

## **PRESENT-DAY PROBLEMS OF REGIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BASHKORTOSTAN**

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This article deals with the problems of regional policy and the administrative-territorial restructuring of the Republic of Bashkortostan. It is suggested to administer a policy on the ground of new regional socio-economic micro systems.

Presently a search of new stable competitive benefits based on the natural and geographic peculiarities and the cultural and image difference which is unrepeatable in other regions of the country and in the world goes on against the background of the obvious tendency to the growth of two opposite phenomena: globalization and regionalization.

The transformation of the world competitive environment takes place, and individual regions begin to stand out as independent entities in the international relations.

The Strategies of the Republic of Bashkortostan up to 2020 year have been developed. The long-range goals of this program are: to position Bashkortostan as a strong Russian region and to raise the quality of life of its inhabitants up to the level of the world standard.

Implementation of these Strategies is entirely possible by virtue of transition to a new model of the regional development, formation of innovative economic model of Bashkortostan which will be able to provide the raise of effectiveness and competitiveness of this region and the raise of competitiveness of human capital assets.

One of the main conditions for implementing the goals and objectives determined in the Strategies is formation of a modern regional policy in the republic on the assumption of new market approaches and on the base of regional socio-economic microsystems.

According to the investigations conducted in 1969-1985 by the department of economic research of Bashkir branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences economic complex of Bashkortostan was subdivided into seven economic subdistricts and ten socio-economic subsystems were distinguished within them.

But former subdistricts and socio-economic subsystems taken for the collection of statistics lost their scientific and applied significance. They should be modernized for the implementation of a new model of the regional development because neither effective management nor dynamic regional development in the Republic is ensured now.

Present republican administrative-territorial system was also formed in the Soviet period and met the requirement of a planned economy and a strict centralized regional control. For example, present rural districts as administrative-territorial units were formed in the thirties and they were particularly adapted to the system of collective and state farms.

What problems of administrative-territorial system are currently central?

The main problems are due to the fact that Republic of Bashkortostan falls into agrarian regions for the quantity of its rural population. Up to 40.4% live in rural community. It is more than in the Russian Federation (27%) and neighboring territories.

The general problem in rural areas is the problem of the sale of products from personal subsidiary plots and a high unemployment rate. One more serious problem of the agrarian sector is its low efficiency, noncompetitiveness at the liberalized market, territorial productive isolation. On the contrary a market demands a more wider diversification, the development of both intersectorial and horizontal relations.

The next problem of the administrative-territorial system results from the present socio-economic policy of the republic where creation of a competitive economy on the base of the innovative susceptibility and the energies of commodity producers, a raise of the level of

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the territorial financial and economic self-sufficiency and the quality of people life.

The above-listed problems prove the incontestability of the need to change present administrative-territorial system. Besides it is impossible to develop such division of labor that could create the all scopes of activity which are required for the system survival of the population in 54 administrative districts and 21 towns of the republic in the circumstances where there is insufficiency of material and financial resource.

In this respect the idea of forming administrative-territorial entities of more large-scale with urban cores proposed by A. H. Makhmutov deserves attention. In his opinion such entities could include 3-5 present-day rural areas with one or more towns. In those territorial entities where there are no towns the largest rural communities should reorganize into towns. The formation of large-scale regions does not mean the liquidation of the existing districts - there can be an area with an urban centre.

Such principle of reforming the republican territorial system firstly, gives the possibility to use the territorial natural, economic and labor potential, secondly, it allows to concentrate investments and to implement large-scale

projects, thirdly, to carry out market reforms more efficiently and to activate the development of the urbanized process.

Suggested Tuimazy-Octyabrsky regional socio-economic microsystem of Republic of Bashkortostan unites 2 towns of Tuimazy and Octyabrsky and 4 rural districts - Bakalinsky, Buzdyaksky, Tuimazinsky and Sharansky. The region occupies 5.3% of the total area (7. 545 thousand square km.) and 8% of the population of the Republic of Bashkortostan (323.8 thousand people).

Close social and economic relations are the ground of the inclusion above-mentioned districts into Tuimazy-Octyabrsky microsystem.

Tuimazy-Octyabrsky regional socio-economic microsystem can be one of 15-20 large-scale new competitive territorial systems of Republic of Bashkortostan highly developed in social and socio-cultural meaning.

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