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Cluster policy in Russian investment sphere

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Abstract

Key role of cluster policy in investment development is proved. The influence of spatial polarization on investment sphere is analyzed. Methodical approach to grouping regions according to the level and character of investment development is tested, that allows to suggest effective way to eliminate reproduction disproportions.

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1. Cluster development in foreign countries

In recent 10 years cluster policy has become one of the main government policy directions for improving national and regional competitiveness in developed and developing countries. The interest in cluster approach and cluster conception in economic development policy of foreign countries has grown. Cluster policy is widely used both as clearly defined policy and in the form of other political initiatives, such as regional strategy or measures for local production system support.

At the moment one of the most effective mechanisms for improving regional competitiveness is clusterization of socioeconomic space of the territories.

Domestic and foreign researchers pay much attention to the issues of developing mechanisms of territorial clusterization. Subject of such research is, as a rule, theoretical and methodological basis of cluster policy which includes sum and substance of the policy, principles of its formation in basic economic activities, first of all in

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branches of industry, economic entities, etc. However, ideas concerning the instruments of forming and implementing cluster policy and members' motivation for forming clusters in other economy sectors than industry have not been sufficiently worked out so far.

Instruments and methods of clusterization and its role in improving competitiveness of region economy by means of innovation development are viewed in works of such foreign authors as Andersen, Bengtsson, Bockhol, Bryden, Ketels, Krugman, Porter, Rosenfeld, Romer, Solvell, Sorvik, Terkla, Timpano, Feser, Enright, Jacobs.

In foreign researches devoted to managing cluster development cluster initiative is interpreted as an adequate and effective instrument of resources concentration in order to reach critical mass and speed up knowledge and know-how transfer. Cluster initiative is an instrument of regional policy regarding stimulation of innovations, cooperation and internationalization, an instrument of innovation policy. Cluster initiative is also organized regional industry-specific network between economic partners aimed at improving indicators of innovation activity and international competitiveness.

In reliance on the analyzed material we can conclude that cluster policy is a generally acknowledged mechanism of improving competitiveness of regional and national economy. The conducted cluster policy has its key points, because in each state there are specific features, peculiarities of organization and functioning.

At present there are many approaches to pointing out different types of cluster policy and there is no common classification of these types. Within this framework we single out two types of cluster policy.

The first one, for example, in USA, Australia and Great Britain, views a cluster as a market mechanism, the main members of which are regional authorities and regional organizations establishing and fulfilling cluster development programs. And the role of federal authorities is eliminating barriers for natural cluster development. In some cases they also provide funding and support of pilot projects.

The other group of countries, such as France, Sweden, Singapore, Republic of Korea and Japan implement "continental" policy of clusters development which means that federal public authorities play the key role. In these countries active federal policy carries out clusters development, i.e. chooses priority clusters and finances programs for developing their strategies.

2. Clusterization in Russian regions

In Russia cluster initiatives are only beginning their development. At present Russian Government has begun to authorize clusters as a necessary instrument of developing certain industry branches of national priority, that is confirmed in a number of regulatory enactments.

On the basis of Russian socioeconomic development strategy some analogues have been worked out, namely concepts of regional development, in which it is planned to begin forming clusters. The most active among them are Samara (9 cluster initiatives), Novosibirsk (7), Voronezh (7) and Amur (5) regions (Kopninskaya & Shestopalov, 2008)

Analysis suggestions about cluster development made by regional authorities shows that the vitality degree of such projects is extremely low – about 20% out of all suggested ones, because such projects often do not receive even primary elaboration and are used by regional authorities as a "political slogan" for attracting targeted support at the federal level.

2.1 Clusterization level

In 2010 Higher School of Economics has analyzed members of regional clusters and mechanisms of their interaction. On this basis cluster-mapping was made, that is pointing out and distributing the formed and technologically connected groups of branches on the territory of Russian regions taking into account two criteria: geographical concentration of industries and technological connection between them. Clusterization level of some Russian regions was also determined, it is listed below:

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