STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN REDUCING THE INTER-REGIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE DIFFERENTIATION IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICY SYSTEM

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The article considers the mechanism of working out strategic measures aimed at the reduction of territorial quality of life asymmetry in the regional policy system. This mechanism is based on the measurement procedure of the differentiation in the quality of life among the population in the subjects of the Russian Federation. The procedure includes the application of cluster analysis and rating building methods in the context of integral components of the quality of life.

The study of global experience argues that the problem-solving of regional socio-economic policy leads to the only optimum solution - to the Pareto-optimum combination of the cost-effectiveness of production activity and social justice of the territorial distribution of the created goods and services. The important guideline of this policy must be the integral quality of life indicator. The main requirement for the set of instruments of its estimation must be correspondence to the current analytical tasks, first of all, to the task of liquidation of the sharpest regional disproportions and gradual reduction in the differentiation of Russian regions according to this indicator.

The development of the territorial quality of life asymmetry leveling strategy includes four interfacing stages:

I. The substantiation of the integrated structure of regional quality of life.

II. The measurement of the degree of regional differentiation according to the integral quality of life components:

♦ the identification of priority tasks of regional socio-economic policy;

♦ selection and substantiation of quantitative indicators of the task solution productivity;

♦ clusterization of the regions according to the task solution efficiency in the context of quality of life components;

♦ rating the regional clusters in the view of integral quality of life components.

III. Regions clusterization according to the efficiency of task solution of quality of life asymmetry reduction and detection of the role of separate indicators in the formation of integral quality of life clusters.

IV. The substantiation of strategic measures aimed at the reduction of territorial quality of life asymmetry.

The problem of quality of life asymmetry decrease among the subjects of the Russian Federation is aggravated by the absence of a generally acknowledged formalized structure and a uniform set of indicators. We will define the quality of life structure in the form of such co-operating integral components as:

♦ quality of population: life expectancy, standard of education, qualification, etc.;

♦ material welfare of the population: basic indicators of the standard of living and the degree of satisfaction of material and spiritual needs;

♦ quality of social sphere: the level of working conditions, social protection, etc.;

♦ environmental quality: the data on air, water pollution, etc.

Characteristics of the given aggregated components can be used as the criteria for estimating the results of socio-economic development of subjects of the Russian Federation and the country in total, reflecting the degree of regional management efficiency.

The indicators are presented in table 1. The indicators are unified according to the 10-marks scale and used for cluster analysis of the subjects of the Russian Federation. These procedures allowed measuring the quality of life differentiation among the regions by calculating the regional clusters ratings according to the formula (1) and the activities of ratings variation (table 2).

The analysis of the subjects of the Russian Federation shows that the maximum rating is appropriated to the federal centers of Moscow and Saint-Petersburg (table 3). Thus, it is pos-

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Indicators of integral properties of quality of life (under the statistical data for 2007)

Problems of the socio-economic regional policy	Indicators	Regional differences	
		max	min
Quality of life of the population			
Decrease in rates of natural decline of the population, life span increase, health assurance of the population	Overall morbidity rate (OMR), %	24,4	4,5
Handling the tendency of deterioration of the demographic situation	The factor of more senior able-bodied age per 1000 persons of able-bodied age (FDL), people	441	104
Creation of the system of educational projects	Share of having higher education among economically active population, standard of education (SE), %	25,9	3,6
Material welfare			
Increase of competitiveness of regional economy	The total regional product (TRP), thousand rbl.	1004	85,6
Decline of poverty level	Share of the population with per capita monetary incomes below living minimum, %	61,9	10,1
Suppression of property stratification	Factor of funds, times	38,6	7,6
Stabilisation of the standard of living of the population, creation of a firm basis for its improvement	The relation of monetary incomes of households to the living wage, %	716,5	135,4
Market grouping of reasonable habitation, increase of its quality	Floor living area per inhabitant (the tumbledown and average housing resources are not taken into account), m^2	28,32	8,54
Quality of social sphere			
Increase of employment rate	Employment rate, %	75,5	21,8
Increase of regional appeal for its inhabitants; regulation of migratory processes taking into account strategic problems of regional development	Factor of migratory gain per 10000 persons of the population, people	82	-154
Development of science, national innovative system and technologies	Share of internal expenses on research and development in TRP, %	5,68	0,02
Environment quality			
Considerable improvement of ecological living conditions of the person	The economic damage to health from environmental contamination per person, rbl.	3684	46,3

**Asymmetry indicators of integral components of quality of life
(based on statistical data for 2007)**

Integral components of quality of life	Rating		Frequency rate, times	Coefficient of variation, %	Asymmetry interpretation
	max	min			
Quality of life of the population	7,60	3,96	1,92	33,8	High enough
Material welfare	7,49	1,99	3,89	41,8	Very high
Quality of social sphere	8,01	2,33	3,44	37,2	High
Environment quality	8,99	0,87	10,37	58,4	Ultrahigh

sible to conclude that both federal centers are *leaders with the expressed problem of ageing.* Hence, the strategy of overcoming the quality of life asymmetry in this group of regions should depend on the measures of regulating the demographic development, including:

♦ the creation of a stronger healthcare system;

♦ granting social and economic conditions for parents to be able to bring up two and more children;

♦ guaranteeing the accordance of quantitative and qualitative characteristics of migration

**Region-leaders and region-outsiders by quality of population
(according to the statistical data for 2007)**

Groups of regions	Rating	Subjects of the RF	OMR		FDL		SE	
			OMR, %	Class	FDL, people	Class	SE, %	Class
Region-leaders	7,603	Moscow	6,168	1	338	3	25,994	1
		Saint-Petersburg	7,275	1	379	4	21,015	1
Region-outsiders	3,964	Yaroslavl Region	12,035	3	389	4	11,24	3
		Republic of Karelia	15,706	5	297	3	10,903	3
		Arkhangelsk Region	13,213	4	289	3	8,95	4
		Republic of Bashkortostan	12,839	4	300	3	8,395	4
		Mari El Republic	13,292	4	283	3	12,279	2
		Udmurt Republic	13,305	4	277	3	8,882	4
		Chuvash Republic	14,963	5	306	3	10,053	3
		Nizhny Novgorod Region	15,691	5	380	4	12,107	2
		Penza Region	14,039	4	383	4	10,057	3
		Kurgan Region	15,849	5	348	4	6,788	5
		Republic of Khakassia	14,352	4	268	2	8,19	4
		Altai Krai	15,403	5	313	3	10,037	3
		Krasnoyarsk Krai	13,720	4	265	2	10,628	3
		Irkutsk Region	14,344	4	267	2	11,374	3
		Tomsk Region	13,305	4	257	2	13,402	2

streams for the purpose of social and economic development;

♦ more complete utilization of working potential of the persons of pre-retirement and early retirement age, as well as creating the conditions which ensure prolonged, active life of the persons of the middle age.

Region-outsiders demonstrate high and very high level of morbidity (besides Yaroslavl Region with the average value of this parameter). In this group most of regions have average and high values of the coefficient of demographic load (besides Republic of Khakassia, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Irkutsk Region and Tomsk. Practically, all subjects demonstrate average, low and very low standard of education (except Tomsk Region, Nizhny Novgorod Region and Mari El Republic with high values of this parameter). Regions of this cluster can be named *problematic*. Thus, the strategy for this group of regions must be oriented toward the measures for the asymmetry reduction in standards of health and education, and also for addressing the issues of the demographic situation.

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