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## Instrumental and Methodological Approaches to Research of Socio - Economic Development of the Region

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### Abstract

This paper offers a number of instrumental and methodological approaches applicable in socio-economic study of the region. We have conducted a comprehensive monitoring and predictive study of socio-economic development of the region (on the example of life quality of the population differentiation by the territories of the Republic of Tatarstan) with a comparative assessment and analysis of the proposed scenarios of the medium term forecast (up to the year of 2020).

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### 1. Introduction

Modern region, wherever it is located, possesses its own economic and geographical nature and the level of socio-economic development. And in terms of different divergent transformations in the society of the XXI century (economic, social, political, and others) it becomes crucial and the most flexible spatial system. That is why there is a need, particularly at the regional level, to conduct a scientifically based assessment of the ongoing reforms effectiveness. In this respect, the quality of life becomes meaningful and perhaps the key notion.

Studies of the population life quality and its development are important areas for any hierarchical level. The need to study the whole variety of processes occurring at the active participation of the person within the region is growing in modern conditions. Tracking these processes it is possible to identify the main patterns of functioning

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and development of intra-regional territorial units, peculiarity and to a certain extent, the uniqueness of each of them, as well as the territorial differentiation of the population life quality. Therefore the formula of unity in diversity becomes a constructive one.

"It is more useful to learn how to use the local complementary differences, peculiarities and regionalisms for growing organic grass-roots, being therefore strong ties between places and regions, than erase, suppress or unify these differences" (Treyvish, 2001, p.40).

It should be noted that in conditions of constant socio-economic changes the possibility of multi-variant further social development increases significantly. In this regard, the regional scenario forecasting of trends in the population quality of life becomes important from the perspective of its territorial differentiation; and complex forecast scenarios describing various development options depending on the value of the key factors will comprise a holistic outlook.

## 2. Methodology

Integrated predictive study of the socio-economic development in the region (by the example of territorial differentiation of the population life quality in the Republic of Tatarstan) is based on a comparative assessment and analysis of the offered forecast scenarios for the medium term (up to the year of 2010). Classification of administrative districts of the Republic of Tatarstan and mapping of the republic in the context of its territorial units data is based on the final index - the index of the forecasted life quality of the RT population.

Coordination of the life quality and the development of territorial socio-economic system of the region as a whole, supposes the use of instrumental and methodological approaches adapted to the specifics of a multi-ethnic region, which will be oriented at the monitoring and forecasting of territorial differentiation of life quality.

Analysis and methodological approaches to the monitoring and forecasting life quality studies of the region and its territorial differentiation showed, that the most appropriate and adequate approach is the combination of the logical modeling (including the development of forecast scenarios), mathematical and statistical, and expert assessment methods.

This paper offers a mathematical - statistical method (indexical method) modified by the author for monitoring and forecasting of territorial differentiation of life quality of population in the region with consideration of the regional characteristics offered by the author in respect of the indexes change characterizing life quality degree, depending on the scenarios for development options. We also provide the method of expert estimation adaptable for the purposes of the regional forecasting based on a questionnaire.

The forecasting methodology of territorial differentiation of population life quality in the Republic of Tatarstan offered in the paper includes the following sequence of stages:

Stage I. Pre- forecast investigation:

- Development of a comprehensive system of «Population life quality in the region»: the selection of priority components and preparation of hierarchical system of characteristics and indexes;
- retrospective analysis of life quality of the Republic of Tatarstan population from the processes of territorial development perspective.

Stage II. Predictive system of hypotheses formation:

- the establishment of an "important" events set for the medium term perspective (2006-2010);
- the establishment of initial scenarios for territorial development of the region.

Stage III. Formation of a predictive model of life quality in the region:

- the development of system for characterizing the population life quality indicators change in the region under the influence of development options for each proposed scenario;
- the evaluation of the impact characteristics on the life quality indicators of the Republic of Tatarstan population made by each scenario of development option;
- formation of a predictive model of life quality in the region and its territorial differentiation, taking into account the degrees of indicators change and options of development.

Stage IV. Analysis of the forecast scenarios:

- evaluation of the acquired results;

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