

On the Results of the 16th All-Russian Research-to-Practice Conference “New Trends in Socio-Cultural Evolution in Russia’s Regions”



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As part of the 6th All-Russian Sociological Congress, dated November 12, 2021, the 16th All-Russian Research-to-Practice Conference “New trends in socio-cultural evolution in Russia’s regions” was held. The organizers were the Vologda Research Center of RAS, the Institute of Philosophy of RAS, and Tyumen State University.

The conference was attended by representatives of seven regions of the Russian Federation (Moscow, Kursk, Tyumen, Perm, Vologda, Ufa, Yekaterin-

burg) and Poland. Reports were delivered on the research results within the framework of the interregional program “Problems of socio-cultural evolution of Russia and its regions”, devoted to the topics of building the regional socio-cultural portrait, studying youth and their life world including rural youth, human capital development, social identity, effectiveness of various institutions and tools for managing territories. In the reports, the speakers touched upon the impact of the current

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situation with the coronavirus pandemic on the problems under study. Fifty nine people took part in the discussion of the results during the conference. The listeners actively engaged in a heated discussion about the state of the healthcare system, trust between the population and the authorities, and other problems that worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic in Russia's regions.

In the introductory speech, Director of Vologda Research Center of RAS, Doctor of Sciences (Economics), Associate Professor *A.A. Shabunova* has spoken about the results of the work of Vologda Research Center of RAS as coordinator of the program "Problems of socio-cultural evolution of Russia and its regions" in 2020 and 2021. This is the updating of data in the Modernization information system, the formation and filling of the program website for the exchange of up-to-date information with participants and creation of a project history. Important research results have also been presented: the publication of a series of articles on the study of extreme inequalities, obtaining a certificate of state registration of the database "Family of centile coefficients of income inequalities of the macrostrate population", work on the multi-volume *Regions of new Russia*.

Scientific Director of Vologda Research Center of RAS, RAS Corresponding Member, Doctor of Sciences (Economics), Professor *V.A. Ilyin* has noted the importance and relevance of the program "Problems of socio-cultural evolution of Russia and its regions" in strengthening traditional Russian spiritual and moral values, preserving the cultural and historical heritage of Russian people; he reflected the main historical milestones of Vologda scientists' participation in it, urged those present to support and develop the traditions of the Society "Knowledge"; it means that he set a task for the wide dissemination of scientific knowledge, based on reliable information about objective processes existing in our society.

L.A. Belyaeva (Doctor of Sciences (Sociology), Leading Researcher, CIS Institute of Philosophy of RAS) has made a report "Youth in modern Russia: What do we know about it?". She has stressed that the uneven, asymmetric development of Russia's regions and territories generates the effect of unequal conditions for youth's development; the author has noted that close human relations retain an enduring value for young people. However, young people are wary of other people, believing that the desire to take care only of themselves dominates in the relationship between people. She is quite unanimous in ranking the problems that bother her, mainly related to personal well-being – material and psychological. Family's conflicts, a break with loved ones worry more than 50% of respondents. The majority of modern adult youth have a fairly high self-esteem, optimism increases from the younger to the older group.

A.A. Shabunova (Doctor of Sciences (Economics), Associate Professor, Director, VolRC RAS) turns to the analysis of the modernization asymmetry of Russian territories. The material for the analysis was obtained using the updated content of the IP "Modernization"¹. The stage of primary modernization in Russia is fully completed; the secondary one is only 78% complete. The reason is the decline in the index of innovation in knowledge due to low funding for R&D and insufficient inventive activity of the population (the latter indicator has almost doubled compared to 2000, the former one has decreased from 47.8% in 2000 to 43.9% in 2017), economic quality index (66.2%). The Integrated Modernization Index increased significantly from 2000 to 2017, amounting to 71.8% in Russia as a whole. Low research and development costs and patent activity of the population are also constraining factors.

¹ State registration certificate of intellectual property no. 2012661285, dated December 11, 2012.

Significant progress was made in the indicators of modernization balance. In 2017, there were no districts left in the group with a low level of balance (in 2000 there were 6 macro-regions in it), and 5 out of 8 districts were in the group with a high and above average level. The pace of modernization in the Central District decreased with their initially high value in the 2000s. Other macro-regions have shown significant progress in this direction. However, the asymmetry in the regions' development is not decreasing, but growing: the gap in the index of integrated modernization has increased from 16.6 p.p. in 2000, up to 20.2 p.p. in 2017. Aleksandra A. Shabunova has devoted the second part of the report to the changes in society during the pandemic, namely, the impact of the "coronacrisis" on the development of small and medium-sized businesses, transformation of production chains and consumption patterns, aggravation of digital inequality problem, deterioration of the financial situation and psychological well-being of the population.

R.M. Valiakhmetov (Candidate of Sciences (Sociology), Associate Professor, Dean, Bashkir State University), **G.R. Baymurzina** (Candidate of Sciences (Economics), Director, Bashkir Branch of the Federal Research and Development Center of RAS) have noted that the conceptual basis of Russia's national projects is the idea of human development, which focuses on the main goals, objectives and priorities of social policy: improving the standard of living and quality of life, saving the nation and strengthening its health, building human capital, which is a reflection of humanistic goals and at the same time a response to modern challenges. The low living standard of Russians and related demographic problems pose a significant threat to economic security and social stability. The coefficient of inequality between people, calculated as the arithmetic mean of three indicators (income, education and longevity), is lower in Russia than the average in all countries with a very high

human development index (HDI). According to the aggregate indicator of inequality, Russia falls into the top 20% of countries (35th out of 176 countries for which coefficients were calculated in 2018). During the assessment of Russia's situation on the main components of human development, the authors have revealed that Russia stood out for the low life expectancy (108th place in the world). In many countries, even with an average level of human development, this indicator is higher. In terms of the production of gross national income per capita, the gap between Russia and the leaders of the HDI rating is 2.7 times. In recent years, the country's socio-economic development has been characterized not only by low growth rates of macroeconomic indicators, but also by deterioration in the social well-being and quality of life. Therefore, it is necessary to take into account the full range of conditions and factors affecting the development of human potential, and hence the implementation of priority national projects in Russia.

Using the case of the Voronezh and Kursk oblasts, **E.A. Kogai** (Doctor of Sciences (Philosophy), Professor, Kursk State University) has revealed a range of problems, related to the implementation of priority national projects of the Russian Federation for the period through to 2024. The author has presented the perception of the changes being implemented by the regions' residents. Based on the analysis of focus group materials, the report proves that financial problems and institutional obstacles create significant difficulties for the implementation of national projects in the Voronezh Oblast: decisions are often made by those who are not interested in the results of their activities. Accordingly, there is a need to form a new architecture and new executive authorities. In the Kursk Oblast, respondents note the importance of solving socio-economic problems, increasing wages, developing small businesses, and improving the quality of medical services. During the speech,

E.A. Kogai concludes that in the designated regions, the national projects of the Russian Federation are adequately reflected in new regional strategies (for the period through to 2030 or 2035), are filled with specific content and adopted taking into account social wishes and moods.

In the report “Managing trends in the human capital development in the municipal districts of Russia’s region”, *N.M. Lavrenyuk-Isaeva* (Candidate of Sciences (Sociology), Associate Professor, Bashkir State University) has named several reasons for the difficulties of the human capital development in the municipal districts of the country’s region. The imbalance in the development of human resources in the municipalities of the Republic of Bashkortostan according to the adapted methodology of the UNDP HDI amounted to more than 0.122 p. As a result of a series of foresight sessions attended by 195 local experts, data are obtained that allows forming a common vision of trends, and determining an agreed “vision of the future” with a differentiated horizon for the short, medium and long term.

E.B. Plotnikova (Candidate of Sciences (History), Associate Professor, Perm State National Research University) and *Y.S. Markova* (Candidate of Sciences (Sociology), Associate Professor, Perm State National Research University) have considered the role of socio-cultural projects of industrial enterprises in the formation of the social identity of the population of municipalities. The authors have conducted a study in four municipalities of Perm Krai using the case study method. Using the example of the project activity of Lukoil-Perm LLC, the researchers show that grant projects of residents of territories on various topics have the main goal – the formation of various types of self-consciousness of the population in the conditions of social changes, associated with the projects’ implementation. Socio-cultural projects influence the formation and development of the territorial identity (local, regional, national), as well

as subcultural identity within local communities. Cultural projects are aimed at the cultural and subcultural identity of the individual, projects aimed at preserving the historical memory, and solve the problems of national identity. During the analysis, the authors conclude that the socio-cultural projects of industrial enterprises not only stimulate local patriotism, but also form identification with the inhabitants of the region and the country, and also contribute to preventing the risks of forming residents’ negative identity.

The study by *E.A. Nastina* (HSE Master) and *A.M. Alamakaeva* (Candidate of Sciences (Sociology), Associate Professor, HSE) is devoted to various ratings that can be used to assess and compare development rate of civil society in Russia’s entities. The ratings and classifications, identified on the basis of the scientific literature review, are grouped by subject of research as follows: 1) civic attitudes and practices; 2) intersectoral social partnership; 3) factors in the development of civil society and charity; 4) political activity. The use of correlation analysis allows demonstrating that even methods similar in content and set of indicators give significantly different results. The main reasons for the differences are both the features of conceptualization and operationalization of civil society, as well as the methods of clustering or calculating ratings. The authors note the need to create a more coordinated approach to measuring the development of civil society in order to further implement a correct analysis of the factors contributing to its activation or stagnation in Russia’s regions.

In the report “Economic inequality in the Russian macroregion (the case of the Central Chernozem Region)”, *Yu.M. Pasovets* (Candidate of Sciences (Sociology), Associate Professor, Kursk State University) has revealed the specifics of the socio-economic stratification profile of the macroregional community that has developed to date and dynamics of population’s monetary

incomes that has influenced its formation, observed in recent years. Based on the analysis of the population survey results, conducted in 2020 in the Voronezh, Kursk and Lipetsk oblasts (N = 1200 people), based on the standard program and methodology “Socio-cultural portrait of Russia’s region”, the author reveals that in the subjective dimension of socio-economic inequality in the macroregion, the middle and lower strata are the most widespread, the scale of subjectively perceived poverty is several times greater than its statistical indicators. At the same time, the socio-stratification identification is characterized by a numerical predominance of those who consider themselves to be middle strata, which can be interpreted as a kind of subjective compensation for low economic situation.

M.A. Gruzdeva (Candidate of Sciences (Economics), Senior Researcher, VolRC RAS) has devoted the report to the analysis of digital gaps in the countries of the world and Russian territories. The author draws conclusions about the presence of digital inequality of the first level in the world, despite a significant decrease in the countries’ differentiation by Internet penetration. The report reveals that Russia, against the background of other countries, demonstrates a significant increase in the share of Internet users, within the Russian regions, despite the decrease in the coefficients of variation, there are elements of the digital divide.

G.F. Romashkina (Doctor of Sciences (Sociology), Professor, Tyumen State University) has presented the results of studying the interactions of social and human capital in the case of the Tyumen Oblast. Human and social capital as multidimensional constructions demonstrating personal success in work, his involvement in social communication, willingness to attract his social capital to solve specific work tasks, increase his competitiveness in the labor market, are tested on the basis of special socio-economic

and psychological-economic methods². An important problem is the signs of success in the implementation and management of human capital. For example, in the Tyumen Oblast, the managers and owners of the materials of in-depth interviews of businesses declare, but in reality do not show activity in the human capital development, do not consider this task important. The management of human capital and the inclusion of their employees in the consideration of the social capital remain beyond the possibilities, according to almost all surveyed entrepreneurs.

E.V. Andrianova (Candidate of Sciences (Sociology), Senior Researcher, Tyumen State University, West Siberian Branch of FCTAS RAS) has revealed the socio-cultural aspects of rural development, as well as its possibilities and limitations. The empirical base of the work is based on a series of studies, conducted in 2020–2021: expert and in-depth interviews (91 interviews, 2020, three categories of experts: business, government, public organizations, coverage: 12 municipal districts of the region), 9 focus groups (2021, with a visit to the Tyumen Oblast districts), residents’ mass survey of the south of the Tyumen Oblast (a total of 1,723 people over 18 years old)³.

D.I. Shashkin (Laboratory Researcher, Tyumen State University) has highlighted the problems of rural areas affecting personnel issues and youth’s outflow. Institutional changes after economic reforms did not sufficiently contribute to the development of entrepreneurial structures in rural areas. The agricultural directions show growth against the background of youth’s outflow, rural degradation and shortage of highly qualified personnel due to entrepreneurship. Understanding the image of a modern rural entrepreneur provides

² The reported study was funded by the RFBR, project no. 19-29-07131.

³ The reported study was carried out as part of the implementation of the RFBR grant no. 20-011-00087.

an opportunity to determine the conditions and problems of developing rural entrepreneurship and its living environment. Resourceful entrepreneurs are implementing concrete measures to retain young people in rural areas and attract them to agriculture: cooperation with educational institutions, organization of production practices and excursions, graduates' employment, provision of decent wages, housing and working conditions.

In the report, *A.N. Tarasova* (Candidate of Sciences (Sociology), Associate Professor, Ural Federal University) analyzes new practices of working with young people in the city administration system. The author notes that social participation level of the Sverdlovsk Oblast students in city life has changed due to the pandemic. The share of active participants increased from 25 to 36%. The researcher makes conclusion about the instability of social participation. Despite the situational involvement in certain practices of social participation, as before, almost half of the young people surveyed have noted their unwillingness to continue it. In the course of the study, four groups of factors have been identified that determine the activity of youth inclusion in the socio-cultural development of their hometowns. Based on the analysis of cases of social urban projects implemented with the youth's participation, the practices of involving students in the socio-cultural development of the Sverdlovsk Oblast cities have been identified. The report also notes the problem of territorial inequality, which limits the potential of social participation of young people, especially in small towns and urban-type settlements.

M.M. Yusupov (Candidate of Sciences (Sociology), Associate Professor, Chechen State University) has considered the features of innovative development of a post-conflict region in the conditions of restoration of industrial, economic and socio-cultural infrastructure. The author points out that federal targeted programs have

contributed to the reintegration of Chechnya life spheres into the all-Russian space, the economy's reconstruction, but the republic is at a low level of primary modernization, the preliminary stage of secondary modernization, the indices of economic conditions of innovation, scientific and technical developments are low. At the same time, the social informatization indicator is high, traditional values prevail in the regional community, orientation to the values of conservation and collectivism.

In the report "Institutional forms of rural development" *V.A. Davydenko* (Doctor of Sciences (Sociology), Professor, Tyumen State University) has justified the relevance of the topic by the cardinal institutional changes in Russian agriculture that occurred in 2001–2021. He emphasizes that in the context of real practices of rural development, the phenomenon of justice remains debatable. Currently, there is no clear scientific understanding of the role and in which industries agricultural holdings play, how effective they are and whether the state's bet on their support is justified giving access to large resources through development institutions. Agro-industrial companies are growing rapidly, almost regardless of market conditions, variable yields factors, saturation of domestic demand and competition level. There are quite a lot of complete agricultural holdings in Russia, almost the entire state policy of supporting agricultural producers is aimed at strengthening them; the owners of full agricultural holdings in most cases are "new operators" who were not previously associated with agriculture, brought capital from other industries, have close commercial ties with the authorities.

According to *E.V. Kargapolova* (Doctor of Sciences (Sociology), Associate Professor, Professor, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics) and *Yu.A. Davydova* (Candidate of Sciences (History), Associate Professor, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics), the most important components of the social well-being of the regional community are indicators of territorial

and settlement identity. The research group of the Department of Political Science and Sociology carried out a specific sociological study among residents of the Moscow agglomeration using an online questionnaire. Respondents were asked the question “To what extent do you feel your closeness or remoteness (“your” – “someone else’s”) with such people?” The results of the responses show the predominance of local settlement identity in the Moscow agglomeration, as well as in other regions of Russia. However, in the Moscow agglomeration, local-territorial identity is lower

than in other entities. Perhaps this is due to significant interregional migration flows to Moscow and the Moscow Oblast. There is a large proportion of the population that has already managed to “break away” from the familiar environment of its region, but does not yet identify itself with the inhabitants of the agglomeration.

At the end of the conference, the participants discussed the research prospects under the program “Problems of socio-cultural evolution of Russia and its regions” including the possibility of initiating a grant study.

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