Optimal Planning of Socio-Economic Development of Russian Monotowns for the Purpose of Creating the Economic Growth Points on their Basis

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ABSTRACT

Sustainability of Russia largely depends on the state and degree of the socio-economic development of territories of a special type – monotowns. The social and economic natures of the town are inextricably linked and cannot be reviewed separately. Social stability in the society cannot be achieved without a well-functioning economy. Vice versa, stable economic success cannot be achieved without an appropriate level of social security and stability. At the same time, monotowns are fundamental cells, primary links of the territorial location of production and integrated social development of the subjects of federation. Socio-economic situation in the region and throughout the entire country cannot be improved without efficient integrated socio-economic development of monotowns. System of the optimal planning of socio-economic development of Russian monotowns should be based on a comprehensive analysis of the state of monotowns and prospects of their development. The article reviews methods of analysis and assessment that consider many factors affecting the functioning of a monotown, considers the process of developing the optimal development plan, and provides measures of state support for developing monotowns for the purpose of the economy diversification and taking into account the interests of large, medium and small businesses.

Keywords: monotown, optimal planning, township-forming enterprise, integral method, socio-economic development, state support for monotowns.

1. INTRODUCTION

Monotowns are a peculiarity of the Russian economy associated with the development of the territory and the spatial organization of production for the purpose of development of natural resources in remote

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regions of the country with severe climatic conditions (Dyatlova 2012). This is a truly unique Russian geographical and economic phenomenon. The unique cause of this phenomenon is, in turn, natural -a large country size.

Monosettlements in Russia are indicators of the socio-economic development of the regions and the country in general, as a third of the country's industrial production is concentrated there. Monotowns produced 40% of GDP and had more than 16 million inhabitants before the 2008 economic crisis. At the moment, 319 single-industry municipalities fall into the category of monotowns (Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 29.07.2014 No. 709; Order of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 16.04.2015 No.668-r), of which the most complex socio-economic situation is observed in 75 towns, 149 towns face the risks of worsening the socio-economic situation, 89 towns are in a stable position (as of January 2015).

Monotowns are unevenly distributed across the territory of Russia, with the largest number concentrated in the Ural and Volga federal districts. Traditionally, all the towns and villages arose around certain industrial enterprises. This has been a case for more than three hundred years, which is determined by the presence of the prerequisites for the construction of large industrial enterprises on these territories. The largest number of monotowns appeared in the Soviet period: 100-125 new towns emerged in the country every 5 years, most of them appeared in the areas of development of natural resources, construction of hydro and steam power plants and waterworks. Over the period of 1926-1967, the urban population of the USSR has increased from 26.3 mln people to 130.0 mln people, of which nearly 35 million people are the population of the new towns. The planned economy allowed to prevent significant imbalances in their socio-economic development and disparities in employment through command and control (Chernysheva 2013).

A significant number of monotowns appeared during the Second World War thanks to the evacuated enterprises; later a number of monosettlements merged with the nearby towns, and a number of enterprises became township-forming.

The implementation of defense and nuclear policy has led to the creation of restricted-access towns with restricted entry and exit of citizens, arrangement of a special supply and allocation into independent administrative entities.

Development of the scientific and technological potential of the country gave rise to creation of science towns. First experiment was held in Akademgorodok in Novosibirsk. Towns of Dubna, Obninsk, Protvino, Troitsk, Chernogolovka, Zelenograd, and others were established later.

A distinctive feature of monotowns in Russia was the continuity of the settlement and the township-forming enterprise implementing not just economic but also social functions, thus providing human living environment (Lyubovniy 2009). In most cases, the workers of the township-forming enterprises lived in industry-sponsored houses, while boilers, kindergartens, clinics and educational institutions were also on the balance sheet of the enterprise. As such, the costs of maintaining social infrastructure were included in cost of products, in many cases making it uncompetitive in the market economy.

Niche specialization of most towns is a result of their youth in some cases. Some towns have not been able to develop other functions, due to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the subsequent economic crisis.

As a result, by 1990, the structure of company towns in Russia was a complicated system of towns, varying by size of the population, complexity of production and qualification of residents, where township-forming enterprises fulfilled uncharacteristic social functions in most cases (Pytkin and Zagoruiko 2010).

In other words, a monotown is a complex structure, in which the town and the township-forming enterprise are inseparable. Meanwhile, the latter takes on not just economic but also social burden, largely providing human living environment in the settlement. As a result, the township-forming enterprise cannot be considered apart from the settlement in which it is situated and without taking into account a socio-economic situation, future fate and possible behavior of its inhabitants.

Appearance of monotowns in the structure of the Russian economy is a certain pattern, which as such cannot be assessed entirely positively or negatively. This is a specific way for Russia to adapt the placement of productive powers to the specific climatic and geographic conditions of the country.

2. METHOD

Innovative development of the country is inextricably linked with the development of economies of the region and the territory. Development of the economy of the territory is a starting point, which will ultimately determine the direction of the socio-economic development of the country.

The papers of domestic and foreign authors devoted to research and prospects of monotowns development review a variety of materials and methods for assessing their socio-economic status. All of them are quite accurate but one-sided due to the research specifics. At the moment, planning is conducted based on one or a very limited number of decisive factors that influence the socio-economic situation of the town. As such, the research, calculations and conclusions are made on the basis of a limited information base, which leads to significant deviations of calculated values from actual.

The economic component of monotown activities is mainly considered in assessing its condition; the conclusion about the necessity and sufficiency of budget injections into municipal infrastructure is made on this basis, thus reducing the influence of the township-forming enterprise on the generation of the local budget. However, the practice shows that such measures can only remove social tensions in monotowns in the short term. In addition, the municipal authorities of the subsidized territory (which a monotown in most cases is) do not initiate active measures to implement innovation policy, because it will lead to a reduction or complete loss of subsidies and transfers from the federal budget (Eremina 2012).

Social relations, which aside from economic components also include demographic, social, moral, cultural, and other components, along with the high demand of the Russian economy in innovative development of territories, necessitated the selection of the complex (integral) method to assess the state and plan the development of monotowns.

Integral method regards a monotown as a complex, socially-oriented economic entity capable or incapable of development or regeneration, having possibilities, prerequisites and the realized need to change for the purpose of establishing a new integrative economy on a particular territory.

The following methods of economic-mathematical modeling are applied to construction of integral indicators (investment attractiveness of the monotown, level of monotown depression, monotown population quality of life):

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- regression analysis identification of a connection between variables and generation of the dependence equations;
- hierarchy analysis method sorting of significant factors;
- methods of linear programming optimal distribution in solving the problem of migration and employment of monotowns residents;
- cluster analysis to recognize company towns.

The methods used by the Russian and foreign researchers do not differ in general, but the papers of domestic scientists more often focus on building an integral assessment of the socio-economic development of the monotown, while most foreign authors review specific indicators of the town economy (Kryukova, et. al., 2014).

3. RESULTS

To determine the main strategic area of development of a monotown, it is necessary to analyze its current socio-economic situation, living comfort of population, define the life cycle stage and calculate the "point of no return."

3.1. Analysis of the Socio-economic Situation

Town is a movable system, which on the one hand flexibly reacts to exogenous factors (primarily economic) by changing its internal environment: the size and structure of population; and on the other hand, it preserves its internal singularity – the subculture of the town. In a critical situation, the town enters a stage of stagnation and then destruction. However, the town can regenerate with a new development strategy under certain conditions (Animitsa, et. al., 2010).

Production of added value is an economic foundation of the town existence and development. The added value includes entrepreneurial income – the main motivator of investment in production, salary – the value of the sum of benefits spent on the reproduction of manpower employed in production, and taxes – expenses on management, investment in infrastructure development, town sustainment and public benefits (Neshchadin and Gorin 2002).

Town can live if the amount of the produced added value $S_t > 0$. In fact, it is a very mild condition – the added value produced per person S_t must be greater than or equal to the average value of the added value in the town surroundings or in the macrosystem in general S_{t0} . Otherwise, one of three events or all of them together occur:

- 1. Outflow of investment from the production field is observed, which is equivalent to reducing the number of jobs or worsening of working conditions at existing jobs, with increase of injury rate, morbidity, mortality, etc., characteristic for this phenomenon.
- 2. Salary of employees drops, and the quality of life consequently declines, which applies not only to the primary, but also to the secondary sector of the town economy (trade, services sector, banking sector, etc.).
- 3. Tax revenues decrease, which leads to degradation of sustainment infrastructure, quality of governance and utility services.

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Inverse phenomena will be characteristic if the value of produced added value per capita exceeds similar indicator of the town surroundings:

- growth of investment attractiveness of the town;
- increase in the attractiveness of the town as a place of residence and work;
- improvement in the conditions for the reproduction of human capital.

Accordingly, the conditions of life in the town can encourage the external population to migrate to the town (positive migration), or vice versa – encourage people to migrate out of the town (negative migration). As such, migration is regarded as a key mechanism regulating the condition of the internal environment of the town. If the natural growth of the population is neglected, the value of migration can be expressed as the first derivative of a function of population change over time:

$$\mathbf{M} = \frac{d\mathbf{N}}{dt} = k\mathbf{N}_{t} \left(\left(\frac{\mathbf{S}_{t}}{\mathbf{S}_{t0}} \right) - \mathbf{N}_{t} \right)$$

The parameter of the differential equation $\left(\frac{S_{r}}{S_{r}}\right)$ reflects the marginal population of the town, at which the conditions in the town appear not worse than in the surrounding environment. Accordingly, the more the population of the town N_{r} , the more the migration value; and the closer the population of the town to its economically feasible limit of its population $\left(\frac{S_{r}}{S_{r}}\right)$ the less it is.

The solution to the represented differential equation is a logistic or sigmoid curve often used to describe the growth of biological populations:

$$N_r = \frac{\left(\frac{S_r}{S_{r0}}\right)}{\left(1 + \alpha_0 \exp\left(-\alpha_1 t\right)\right)}$$

The sigmoid curve is graphically is shown in Figure 5.1. If the value $\left(\frac{S_{i,0}}{S_{i,0}}\right)$ decreases, we will observe the reverse order of development, corresponding to the same but downward sigmoid curve.

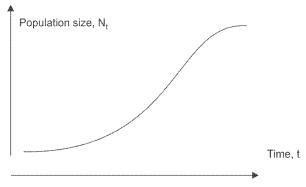


Figure 5.1: Logistic curve (sigmoid)

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The added value produced at the current moment (S_t) is produced by the population of the previous period $S_t = N_{t-1} \times S_t$. By substituting this expression in the preceding formula, we obtain the recurrent formula:

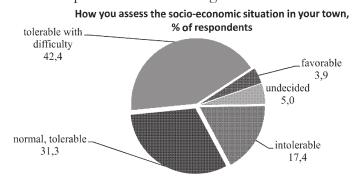
$$N_{r} = \frac{N_{r-1} \left(\frac{S_{r}}{S_{r0}}\right)}{\left(1 + \alpha_{0} \exp\left(-\alpha_{1r}\right)\right)}$$

The present is connected with the previous period through positive inverse relationship in it. In other words, the population growth triggers growth of the produced added value, which in turn causes the population growth in the subsequent period, and vice versa. This ratio also indicates the importance of a historical approach to the town development as one of major methodological principles of research.

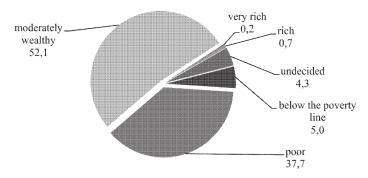
The logistic pattern in the town development also reveals that there is a limit of the town population growth, defined by economic circumstances: $\left(\frac{S_t}{S_{t,0}}\right)$ and $S_t \ge S_{t,0}$. If these circumstances change, so do the

town development limits (parameters of the logistic curve). This ratio indicates that the town is not an isolated object, and the town development should be considered in the context of its surroundings. For example, positive migration can occur not just where the produced added value grows; decline in S_{10} , which corresponds to an increase in the poverty level in nearby settlements, can have at least the same effect.

Following the results of the poll carried out by the service of special communication and information of the Russian Federal Protective Service in December 2015, almost 60% of monotown residents assess the socio-economic situation as tolerable with difficulty or intolerable at all. The poll was conducted in 201 settlements, 55.6 thous. people participated in it (Hard to Endure: FSO Measured an Economic Well-being in Monotowns). The results of the poll are reflected in Figure 5.2.



How you assess your financial situation, % of respondents



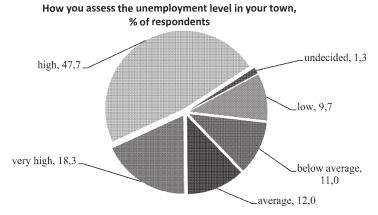


Figure 5.2: Findings of the poll of monotown residents on the socio-economic situation.

The residents of monotowns who participated in the opinion poll were asked to assess the overall socio-economic situation in the town and their financial situation, as well as express an opinion on the ways to solve socio-economic problems. A separate questions pool related to the employment problems: the participants were asked to rate the unemployment level and the chances to find a good job in the town "with normal working conditions and good salary." In addition, the poll respondents were asked to rate the level of entrepreneurial activity, including naming the promising areas of business development in their town. Besides, the poll addressed the topics of attitude to municipal authorities (their ability to control the socio-economic situation).

3.2. Study of the Living Comfort of Population

The living comfort of population is a characteristic of the physical, psychological, emotional and social perception by people of their situation in life depending on the cultural assumptions and personal values and in connection with their goals, expectations, standards and concerns.

The criteria of the living comfort include:

- comfort of accommodation;
- accessibility of social services (clinics, utility services, schools, kindergartens, hospitals and other facilities of the social sphere);
- cultural and leisure activities of the town;
- economic attractiveness of the town to the population;
- social orientation of the township-forming enterprise;
- favorable environmental conditions.

There is a close relationship between the town, the township-forming enterprise and the state (local authorities) in company towns. A kind of a "triangle" forms, the balanced activity of which will result in achieving the competitiveness of a company town. (Pasynkov 2006).

Since the township-forming enterprise employs most of the town population and it is a major taxpayer, the functioning of the town is impossible without the full-fledged functioning of the enterprise. Therefore,

a social orientation of activities becomes one of the most important functions of the township-forming enterprise (Mityurnikova 2011).

The township-forming enterprise fulfills the following minimum set of functions in the town system:

- provision of population with jobs;
- socially-oriented activities;
- replenishment of the tax base.

Fulfillment of additional functions is assumed with the stronger participation of the enterprise in the town life:

- financing the town social programs;
- participating in the construction of social objects (kindergartens, schools, hospitals, health resorts, etc.);
- shaping the responsible behavior of citizens in their country (volunteering);
- supporting programs for a cleaner environment, etc.

It follows from the above listed functions that the sustainability of the town as a whole depends on the activities of such enterprises. Its successful operation is therefore a key to the town sustainment and development.

Negative processes associated with a decline in the comfort of population living conditions are directly related to the crisis of production of the township-forming enterprises [9]. Monotowns suffered from the crisis of the global economic system more than other territories of Russia. It can be said that the vulnerability of the single-industry economy to the crisis impact is one of its main features. Diversification (the development of industries other than the township-forming and decrease in the town dependence on the operation of the township-forming enterprises) can make the development of monotowns more sustainable. At the present stage, the narrowness of the labor market in monotowns makes the problem of unemployment very acute and protracted. The most common anti-crisis measure of the township-forming enterprises is mass layoffs. As a result, as of January 1, 2016, the unemployment rate in 206 monotowns exceeded the national average rate by 20% (as of January 1, 2015 – in 173 monotowns), of which the excess was double or more in 84 monotowns (as of January 1, 2015 – in 66 monotowns), while the unemployment rate in Russia grew only by 10% in 2015 (Cities of Unemployed, N.D.).

According to results of the monitoring conducted by the Government of the Russian Federation by order of the President (Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 10.12.2013 No. 1141), as of January 1, 2016, population in monotowns remained at the level of 2014 (13.6 mln people). Employed population in monotowns totaled to 5.8 mln people, of which 956.9 thous. people (16.5%) are employed at the township-forming enterprises, 1.6 mln people (27.3%) – in the area of small and medium businesses (including individual enterprises).

Unemployed population in monotowns registered with the employment offices totaled to 125.2 thous. people. 33.8 thous. workers are employed part-time (Monotowns: Some Important Results and Figures of 2015).

3.3. Calculation of the "Point of no Return"

Definition of the town life cycle and calculation of the "point of no return" is based on the study of the demographic situation in the town in the first place. First of all, this includes the ratio of the basic demographic groups by age and sex. Analysis of the migration flows and their qualitative composition provides additional and very important information – this part of the analysis can be conducted on the basis of the local demographics data. Analysis of the condition and dynamics of professional and educational structure of the population according to the census can supplement demographic analysis.

Situation in which the town decay processes become irreversible arises when the ratio of the regressive mortality and fertility rates reaches the value of 4.26:

Point of no return = K_{dr}/K_{br} , where K_{dr} is a mortality rate, K_{br} is a birth rate.

The value of mortality cannot exceed the value of fertility to ensure the population growth. If this requirement is not met, a situation of "demographic death" of the town arises.

Once the "point of no return" is passed, the irreversible processes are observed, associated with the town population and leading to its inevitable decay despite any financial investment. Aging of the town population progresses both in absolute and in relative terms, which leads to a shortage of employable population, birth rate falls, mortality grows, outflow of population to other regions is observed. If the process is not controlled for a long time and is not opposed to, crisis begins: a subculture of poverty and labor demotivation emerge, which results in shaping the criminal urban environment. In such crisis times, monotowns turn into potentially extremely dangerous hotbeds of social upheaval, which is revealed in public protests, dissatisfaction with the existing local and federal authorities and falling public confidence in the social and political institutions of the country. (Turgel 2001).

Only the new strategic area developed and supported by all carriers of information – authorities, business community, all social groups and other institutions – can cause qualitative allocation of resources, change social movements and eventually not just revive a monotown, but also create the economic growth point on its basis (Maslova 2011).

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Developing the Optimal Plan of Production Development and Placement

The economic security of Russia depends on the socio-economic development of territories, in particular monotowns (Alushkin 2010). In turn, the sustainability of monotowns largely depends on the operation of the township-forming enterprise. Therefore, the problem of optimal development and modernization of existing enterprises and placement and construction of new ones becomes more urgent than ever. It is particularly important to both theoretically and methodologically accurately justify the options of development and placement of enterprises due to the fact that miscalculations in this case are incorrigible as a rule. Operation of the industrial facility, on the construction of which hundreds of millions of rubles are spent, will be associated with huge unjustified loss of social labor in the case of incorrect choice of the place in its location throughout the amortization period (and even beyond it). Moreover, small and medium businesses begin to cluster around each enterprise, and the industrial complex develops, which significantly complicates the correction of a wrong decision.

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The process of developing the optimal plan of development and placement of township-forming enterprises begins with an analysis and evaluation of the possibilities of the revival and development of monotowns on the basis of the proposed integral method and consists of the following key elements:

- identification of issues to be addressed and the final calculations results;
- allocation of the optimized system from the set of socio-economic relations;
- determination of the planning period;
- selection of the type of extreme task in accordance with the nature of the problem defined and the peculiarities of this system, etc.;
- definition of the optimality criterion and specialization of the kind of the objective function;
- development of options of the system development, acceptable from the technological, technical,
 economic and other standpoints;
- mathematical formulation of the task;
- collection and processing of the source economic information required for the problem solution;
- determination of the optimal plan of the task using the appropriate mathematical methods;
- economic and mathematical analysis of the solution results;
- development of recommendations for making planning decisions.

The best option for the industrial development and location is such an option of expansion and modernization of the existing enterprises and construction of new ones, selection of the volume and range of the goods produced and the applied technological methods of production, as well as transportation and use of the goods, for which the necessary conditions of the enterprise operation at the extreme value of the objective function are met during the entire planning period under consideration.

Depending on the statement of the problem, various indicators can be used as an optimality test – largely minimum cost and maximum profit.

The industrial complex development and location, optimal in terms of the selected criteria, must correspond to the limits, which in general case must include the formal description of the following conditions: the initial state of the system by the moment of the problem solving; demand for the goods and other terms of the goods sale; ability of the system to use limited resources – raw materials, energy resources, equipment, natural, human, financial resources, etc.; the relationship between the individual objects of the system; relationship between the object states, successive in time; transportation conditions for the delivery of raw materials and finished products; social, environmental and other conditions.

4.2. State Support for the Monotown Development

Solution of the problem of optimal planning of the monotown system development cannot be solved without the state support (Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 614 dated June 22, 2015).

Following the results of the Meeting of the Presidium of the Presidential Council for Strategic Development and Priority Projects dated November 30, 2016, the passport of the priority project was

approved on the main strategic area of development of the Russian Federation "Integrated development of monotowns." The key goal of the project is to reduce the dependence of monotowns from the operation of the township-forming enterprises through creation of 230 thous. new jobs non-related with the activities of the township-forming enterprises by the end of 2018.

The project realization period is November 2016 to December 2025. According to the passport of the priority program, its budget for 2017-2018 will amount to 11.2 bln rubles, including co-financing of regions and municipalities.

Development program will be designed for all 319 monotowns, including measures on the economy diversification and improvement of the town environment, development of human capital. The project includes the establishment of territories of advancing socio-economic development in 100 monotowns (Federal Law of the Russian Federation No. 473 dated December 25, 2014).

Meanwhile, investment projects will be realized in 150 monotowns, including with the participation of the Fund for the Monotown Development; infrastructure facilities will be built and renovated in 15 monotowns at the expense of the direct support of the fund. At least 200 monotowns will receive municipal programs of support of small and medium enterprises. Monotowns arose around the large industrial enterprises, so the development of small enterprises in such towns has its specifics. It is obvious that the main niche for small businesses is servicing the primary production, retail trade, provision of services to population, and social sphere.

In addition, support measures will be coordinated for the development of monotowns, planned within the framework of priority projects in such areas as healthcare, education, safe and high-quality roads, high-quality housing and utility services and establishment of comfortable town environment, support for small businesses.

In result of the project realization, the number of municipalities falling under the criteria of monotowns should be reduced to 18 as soon as by 2019. The teams that manage development projects of 319 monotowns will undergo specialized training, and the results of the mayors' service will be evaluated by a special ranking on the yearly base (The Government of the Russian Federation Has Approved the Passport of the Priority Project "Integrated Development of Monotowns").

Following the results of the conducted monitoring, the Russian Ministry of Economic Development has formed a list of 15 monotowns where the most acute signs of the crisis socio-economic condition revealed. A working group for modernization of monotowns under the Governmental Commission on Economic Development and Integration takes measures to review the investment projects and infrastructure events necessary for the realization of integrated development projects, including with the participation of funds of the non-profit organization "Fund for the Monotown Development."

As of February 25, 2016, the Fund for the Monotown Development has signed 24 general agreements on cooperation in the monotown development with 17 subjects of the Federation.

The Fund for the Monotown Development has signed nine agreements on co-financing of establishment of infrastructure in monotowns for the purpose of creating new jobs and raising investment, in accordance to which the total amount of the undertaken financial liabilities amounted to 5.1 bln rubles.

According to the Fund for the Monotown Development, as of January 1, 2016, a total of 6,938, mln rubles have been raised as investment at the expense of off-budget sources of financing and new jobs have been created in the monotowns that received support.

Nevertheless, the entire economic structure of the region is formed around large businesses, and if large investors invest in the production development projects, the small and medium enterprises will find their place in them. It is well known that the market emerges where investment arises, and small businesses come to the market (Kachurina, et. al., 2017).

As such, the optimal planning of location and development of monotowns with the purpose of formation of economic growth points on their basis must take into account all business formats – small, medium, and large.

5. CONCLUSION

The suggested method of integral assessment of the chance to revive monotowns and create economic growth points on their basis can be clarified and supplemented due to uniqueness of each monotown. Nevertheless, the basic guidelines will remain unchanged.

The integral assessment method is an intersection of the key evaluation sets of parameters of monotown condition and development prospects. It retains an individual one-sided approach to each specific monotown and allows to generalize the situation in relation to all monotowns.

Application of this methodology in the preparation of the investment program of the region will allow a more pragmatic while more efficient use of the available budgetary resources and the federal budget resources raised for this purpose, as well as provide real support to many monotowns that are ready to accept it and put their own efforts and funds to move from the subsidized condition to the donor regime, with a subsequent transition to the economic growth point.

The determining factor of the socio-economic development of territories, where the township-forming enterprises are located, is the efficiency of their economic activities. The township-forming enterprises create the vast number of jobs for local population, are the initiators of development and active consumers of the services markets, such as transportation, communications, telecommunications, energy, and engineering support. Successful township-forming enterprises become drivers of development of the local and regional economy in the period of intensive growth of the economic potential.

Not just shareholders and employees of the township-forming enterprises, but also the authorities of the subject of the Russian Federation and self-governing authorities are interested in successful business activities and financial stability of the enterprise. The practice of recent years shows a high degree of interest of the authorities, though a low level of their possible legal participation in the processes of managing the township-forming enterprises and their financial recovery. The regulatory function of the authorities in this area is realized through a strategic planning in cooperation with township-forming enterprises and realization of interdependent socio-economic development of territories, which is also a prerequisite for growth in the key domestic industrial sectors. (Kaurova and Podsevalova 2013).

The results of this interaction allow to create the economic foundation of shaping the modern industrial and technological basis that takes into account the main business and management goals of industrial complexes, industries and territories.

Thus, it can be concluded that the establishment of the system of the optimal planning of monotown development must be based on a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic condition of monotowns, which depends on the activities of the township-forming enterprises to a large extent. The optimal development plan should be developed taking into account the specifics of the individual monotown and can be realized in result of the joint work of the authorities, business community and local population. State support allows to recover the domestic production of many industries and, consequently, to recover the sustainability of small towns, which would be beneficial for the economy in general. In the condition of restricted imports of many products due to imposed sanctions, operation of enterprises in monotowns can solve the problem of shortage, which will lead to a decrease in demand for imports, which means that the economy of the country will become even more independent from foreign economies.

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