
Editorial

Irina D. Turgel*

Ural Federal University,
620002, Sverdlovsk Oblast,
Yekaterinburg, Mira Str. 19, Russia
Email: i.d.turgel@urfu.ru
*Corresponding author

Andrey Berezin

The Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University),
117198, Miklukho-Maklaya Str. 6, Moscow
Email: aberezin@alumni.harvard.edu

Biographical notes: Irina D. Turgel is a Doctor of Economics and Professor. She is the Director of School of Economics and Management, and Head of Theory and Methodology of Public Administration Department GSEM UrFU, Yekaterinburg. Her research interests: regional and urban economics, industrial territories development, capital cities, company towns. She is an Associate Editor of scientific journal *Economy of Region*, Editor-in-Chief of scientific journal *R-economy*.

Andrey Berezin is the Director for Development for International Center for Emerging Markets Research at RUDN University, Moscow. His areas of interests are energy efficiency, risk analysis, strategy, energy conservation, sustainability, development of territories, global business, and public private partnerships. He took part in big infrastructure projects and development of waste heat recovery technology and natural gas vehicles in the Russian oil and gas sector.

This special issue of *IJEPEE* presents to a wider audience the papers that were delivered at two international conferences, Russian Regions in the Focus of Change. The Institute of Economics and Management of the Ural Federal University organised these conferences in partnership with the analytical centre 'Expert' and business journal 'Expert-Ural'. The first was held on 15–17 November 2018 and the second on 14–16 November 2019, both took place in Ekaterinburg (Russia).

The papers were selected for publication in two stages. At first, guest editors assessed all the conference papers and chose those that fell within the journal's scope. The selected papers then were subjected to standard double-blind peer review. Each paper was reviewed by at least two experts in the respective field.

The papers of this special issue were organised in three thematic groups. The first group discusses smart management principles and approaches to addressing problems of regional and urban development. N. Davidson, O. Mariev and A. Rakhmetova investigate how the quality of institutions influences location decision-making of enterprises. I. Turgel, L. Bozhko and E. Ulyanova compare the practices of design and implementation of smart city projects in Russia and Kazakhstan. O. Karpova and

I. Mayburov propose a ‘smart VAT’ model that takes into account the needs and characteristics of specific regional economies. K. Chukavina and T. Lopatina analyse cluster initiatives and identify potential clusters in Sverdlovsk region. W. Koziol and O. Cherkasova consider regional variations in the development of human capital and their impact on regional inequalities in Russia.

The second group of papers offer novel ways of looking at resources of regional and urban development. T. Bystrova, V. Larionova, and M. Pevnaya explore the possibilities of using historical and cultural heritage sites as resources for transformation of industrial towns and cities. M. Fokeev, L. Ruzhanskaya and N. Kislyak analyse the damage suffered by Russian regions due to climate change. W. Koziol and O. Cherkasova identify the determinants of the minimal wage levels in Russian regions. D. Celetti analyse the regional specifics of the spread of innovation and industrialisation in Italy. J. Ząbek investigates how an organisation’s location and access to infrastructure influences its competitive qualities in the case of Poland.

The third group of papers focus on specific types of territories. I. Antonova and E. Pchelintsev discuss economic dynamics and diversification in single-industry towns. S. Sosnovskikh outlines the characteristics and prospects of development of special economic zones in Russia’s Far East. E. Velinov explores the differences between municipalities in Bulgaria in terms of their attractiveness to workers. S. Khusnutdinova and R. Khusnutdinov demonstrate how cities performing the function of administrative centre affect the development of their regions.

The fourth group of papers focus on technology development. O. Pichkov, D. Krykanov, and K. Patrunina study the approaches towards the execution of the national economic policy within the national project ‘Digital economy of the Russian Federation’. E. Zavylova, M. Safronchuk, and A. Burzhikaya analyse the difference and main features of the digital economy that is emerging in the course of digital transformation. E. Grigorieva, M. Chernyaev, and Y. Moseykin explain the necessity of change in selection of FEC company technological development indicators for the corporate strategic planning. M. Chernyaev, Y. Solovieva, A. Korenevskaya, T. Mazurchuk, and S. Gavriusev conduct the analysis of the Russian power system formation features and compare with the Chinese experience.

This volume brings together studies on regional management, resources of regional development and specifics of certain types of territories, aiming to provide a more comprehensive vision of the current problems and research in this field.