



International Conference of Economics, Finance and Accounting Studies

International Conference of Economics, Finance and Accounting Studies is a double-blind peer-reviewed, open-access journal published to reach excellence on the scope. It considers scholarly, research-based articles on all aspects of economics, finance and accounting. As an international congress aimed at facilitating the global exchange of education theory, contributions from different educational systems and cultures are encouraged. It aims to provide a forum for all researchers, educators, educational policy-makers and planners to exchange invaluable ideas and resources.

SCIENTIFIC AND METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF ASSESSING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sattorov Sanjar Abdumurodovich

*Deputy Director of the Surkhandarya Regional Center for Pedagogical Skills,
Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, Uzbekistan*

Annotation

The article considers systemic methodological problems in assessing regional development in the context of a modern regional economy. Based on a critical analysis of the literature review, the main problems were identified and grouped into four blocks: indicator-measurement, spatial-statistical, institutional-management and specialized. The author's classification of problems is proposed, which allows for a systematic discussion of ways to improve the methodological apparatus.

Keywords: assessment methodology, regional development, regional economy, integrated indices, strategic planning, indicator system, digitalization, rural areas, regional economic security

Introduction

In the context of increasing complexity of interregional relations and the transition to a management model aimed at achieving national goals, the problem of reliable and effective assessment of regional development is gaining not only scientific, but also practical importance. The effectiveness of strategic planning, budget policy and interbudgetary relations directly depends on how accurately the current state of the regions is diagnosed, growth points and risk zones are identified. However, recent experience has shown that there is a constant gap between the declared approaches and the actual methodologies used in the management cycle. This gap is associated not only with a lack of data, but also with deep methodological problems inherent in the paradigm of assessing regional development.

In modern regional economics, several established assessment approaches have emerged: a resource-based approach (assessing potential), a results-based approach (assessing effectiveness), a sustainable development approach (balancing economic, social and

environmental components), and an institutional approach that takes into account the quality of governance. Each of these approaches relies on its own set of tools, which creates the problem of inconsistent results.

Despite the large number of publications devoted to individual aspects of assessment, a complete systematic understanding of methodological problems is lacking. Many studies are aimed at criticizing existing indicators or propose new, specific methodologies without resolving the main contradictions[1;2]. To date, a single classification of methodological problems has not emerged that would allow structuring the discussion and identifying priority areas for improving the methodological framework.

Our goal is to systematize methodological issues in the assessment of territorial development in the form of a classification scheme that reflects their interrelationships and hierarchy, as well as to identify contradictions between different methodological approaches that have not been comprehensively considered before.

Research Methodology

This study is based on the methodology of systematic review and qualitative content analysis. The classification method was used to process the data. For each group, the authors' suggestions for resolving the identified problems were identified, which allowed for a later comparison of the level of consensus and identification of unresolved problems.

Review of Related Literature

An analysis of selected publications covering the period 2020–2025 allows us to identify several main areas of criticism of the existing methodology for assessing territorial development.

O. Ivanov and E. Vasileva systematize approaches to assessment and emphasize that existing methodologies suffer from incomparability of data, subjectivity in the selection of indicators, and insufficient dynamism[1]. The authors justify the need to transition to multi-criteria models that take into account uneven territorial development.

A. Tatarkin and A. Kuklin, analyzing the evolution of integral indices, raised a similar issue[2]. They argue that “traditional integral indices do not reflect structural imbalances and do not allow us to identify obstacles to territorial development”[2, p. 42]. In their opinion, the main difficulty lies in the choice of weighting coefficients and multicollinearity of indicators, which leads to the “average” of various characteristics and the loss of managerial significance of the results. H. Zubarevich and S. Safronov emphasize that “standard statistical methods (average values, indices) neutralize differences and can lead to erroneous conclusions” [3, p. 22]. The authors suggest introducing methods of regional clustering and inequality analysis, emphasizing that ignoring regional autocorrelation and the “center-periphery” hierarchy reduces the validity of the estimates [3]. E. Bukhvald and A. Kolchugina study “methodological gaps between the system of strategic planning and goal achievement assessment at the regional level”[5]. In their opinion, the lack of a single methodological basis for assessment within the strategic cycle leads to fragmentation of management decisions. This is complemented by the findings of V. Senchagov and S. Mityakov on the assessment of regional economic security: “existing methodologies suffer from subjective threshold values and the lack of dynamic adjustment of indicators”[4, p. 65], and standardization of indicators without taking into account regional specialization reduces their diagnostic value.

Adabiyotlarni ko‘rib chiqish shuni ko‘rsatadiki, metodologik muammolar ko‘p qatlamli bo‘lib, ma‘lumotlarni tanlash, qayta ishlash usullari va natijalarni talqin qilishga ta‘sir qiladi. Biroq, bu masalalar asosan alohida ko‘rib chiqiladi, bu metodologik inqirozning tuzilishini yaxlit tushunishga to‘sqinlik qiladi.

Results and Problems

Systematization of methodological issues allows them to be analyzed in the context of broader trends noted in the reviewed sources.

The proposed clustering methods allow us to identify homogeneous zones where unified management approaches can be applied[4], emphasizing that digital technologies allow us to move from discrete assessments by administrative units to continuous regional analysis, and even more so[2]. However, as the authors rightly note, a methodology for working with such data has not yet been developed, the need to integrate regional data, protect information, and develop algorithms that take into account network interactions has not yet been realized.

Most of the existing methods [1; 3; 5] assess the state of the territory at a given date, which is not sufficient for making management decisions. The exception is integrated approaches to strategic planning, which include monitoring the achievement of goals. The dynamic aspect is especially important for assessing efficiency: regions should be compared not by the absolute values of indicators, but by the speed of their change and the stability of the development trajectory.

Modern studies [2; 4] emphasize the issues of scale, autocorrelation and network interaction. This reflects the general evolution of regional studies towards a “regional turn” and the recognition that the region is not just a resource carrier, but an active factor shaping development trajectories.

Conclusions and Suggestions

The conducted study allows us to draw the following conclusions.

1. The methodology for assessing territorial development is experiencing a systemic crisis caused by the discrepancy between the complexity of the object and the simplicity of the tools used. The identified problems are grouped into four blocks: indicator-measurement, regional-statistical, institutional-management and specialized (territorial typology). None of these blocks can be considered fully resolved.
2. The main contradiction is the conflict between the desire for universality (comparability) and the need to take into account specificity (sufficiency). Attempts to resolve this conflict through modular systems or differential boundaries have not yet been widely accepted due to the lack of a regulatory framework and methodological recommendations.
3. The introduction of regional econometric methods and digital technologies is fraught with difficulties not only with technical, but also with methodological factors: there are no regional aggregation standards and algorithms for integrating various types of data have not been developed.
4. The institutional gap between assessment and management remains a major obstacle to improving the effectiveness of regional policy.

Based on these findings, the following proposals were formulated:

it would be appropriate to develop a classifier of methodological problems similar to that presented in Table 1, which could serve as a basis for auditing existing methods;

standardized methods for overcoming them should be proposed for each group of problems (for example, the mandatory use of factor analysis for multicollinearity, calculation of the Moran I index for regional autocorrelation, etc.);

it is necessary to create a generalized open regional data system not only for administrative-territorial divisions, but also for functional zones (agglomerations, clusters), which will allow implementing proposals for the transition to a continuous regional analysis;

it is necessary to include not only target indicators, but also monitoring methods in strategic planning documents, and to legitimize the requirement to provide mandatory feedback to adjust the provision of resources.

References

- [1] Иванов О.П., Васильева Е.В. Оценка социально-экономического развития территорий: методологические подходы и проблемы // Экономика региона. – 2022. – Т. 18, № 3. – С. 712–728. – DOI: 10.17059/ekon.reg.2022-3-5.
- [2] Татаркин А.И., Куклин А.А. Интегральная оценка территориального развития: эволюция подходов и современные вызовы // Вопросы экономики. — М. 2020. – № 7. – С. 89–106. – DOI: 10.32609/0042-8736-2020-7-89-106.
- [3] Зубаревич Н.В., Сафронов С.Г. Пространственная неоднородность как методологическая проблема оценки регионального развития // Региональные исследования. – М. – 2021. – № 2. – С. 4–17. – DOI: 10.5922/1994-5280-2021-2-1.
- [4] Сенчагов В.К., Митяков С.Н. Методология оценки экономической безопасности территорий: региональный аспект // Экономическая безопасность. – 2020. – Т. 3, № 4. – С. 347–362. – DOI: 10.18334/ecsec.3.4.111005.
- [5] Бухвальд Е.М., Кольчугина А.В. Проблемы методологии стратегического планирования и оценки развития регионов в условиях новой экономической реальности // Федерализм. – М. 2024. – № 1. – С. 55–72. – DOI: 10.21686/2073-1051-2024-1-55-72.
- [6] Меренкова И.Н., Неустроева А.С. Проблемы методологии оценки социально-экономического развития сельских территорий // Экономика сельскохозяйственных и перерабатывающих предприятий. – 2021. – № 8. – С. 21–29. – DOI: 10.31442/0235-2494-2021-8-21-29.