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The Formation of the Propulsive Industries of Economic Development Acting as the Growth Poles of Regions

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Abstract

Scientific and practical provisions for the formation of the propulsive industries of economic development acting as the growth poles of regions are developed in the article. An analytical review of the theories of Russian and foreign authors concerning the formation of growth poles is carried out; the growth poles theory is adapted to the conditions of a particular region. Methodical principles of the formation of the ‘growth poles’ of the region are developed on the basis of the proposed system of indicators characterizing the industries as propulsive, taking into account the factors of leadership and the factors creating additional effect; On the basis of the qualitative and quantitative methods of regional economy management, the components of the ‘spontaneous’ and ‘planned’ efficiency of the growth poles functioning have been identified.

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1. Introduction

Transformation processes of the formation of the developed market relations in Russia caused the problems the solution of which requires taking into account the concept of polarized development. Theoretically, the task of the optimization of spatial structures from the macroeconomic perspectives is set before the bodies responsible for

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implementation of regional economic policy. Underestimating or, moreover, ignoring the territorial characteristic features of market relations, have a negative impact on the overall economic situation in the country. Focusing attention on the underdeveloped regions, on the elements of their spatial structure is essential, since this can help overcome the negative situation.

Growth poles and propulsive industries in the regions foster the ‘push’ for the development of economic processes, i.e. improve the employment of manpower resources and functioning of interrelated industries of the economy. Lack of resources and opportunities, number and acuteness of unresolved social and economic problems are the root causes of the necessity for the formation of economic core as a system object linking growth poles and propulsive industries. Moreover, in the relatively near future, when the lack of the world’s resources becomes the main problem, the use of the theory of economic core in economic practice will be more urgent.

When growth pole is being formed, two problems may arise: the force of the push can be directed outside the areas requiring support, but to the highly developed areas with which the propulsive industries of growth poles will interrelate; it is also possible to face a shortage of resources (financial and human). To prevent this and to get the maximum effect, a meaningful control over the process of core formation is necessary.

Redistribution of investments into growth poles will facilitate synergy effect and lead not only to economic growth in the region, but also to the improvement of social indicators and standards of living of the population. These circumstances actualize regional process of core formation and its management.

Various aspects of the formation and identification of ‘growth poles’ were considered repeatedly by the economists, but theoretical recommendations either were not sufficiently developed and, therefore, could not be successfully applied in practice, or were widely used in the planned economy, but were not adapted to the national market standards.

The theory of growth poles got its main development in the 60s in the counties of Western Europe. The theory of polarized development in that period was the main guideline in regional researches. The concept of growth poles was the basis for regional programs in many countries.

Many issues related to the study of individual aspects of the problem under consideration are discussed in scientific works of well-known Russian and foreign scholars: E.B. Alaeva, V.B. Bezrukova, B.D. Breeva, D.I. Valentine, A.G. Granberg, W. Izard, I.A. Ilyina, V.V. Kistanova, Edward L. Glaeser, William R. Kerr, Giacomo A.M. Ponzetto, K.Ketels, F.Perroux, M.Polèse, Ramona Camelia Berea, Adrian Otoiub, Ioana Bucerzan etc. However, it should be recognized that currently the problem of economic development of the region through growth poles creation and management, and the problem of the growth poles formation control in the region in general, is studied insufficiently. Due to the absence of the mechanism and criteria of regional polarization, it is necessary to develop the technology and practical guidelines for the formation and management of growth poles in the region.

2. Analytical review of the approaches to the concept of growth poles

The concepts of ‘growth poles’ and ‘growth centre’ were introduced into the science and practice by French economist F. Perroux. According to his approach ‘geographically agglomerated’ poles comprise an essential structural element of developing economy which is not less important than industries. A pole, i.e. a potential point of development of the region, is chosen taking into account the resources and geographical location. A pole turns into a center as infrastructure and production develops. Manufacturing industries of a growth pole should organically interact with the environment, and should not be conflict with the resource potential of the environment, including manpower resources. Only in this case a growth pole will become a strategic element, i.e. the factor of the region development. A complex of interrelated and complementary propulsive industries, i.e. industries which are capable of creating ‘a push’, is the economic core of the region.

Approximately the 70s of the twentieth century can be marked by the decline of popularity of the concept of growth poles, and the increased interest in the concepts and theories that explain the process of continuous reproduction of unevenness in the development of countries and regions, the reasons for the persistence of underdevelopment. The second form of relations between the centre and the periphery i.e. a form of dependence, was put in the forefront.

J. Friedmann is considered to be a kind of classic of the concept of ‘centre-periphery’ in Western Europe. According to his approach uneven economic growth and the process of spatial polarization inevitably result in

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