life of a significant proportion of Russia's population.

The single-industry nature of the economy and the dependence of the city's socio-economic development processes on the economic stability of the city-forming enterprise have made single-industry towns extremely vulnerable to external economic challenges. Single-industry towns are characterized by such development risks as high unemployment, environmental degradation, infrastructure problems, low quality of social services, underdeveloped business

infrastructure, falling living standards, outflow of the working-age population, and other negative socio-economic manifestations. These risks reduce the competitiveness of single-industry towns relative to areas with diversified economies.

The Russian government is implementing a number of measures to increase the competitiveness of single-industry towns by diversifying the socio-economic processes of urban development, including the labor market. Programs to increase economic diversification are aimed at reducing the dependence of economic processes on the city's main industry and should contribute to improving the quality of life of the population. However, the main vector of development in the region is still set by the city-forming enterprise, which is why negative trends in socio-economic and other development indicators are less pronounced in single-industry towns with a stable city-forming enterprise than in single-industry towns with a depressed city-forming enterprise.

In the context of modern challenges, from macroeconomic fluctuations to demographic changes, the conditions for economic interaction between regions are transforming into a struggle for resources, investment, and state support. In these conditions, the competitiveness of a territory is turning from an abstract theory into a key indicator of a single-industry town's ability to effectively use its own potential to retain and attract resources, ensuring long-term sustainable socio-economic development.

Since the current support programs are uniform for all single-industry towns and do not depend on the type, potential, level of socio-economic status, individual characteristics of development and competitiveness of a particular single-industry town, despite the measures taken, negative trends in socio-economic processes and the dominance of employment of the working-age population in city-forming enterprises persist in most Russian single-industry towns.

There has been a decline in the quality of life of the population and significant demographic transformations due to the outflow of the working-age population, as a result of which the share of age groups is increasing and the share of children and young people in the overall population structure is decreasing.

Currently, the competitiveness of single-industry towns is not taken into account when developing their socio-economic development strategies, and no conceptual framework for competitiveness has been developed as a key factor in investment and social attractiveness. There is no comprehensive methodology for assessing the competitiveness of single-industry towns in order to determine their individual development trajectories. Competitiveness is not taken into account when creating a list of single-industry towns and distributing them into categories according to their level of socio-economic status.

Therefore, despite the existence of approaches to studying the competitiveness of territories and methods for assessing it, some of these approaches and methods need to be refined and supplemented.

The need for scientific research into the competitiveness of single-industry towns and the formation of scientifically based approaches to determining the competitiveness of single-industry towns determined the choice of the topic, goals, and objectives of the dissertation research.

The degree of development of the scientific problem. The specifics of the formation and development trends of single-industry towns are of great interdisciplinary interest to the scientific community. According to data from the eLibrary electronic library, periods of increased scientific publication activity over the past 20 years coincide with crises in the country's socio-economic development. It was during periods of political and socio-economic turmoil in Russia that the most significant events in the functioning of single-industry towns took place, both in socio-economic terms, caused by the exacerbation of existing problems, and in the regulatory and legal field, associated with the need to overcome acute situations.

Significant contributions to the study of the specifics of the socio-economic development of single-industry towns have been made by such scholars as: Animitsa E.G., Animitsa P.E., Baranova S.V., Basareva V.G., Bedriy A.I., Bochko V.S., Bozhko L.L., Bukhvald E.M., Vlasova N.Yu., Goryachenko E.E., Dvoryadkina E.B., Zagoruiko I.Yu., Zuborevich N.V., Ioffe G.V., Ivanova O.P., Kogut A.E., Kuznetsova O.V., Lappo G.M., Medvedeva I.A., Meerovich M.G., Mikheeva N.N., Mikryukov N.Yu., Nekrasova V.G., Peredery A.A., Peshina E.V., Pivovarova Yu.L., Pushkarev V.M., Pyzhev Yu.I., Pytkin A.N., Saushkin Yu.G., Xu Linshi, Treivish A.N., Turgel I.D., Fomin M.V., Khorev B.S., Shikharevich B.S., Shmat V.V., Yakovlev S.Yu. and others.

The following works are devoted to issues of assessing and improving the competitiveness of territories: Animitsa A.G., Venables E., Goetz S., Karlson K., Knyazeva I.V., Kovalenko A.I., Krugman P., Kuznetsova E.R., Mailat D., Manaeva I.V., Pilipenko I.V., Porter M., Selezneva A.Z., Futhutdinova R.A., Fuzhita M., Tsanga V., Shekhovtsova L.S., Enright M., and others.

An analysis of the characteristics of city-forming enterprises is presented in the works of the following scholars: Karpova E.A., Kolesnikov A.I., Lagno O.I., Manaeva I.V., Neklyudova T.A., Orekhovsky P.A., Rastvortseva S.N., Shironina V.M., Yakushenaya T.A., and others.

The purpose of this dissertation research is to develop a methodological approach to the differentiated assessment of the competitiveness factors of single-industry municipalities in order to identify individual, promising areas for their development.

To achieve the aim of the dissertation research, the following tasks need to be set and solved:

1) To investigate the genesis of the formation and development of single-industry municipalities in Russia, taking into account the specifics of Soviet industrialization, for the theoretical justification of trends in the socio-economic development of modern single-industry towns. To study the existing instruments

of state regulatory influence on the competitiveness of single-industry municipalities.

2) To study foreign experience in the development and rehabilitation of single-industry towns. To compare domestic and foreign practices of state support for single-industry municipalities, to assess the possibility of applying foreign experience in shaping the main directions of state policy in the field of their socio-economic development.

3) Conduct a theoretical analysis of the main approaches to assessing the competitiveness of territories; identify the specifics of the competitiveness of single-industry municipalities, examine the conceptual framework of institutional aspects of regulating the development of single-industry towns, including the definition of competitiveness. Adapt the “competitiveness diamond” strategic analysis tool so that it can be applied to the development of strategies and tactics for the functioning of single-industry municipalities.

4) Analyze the specifics of the functioning, trends in socio-economic development, and factors of competitiveness of single-industry municipalities in Russia based on official statistics and author's sociological research. Develop methodological tools for analyzing the competitiveness of single-industry municipalities in order to determine individual, promising trajectories for their development, and test them using the example of the single-industry municipality of Topki.

5) Identify opportunities and propose directions for using an adaptive competitiveness model to develop a model structure for a long-term strategy for the socio-economic development of a single-industry municipality.

The object of the study is the socio-economic development of single-industry municipalities in Russia in the context of competitiveness.

The subject of the study is the factors of competitiveness of single-industry municipalities in Russia that ensure the socio-economic development of the territory.

Field of research. The dissertation profile meets the requirements of the Higher Attestation Commission's scientific specialty passport, code and name 5.2.3. "Regional and Sectoral Economics," Research Areas (by specialization): 1.3. Regional economic development and its factors. Problems of balanced regional development. Balance of regional socio-economic complexes. 1.6. Monitoring of socio-economic development of regions. Regional economic dynamics. 1.9. Problems of regional socio-economic differentiation. Tools for smoothing regional imbalances in the national economy.

Theoretical and methodological basis of the study. As part of the dissertation research, a comprehensive analysis was conducted of the works of leading domestic and foreign economists on a wide range of issues related to the socio-economic development and competitiveness of single-industry towns, as well as materials and recommendations from scientific conferences, symposiums, and seminars.

In conducting applied research, general scientific research methods (comparison, analysis and synthesis, typology, classification, induction and deduction, analogy, comparison) and general theoretical methods (historical, comparative, structural, bibliographic, graphical analysis) were used. The following methods were used to evaluate quantitative indicators: calculation, graphical, economic and statistical, analysis of the dynamics and structure of the parameters under study. To evaluate qualitative indicators, an adaptive competitiveness model, a regression model, and sociological research based on independently developed tools were used: analysis by questionnaire and classification analysis.

The empirical observations and information base were based on: official sources of information from government authorities, legislative and regulatory acts of the Russian Federation: the government, constituent entities, and single-industry municipalities of the Russian Federation; strategies for the socio-economic development of single-industry municipalities; data from the

Federal State Statistics Service of Russia and its territorial divisions; statistical materials from individual single-industry municipalities; reports on international economic research by the World Bank; rating agencies, the results of an independent sociological survey conducted using questionnaires, data and materials from the Institute of City Economics, the Single-Industry Town Development Fund, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, VEB.RF, the works of domestic and foreign economists, materials from the global information network Internet and periodicals.

The most significant results of the dissertation research, containing **scientific novelty and presented for defense:**

1. Periodization of the development of single-industry municipalities in Russia has been carried out. Key stages have been identified that reflect the characteristics of the intensive development of the country's industrial sector during the Soviet period. Unique factors in the development of individual single-industry municipalities have been identified (favorable logistical location; specialized technological chains; unique natural resource potential; concentration of highly skilled personnel with narrow specializations; high degree of interaction with the city's main employer; established industrial infrastructure; recreational opportunities in the territory, and others). The need to transform approaches to researching the socio-economic development of single-industry towns in a competitive environment is justified. Based on the study of Russian and foreign experience, it has been proven that the significant diversity of single-industry towns indicates the impossibility of applying unified solutions to all single-industry municipalities. It is necessary to develop a differentiated system of economic support that takes into account the characteristics of development, the specifics of each single-industry town, and the strategic interests of the state. (Section 1.3 of the Scientific Specialty Passport 5.2.3. Regional and Sectoral Economics).

2. For the first time, a substantive definition of the concept of “single-industry town competitiveness” has been formulated. The theoretical model of the “territorial competitiveness diamond” has been adapted to systematically identify the competitive advantages of single-industry municipalities. The model has been supplemented with new structural elements that contain the fundamental factors of competitiveness of single-industry municipalities: “Regulatory factors,” “City-forming enterprise,” and “Local initiatives.” In the structure of classical determinants, competitiveness factors are divided into those common to diversified and single-industry territories and those specific only to single-industry municipalities. Specific factors include: industrial specialization; unique resource and industrial potential; financial and economic stability of city-forming enterprises; specifics of the labor market with single-industry employment; high concentration of production assets; developed industrial infrastructure; technological connectivity of production processes; historically established identity of the population. (Section 1.6 of the Scientific Specialty Passport 5.2.3. Regional and Sectoral Economics).

3. Based on the author's database of socio-economic development indicators for single-industry municipalities and the results of a sociological survey of residents, a methodology for analyzing competitiveness has been developed. The methodology is based on the application of an adaptive competitiveness model, analysis of the characteristics of interaction between the main stakeholders in the territory, and use of a matrix of possible directions for the development of single-industry municipalities developed by the author. The results of the competitiveness analysis allow us to determine the directions for further strategic development of single-industry municipalities based on the principles of competitiveness. (p.1.9 of the Scientific Specialty Passport 5.2.3. Regional and Sectoral Economics).

4. A structural model with transformed model elements of a long-term strategy for the socio-economic development of a single-industry municipality has

been developed, based on the implementation of the proposed methodological approach to determining the competitiveness of a single-industry town, taking into account the individual competitive advantages of the territory. The application of the proposed structure with adaptive model elements allows for the most rational and comprehensive formation of a city development strategy based on an objective assessment of the competitiveness of the territory. A unified structural and typological framework creates the basis for the creation and systematization of best practices for the strategic development of single-industry municipalities and ensures transparency and continuity in the implementation of support programs for single-industry municipalities. (Section 1.9 of the Scientific Specialty Passport 5.2.3. Regional and Sectoral Economics).

The theoretical significance of the dissertation research lies in the development of theoretical and methodological provisions that can contribute to a more objective determination of the factors of competitiveness and competitive advantages of single-industry towns in a comparable field of similar territories.

The practical significance of the dissertation research lies in the possibility of applying the research results obtained by federal, regional, and municipal authorities in developing and refining programs to support the development of single-industry municipalities, in the development or adjustment of long-term strategies for the socio-economic development of single-industry municipalities, using a structural-typical strategy framework, which implies an increase in their competitiveness, growth in socio-economic indicators, improvement in the quality of life of the local population, and optimization of the strategic planning processes for the development of single-industry towns.

The main provisions of the study can be used in teaching economic and management disciplines when considering issues of managing the competitiveness of single-industry territories.

Approval of research results and publications. The author has published four articles on the topic of the dissertation in periodicals listed by the Higher

Attestation Commission of the Russian Federation, one article in a publication included in the core of the Russian Science Citation Index, and 11 articles in scientific collections and periodicals indexed by the Russian Science Citation Index.

The results of the scientific research have been presented at international, all-Russian, and regional scientific and practical conferences:

- VIII International Symposium on Regional Economics (Yekaterinburg, 2025);
- XVI Ural Demographic Forum “FACTORS AND MECHANISMS OF DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT” (Yekaterinburg, 2025);
- XIII Economic Readings: Global Challenges and Vectors of Regional Socio-Economic Development (Tomsk, 2023);
- III International Scientific and Practical Conference of the SIU RANEPa (Novosibirsk, 2022);
- Institutional Transformation of the Economy: People and Society (Tomsk, 2021);
- International Scientific and Practical Conference on Urbanology: Modern Russian Cities: Degradation or Revival? (Moscow, 2021);
- XVI International Autumn Conference of Young Scientists in Novosibirsk Akademgorodok “Current Issues in Economics and Sociology” (Novosibirsk, 2020);
- Lomonosov International Scientific Conference of Students, Postgraduates, and Young Scientists (Moscow, 2019, 2020);
- Jubilee International Scientific Conference X Valenteev Readings “Strategic Tasks of Demographic Development: Priorities and Regional Features” (Moscow, 2020). And others.

The structure of the dissertation is presented in three chapters, an introduction and conclusion, a list of references (172 sources), and appendices (14). The main content of the work is presented in 200 pages of typed text

(excluding the list of references and appendices). The work contains 19 figures and 54 tables.

The first chapter “Theoretical Aspects of the Functioning of Russian Single-Industry Municipalities,” the main approaches to defining the concept of territorial competitiveness are examined, and it is noted that the specific nature of the development of Russian single-industry towns requires the adaptation of traditional aspects of competitiveness theory, taking into account the need to balance the strategy of competitive resource defense with the search for new directions for territorial development. A definition of single-industry town competitiveness is formulated, which the author recommends for implementation in the regulatory and legal framework. The spatial development of the country is periodized, and the main features of single-industry town development that differ from diversified territories are identified. Based on an analysis of the scientific community's approaches to solving the problems of single-industry towns, three basic directions for their solution are identified: resettlement of residents, increasing the level of economic diversification, and supporting the city-forming base. The main directions of state policy in the field of economic support for single-industry towns have been studied. It has been noted that during the evolution of the regulatory and legal framework, the criteria for classifying territories as single-industry have changed, while labor market diversification has been taken into account throughout the entire period under review.

It has been noted that the participation of single-industry towns in support programs is associated with a number of institutional, budgetary, and managerial barriers. A study of foreign experience has shown that the significant diversity of single-industry towns indicates that it is impossible to apply uniform solutions to the transformation of the economies of these territories and requires the development of a differentiated system of economic support measures, taking into account the characteristics of development, the specifics of each single-industry town, and the strategic interests of the state.

The competitiveness diamond model has been adapted to enable the study of the competitive advantages of single-industry towns.

The second chapter, “Analysis of the Impact of Competitiveness Factors on the Socio-Economic Development of Single-Industry Municipalities,” analyzes trends in the socio-economic development of single-industry towns. It reveals a profound differentiation among single-industry towns in Russia and shows that there is a general trend of increasing migration outflow from single-industry towns, which is formed by the working-age population. It indicates that the depletion of human capital as a significant factor of competitiveness has a negative impact on the attractiveness of the territory for key stakeholders. A correlation analysis confirmed a weak link between the level of employment in small businesses and the overall development indicators of single-industry towns, which highlights the need to revise the diversification strategy that is uniform for all single-industry towns.

An assessment of the state's regulatory instruments for influencing the competitiveness of single-industry towns revealed that the implementation of support measures for single-industry towns has led to positive trends in curbing negative socio-economic effects in single-industry towns, but these trends are not fundamental in nature.

An analysis of the population's perception of the possible socio-economic effects of single-industry town development showed that, despite the policy of economic diversification, the population continues to have strong migration sentiments. The main motivations for moving are: the state of the labor market, the low quality of social infrastructure and services provided to the population, environmental risks, the poor condition of roads, limited recreational opportunities, and reduced opportunities for children's development. The population is poorly informed about existing support programs for single-industry towns and is not involved in the management of single-industry towns. An

imbalance has been identified between the priorities of the authorities and the population's perception of the problems of single-industry towns.

The third chapter, “Main directions and mechanisms for the development of single-industry municipalities, taking into account competitiveness factors,” proposes a methodology for identifying promising areas of development for single-industry towns based on identified competitive advantages. It highlights the importance of integrating competitive advantages into the strategic planning of a single-industry town's socio-economic development. The proposed methodology includes seven stages and is based on an analysis of the competitive advantages of the territory using an adaptive diamond model of competitiveness. An analysis of the competitive advantages of a single-industry town was carried out using the adaptive diamond model of competitiveness on the example of the single-industry town of Topki. The possibilities of using the adaptive diamond model of competitiveness in the development of a strategy for the socio-economic development of a single-industry town are indicated. A structural-typical structure with transformed model elements of a long-term strategy for the socio-economic development of a single-industry town is proposed, which allows for the systematization of practical approaches to managing a single-industry town, taking into account the competitive advantages of the territory and ensuring the targeted nature of support measures. The necessity of creating a database of best practices and strategic planning for single-industry towns is justified in order to transform the economy and increase the competitiveness of single-industry towns with similar development trajectories.