

## **Regional Strategizing as a Mechanism of Regional Policy in Russia**

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The most important feature of regional development in Russia is the fact that a value of regional disparities is huge and considerably higher than not only in developed countries but also in EU between countries. Moreover, such issues of territorial organization of economy as an uneven distribution of natural resources, low population density, sparsity of the cities, and the increased costs of overcoming long distances lead to the widening of the gap between regions.

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In Russia, regional strategy of economic and social development as a tool of regional policy is the main document of strategic planning system at sub-national level. It determines priorities, goals and objectives of territory development.

The research reflects the current situation and trends in the field of regional strategizing. The strategies' contents for their compliance with the formulated criteria in 2007 and 2015 were studied. We used our own methodology based on qualitative and quantitative documentary analysis. Regional strategies and forecasts as normative legal acts were reviewed. Several basic elements of regional strategies have been chosen: objectives, analysis of economic and social development, choice of strategic alternatives, its economic relations with neighboring regions, analysis of regional economy sectors, SWOT of a region, financial resources for strategy realization. Regional forecasts were studied by the presence of scenarios.

There is a positive progressive development of strategizing in the contemporary Russia. Over the past decade, the number of regional strategies has increased significantly. Their contents have been improved. In all documents, there is an analysis of economic and social situation including strengths and weaknesses of development, geographical and historical features. The majority of documents contains analysis of region's economic relations with other regions. However, general vectors of regional interaction are only given without mechanisms for its implementation. The analysis allows highlighting a few strategies, which reflect unique characteristics of a particular territory.

There is a gap in terms of substantial instructions for regional strategies' contents. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt a common methodology of strategizing at the federal level. The concept should not contain formalized requirements for documents, it is necessary to fix the basic requirements for the strategies' contents and to improve a quality of strategizing and evaluation of achievement degree of planned development objectives.