

Border regions as a factor of sustainable development

I Baranova^{1*} and E Prikhodko¹

¹ Novosibirsk State Technical University, 20 K. Marksa prosp., Novosibirsk 630073
Russia

E-mail: baranova_sifbd@mail.ru

Abstract. The article considers sustainable development from the perspective of balancing economic, social, and environmental interests in the aspect of cooperation between border regions. The article highlights certain signs of cross-border cooperation, as well as factors affecting the level of involvement of border regions in cross-border communications and analyzes indicators of cross-border cooperation of the Novosibirsk Region and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Keywords: cross-border cooperation, sustainable development, regional differences, indicators

1. Introduction

One of the main distinguishing features of the modern stage of world integration is the intensification of cross-border cooperation, which determines priorities of the foreign policy of the Russian Federation in general and the border regions in particular. Russia is a country with significant regional differences that can be effectively used in the development and implementation of regional policies in the context of globalization, as well as in the organization of interregional cooperation, including border regions. This will contribute to the sustainable development of the economy of these areas, taking into account existing production links and infrastructure.

2. Materials and Methods

In conducting this study, the following approaches were used: a dialectical approach in the study of objective phenomena and processes in the context of sustainable development, both of the state and of the border regions; a systematic approach when considering regional cooperation. The following general scientific research methods were used to identify patterns of development of border regions and to summarize research results: historical, analysis and synthesis, comparison, and expert assessments.

3. Results

Today, the concept of sustainable development is recognized all over the world and is considered unopposed. For the first time, the term “sustainable development” was officially applied by the World Commission on Environment and Development (UN, Commission of G. Kh. Brundtland) in 1983. Problems and principles of sustainable development were identified at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro) in 1992 0.

Currently, there is no single definition of “sustainable development.” The UN treats sustainable development as a development of society that satisfies the needs of current generations without

prejudice to the future generations to meet their own needs. According to the concept of the World Bank, sustainable development is based on management in order to preserve and enhance human capabilities. Domestic legislation defines sustainable development as a balanced solution to socio-economic problems and the preservation of the environment and natural resource potential [2].

At the same time, most researchers note that sustainable development must guarantee the survival of humanity and the preservation of nature, which is impossible without balancing economic, social, and environmental interests [2].

Russia belongs to countries with significant regional differences and imbalances due to natural geographic, climatic, socio-economic, historical and cultural characteristics. Both domestic ratings of regions (see Table 1) and the Spatial Development Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025 confirm this [4]. As of today, about 40 large urban agglomerations and the largest urban agglomerations are distinguished in the Russian Federation. The population is steadily increasing in most of them. Now, it has already exceeded 73 million people since the beginning of the 2000s. Also, 4 mineral resource centers are allocated in the Russian Federation.

Table 1. Changes in the ratings of border regions of the Russian Federation for 2017-2018.

Region	Innovative rating		Quality of life rating		Investment rating	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Belgorod region (Central Federal District)	33	23	5	5	23	11
Voronezh region (Central Federal District)	17	17	7	7	8	7
Leningrad region (North-West Federal District)	50	36	12	11	20	12
Novosibirsk region (Siberian Federal District)	5	6	26	24	27	19
Tyumen region (Ural Federal District)	14	11	13	14	6	1

* Compiled from [5]; [6]; [7].

The solution of the task to ensure sustainable development of the Russian Federation as a whole and of its regions in particular requires the development of promising strategic programs focused on the socio-economic development of territories in order to ensure a sustainable and balanced spatial development of the country. Sustainable development of the country is aimed at reducing interregional differences in the level and quality of life of the population, accelerating economic growth and technological development, as well as ensuring the national security of the country [4]. The works of many scientists from different countries are devoted to the justification of new conceptual approaches to regional development. However, despite obvious significance of foreign economic activity as the most powerful factor for sustainable economic growth, issues related to determining effective ways to strengthen the sustainable development of territories using the possibilities of cross-border cooperation have not been resolved. And most of the border areas of Russia continue to lag behind the regions of the European part of the country in terms of socio-economic development.

We will highlight the main features of cross-border cooperation: (a) redistribution of regional resources, because activities are carried out on both sides of the border; (b) environmental and spatial planning; communications; (c) social politics (migration policy, employment, tourism, education, culture, demographic policy, etc.).

Thus, as a result of using economic, social, cultural and other ties, the expansion of the market zone and, as a result, more efficient and high-quality use of all the resources of the regions occurs between the border areas. This will allow the border areas to form a potential and become “growth points” of the economy.

The border geostrategic territories of the Russian Federation include: Leningrad, Smolensk, Astrakhan, Volgograd, Kurgan, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Orenburg, Samara, Saratov, Tyumen,

Chelyabinsk, Belgorod, Voronezh, Kursk, Rostov, Pskov, Bryansk, Altai, Krasnodar regions, and Republic of Altai and Tyva [4].

We will identify the main factors affecting the level of involvement of border regions in cross-border communication (Table 2).

Table 2. Morphological classification of the border areas of the Russian Federation.

Factor	Types of cross-border regions			
	<i>Semi-peripheral</i>	<i>Peripheral</i>	<i>Central</i>	
Socio-economic level of development of the region	Low	Medium	High	
Regional legislation (how well developed)	Low	Medium	High	
Development of contacts with border areas of adjacent countries	Alienated Cross-Border Regions	Coexisting Frontier	Interdependent Cross-Border Regions	Integrated Border Regions

Thus, based on the classification of factors compiled by the authors that influence border regions' activities, 108 types of them are distinguished.

One of the national goals and strategic objectives for the development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2024 is the creation in the basic sectors of the economy a highly productive export-oriented sector, developing on the basis of modern technologies and provided with highly qualified personnel. Target indicators of the National Project "International Cooperation and Export" are represented by an increase in exports of non-raw non-energy goods by 2 times by 2024 in comparison to 2017, as well as an increase in the share of exports of manufacturing, agricultural products, and services in the country's GDP from 16% in 2017 up to 20% by 2024. The national project "International Cooperation and Export" orients the cross-border regions towards the formation of an effective system of division of labor and production cooperation within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union in order to increase trade between the member states of the Union. The national project "International Cooperation and Export" is divided into five federal projects: "Industrial export," "Export of agricultural products," "Logistics of international trade," "Export of services," "Systemic measures for the development of international cooperation and export." So, for example, the federal project "Industrial Export" is being implemented on the territory of the Novosibirsk Region. This predetermines the activation of exports, including to the border regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

4. Discussion

The concept of border cooperation of the Novosibirsk region until 2025 [8] notes that the cross-border cooperation of the Novosibirsk region with the Pavlodar region (Republic of Kazakhstan) is focused on creating favorable conditions for the development of cooperation in various fields of activity that contribute to improving the regional economy and accelerating integration processes and security. At present, agreements on social, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation between the Government of the Novosibirsk Region and Akimats of the Pavlodar, Karaganda and North Kazakhstan regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan have been concluded and are in force. Expansion of Russian-Kazakhstan cooperation in the tourism sector, including through the exchange of advanced experience in the development and promotion of various types of tourism, stimulation of mutual investment in the tourism industry, and the revitalization of medical, educational, business tourism is planned.

As practice has shown, the Novosibirsk region, in contrast to the Altai region, has not so intensive economic ties with the border regions of Kazakhstan. This fact predetermines the need for their development, since international relations are the most important tool for solving urgent problems of socio-economic development and a determinant of sustainable development.

Table 3 presents the main indicators of the cross-border cooperation of the Novosibirsk region with the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2016-2018. In 2018, the target indicators of cross-border cooperation from 2025 were significantly exceeded, namely the volume of trade and the import of goods. However, with an increase in commodity turnover between the Novosibirsk region and Kazakhstan in 2016-2018, the import of goods is growing at a rapid pace of 36.6%. This actualizes the need to increase exports. To support exporters, the Novosibirsk region plans to provide a loan at a reduced interest rate of 4.5%, provided that the exporter provides an increase in export volumes.

Table 3. Indicators of cross-border cooperation of the Novosibirsk region with the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2016-2018.

Indicators	2016	2017	2018	Target indicator, 2025	Growth rate (2018 to 2016), %
Turnover, million USD	362.5	549.9	495	539	136.6
Share of foreign trade turnover of the region, %	9.7	12.8	9.4	–	96.9
Exports of goods, million USD	245.6	339.9	327.4	469.8	133.3
Imports of goods, million USD	116.9	210	167.6	69.2	143.3

Compiled from [8]; [9].

A number of industries, for example, engineering, in the Republic of Kazakhstan is the flagship of industrial development, introducing new technologies and standards, which arouses the interest of machine builders, electronics manufacturers, and agricultural processors of Kazakhstan and Russia to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation **Ошибка! Источник ссылки не найден.** The implementation of investment projects with the participation of investors from the Novosibirsk region and border regions will allow the region's economy to attract free labor, natural resources, underutilized production facilities, contributing to their economic growth and social development.

It should be noted that the most important task of cross-border cooperation of Russia as a whole (and in the Novosibirsk region in particular) and Kazakhstan is to ensure sustainable economic growth, while bringing together the indicators of socio-economic development of the cooperating border regions.

5. Conclusion

To enhance cross-border cooperation, which would ensure socio-economic development in cross-border regions, the creation of common approaches in making management decisions, paperwork, etc. is necessary. This will eliminate bureaucratic delays, inconsistencies of legislation, and other obstacles to economic cooperation between border regions and their sustainable development. The assignment of environmental safety issues (pollution of transboundary rivers, emergency situations with environmental consequences, transboundary transport of pollution, etc.) to priority areas of cooperation in border regions is of particular importance.

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