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State support of monotowns in Russia and Kazakhstan: experience and problems

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Abstract

The purpose of the study is to make assessment and diagnosis of program documents existed in small towns (by the territory and industry parameters) – monotowns in Russian Federation and Republic of Kazakhstan in the context of improving economic instruments, to ensure their effective functioning. The empirical basis for the analysis were the results of studies conducted as a research and development "Research of features of an integrated socio-economic development of single-industry towns of border areas in the functioning of the single economic space of Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus", carried out by grant funding of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The study is based on the use of methods and techniques of logical, systematic, structural and functional, and comparative analysis.

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1. Introduction

The practice of post-soviet transformation processes convincingly demonstrated the inability of local and regional administrations to cope with the problems caused by urban monofunctionally. Plan formed within a single economic system shows a high inertia and low sensitivity to the tools implemented at the local level of urban policy. In these circumstances, Russia and Kazakhstan, search actively for an optimal model of transformation of this type of

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settlements, providing them access to sustainable development. However, the formation of a new urban policy hampered by on the one hand, the lack of political continuity, and adequate financial resources, and on the other hand, the prevalence of simplistic ideas about the organization of life activity in mono towns. This leads to underestimating the complexity of its internal and external environment. The above-mentioned circumstances determine the relevance and practical importance of the research performed as a comparative analysis of public policies for supporting monotowns in Russia and Kazakhstan.

An array of publications that have become the methodological basis of research can be divided into three groups. The first group – works used for identification and classification of monotowns [1–5]. The second group – experience analysis of state support of monotowns [6–11]. In the effectiveness analysis of management in Russia and Kazakhstan held instruments of state support on the basis of a comparison of the two conceptual approaches [12–14]. The opposite of this approach – the experience of China. Here we observe the implementation of large-scale long-term support programs in old large industrial regions, comprising several provinces. Support for monotowns is becoming one of the elements of long-term programs [15, 16]. Among the Russian authors there are interesting works devoted to assessing the effectiveness of various stages in implementation state support for monotowns [17–22]. The works of the Kazakhstan authors is largely concentrated to justify the strategic development prospects of monotowns, and not on an assessment of the already taken measures [23, 24]. Foreign authors investigate environmental issues in the development of small towns [25–28].

Under these circumstances, the aim of the authors of the study was a comparative analysis of the experience of implementation state policy for support monotowns development in Russia and Kazakhstan during post-Soviet period. Also it is aimed for the identification of specific and common problems and methods of solving them.

2. Research methodology

The research is based on the following methodological principles: periodization, the selection independent stages of realization process; ensuring the continuity of evolutionary analytical procedures that is achieved by using uniform criteria and algorithm of investigation stages of the development policies to support monotowns; comprehensive analysis criteria; formation of a systematic presentation of the policy for state support of monotowns in Russia and Kazakhstan, and analysis of existing monotowns systems in Russia and Kazakhstan, and the experience of their state support.

3. Results

3.1 The first phase, middle of 90 – early 2000

Both Russia and Kazakhstan did not immediately come to understand the need to support monotowns. Initially, it was the support of core businesses. The criteria for selection problems were fixed regulations by both countries in the second half of the 90s of the last century. The criteria used to allocate town-forming enterprises in a special group during the bankruptcy proceedings. In Russia, used indicators were designed to evaluate the role of the enterprise in providing employment. In Kazakhstan, the threshold values of the indicators were more "soft" and take into account not only the structure of employment, but also the structure of city output.

The first expert attempt to substantiate the development of criteria for allocation of monotowns in Russia have been made by scientific and methodological center "Russian Cities", acting on the basis of the Institute of Macroeconomic Research under the Ministry of Economic Development. They used indicator enterprises share in the industrial output to estimate the portion of the single-industry employment in the city-forming enterprise. The criteria proposed by the NMC "Cities of Russia", then received official confirmation.

At the end of the reporting period, the first steps to create a system of state support for urban development were made in Kazakhstan. The first objects of urban policy of Kazakhstan became small towns. The Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated from December 7, 2001 N 1598 "On the Concept of Regional Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2002–2006" provides the criteria for inclusion to the depressed small towns and their respective thresholds. The list included the small town of the district and regional values that were significantly different from each other on resource potential, demographic, socio-economic indicators, up to 50 thousand of people

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