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### Perspectives of Interregional Economic Unions and Associations in Conditions of Geopolitical Instability

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**Abstract:** The growing importance of interregional unions and associations in the Russian economy in the period of the current economic transformations has determined the relevance of the research topic. The changes that have been formed in Russia have an indefinite relation to the nature of the processes currently taking place in the Russian economy and in its regions. The determined transition to market relations enabled the regions to independently decide on the directions and forms of their existing resources and put aside the obligation to coordinate all steps with the capital. This, of course, is a prerequisite for the growth of the result of the functioning of the economy of the regions. Obstacles for the movement of goods and services between the subjects of Russia were formed, the process of border and customs control became more complicated. There were difficulties in the work of the railway and automobile junction. These aspects of interregional economic associations are an example of the state of the economy of certain regions, and the aspect of influence on the economy. Due to the lack of own reserves of economic growth of a particular region, the task of inter-regional economic unions and associations is being formed. Therefore, a research on improving and developing such relations in the new economic conditions becomes a viable practical goal, and solving the problem is an important element of the obstacle to crisis situations in the Russian economy and the transition to sustainable economic development.

**Keywords:** geopolitics, interregional economic unions, interregional economic associations, municipalities, regional geopolitics

**JEL Classification:** R11, R12, R13

## INTRODUCTION

In the present conditions, the model of interaction of regions, without the natural existence of which one can not judge the formation of an integral market mechanism in the state, has not been sufficiently studied. It is necessary to search for a scientific definition of new mechanisms of interregional and integrative economic relations that would enable them to form their level and characteristics into a norm with high scientific, technical, human and production potential. Let us note that such a representation determines the basis for the development of any postindustrial society. Defining the factor of the market economy, as the formation of the interaction of a number of entities - from the organization to the regions – takes place on the basis of economic regulators, forms and methods of management, which does not apply to administrative ones, since they were regularly used in a unified economy.

The issues of strengthening the economic ties of the regions, the formation of new aspects of state management of interregional cooperation are quite relevant in the period of globalization. The issue of studying and forming economic mechanisms for combining the aspirations of Russia's regions in the development of a single economic space is very important, and this will ultimately lead to the process of strengthening the competitiveness of Russian producers on international markets.

At the same time, the issues of the interregional economic unions and unified cooperation improvement are understudied. This calls for the need for studies of the significant organizational and economic aspects of economic relations between the territories and the formation of prerequisites for their improvement for the growth of stability of the development of the economy of the state as a whole.

The problems of regional policy, interregional economic relations and integration processes are represented in a number of both Russian and foreign studies. But a whole series of issues that include the formation of interregional relations in the agreements for the transition to a market economy, the emergence of the Russian Federation from the economic crisis, the impact on the integration of a determined market infrastructure, the stabilization of investment processes for a sufficiently full application of the economic and export potential of the regions, improving interregional relations at the federal and regional levels, according to the author, has been inadequately studied in the professional literature.

In the period of the transition market economy, the formation of interregional unions and integration associations in the Russian Federation will become the main object of regulation by the government and public movements. The role of the regions in determining the entire economic space and advancing integration issues is increasing. Along with this, the formed systematization of Russia's regions shows that the subjects of Russia have different capacities for the growth of interregional economic cooperation and unification, depending on the basic conditions, the problematic question and the people's standard of living.

Formed by now Russian Federation economic factors do not yet have effective prerequisites for self-identification of interregional economic unions. It is necessary to move towards an aspiring state policy for the formation, assistance and expansion of interregional economic unions and associations, which, first of all, focuses on the formation of a legislative framework that facilitates the consolidation of the Russian market; this helps to increase the competitiveness of different sectors of the economy, determine the stable movement of goods, finances and services on a scale, as per the needs of the current economy.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The structure of market relations greatly changes the importance, role, ability and responsibility of the subjects of Russia in the formation of production and development of regions, the growth of the subsistence level of people working in them. The growth in the number of functions of local self-government bodies in the region is associated with a stable complication of the lever of taking managerial opinions, increasing impact and instability of aspects of the external environment. In the present conditions of effectiveness, the production of the subjects of Russia is not possible without coordinating and combining their aspirations.

Overcoming the unifying ambitions and ambiguity of the economic space is directly dependent on the exact existence of regional market structures and the improvement of socio-economic processes in the territories. Along with this, mutual interest and profit is the base for the definition of relations between participants of economic process in the market conditions.

A number of modern authors define the issues of economic interaction of territories at the international level, as well as in the real sector of the economy. There are almost no works devoted to the use of the concept of the integration process in managing the problem of interregional economic assistance to Russian regions, the settlement of methodological, theoretical and practical aspects arising in this sphere.

The formation and scientific substantiation of the issues of the development of integration processes are presented in the works of modern foreign economists J. Winer, Moravczyk, Tinbergen, E. Haas, and others. Different aspects of theoretical coverage and practical application of interregional economic unions are determined in the studies of such Russian authors as: V.N. Arkhangelskiy, Yu.S. Dul'shchikov, B.Z. Milner, V.V. Kistanov, V.G.Sadkov, N.N.Kolosovsky, A.E.Probst, A.I. Tatarkin, G.F.Fedorov and others. The investigations of A.G. Rubinshtein, V.I. Suslov and other authors are devoted to the economic and mathematical analysis and definition of these unions. Recently, studies of Russian authors have been developed that study the application of regional marketing concepts in modern conditions. Among them are the following authors: A.L. Gaponenko, N.P. Ketov, A.P. Pankrukhina, and others.

It must be said that today a whole line of work has been formed that are relevant to the formation and scientific research of issues of inter-regional economic unions. Here we should mention the research by A.N. Alisova, N.G. Agafonova, A.A. Adamesku, A.E. Probst, D.V. Kistanova, N.V. Markova, B.V. Moskvina, N.N. Nekrasova, etc.

Analysis of the more popular world views of market relations reflected in the works of the following authors: J. Keynes, A. Marshall, A. Smith, M. Friedman, T. Samuelson and others, and applied in many states at different periods, allows concluding they can not be fully used in the current realities of the current Russian Federation.

In the period of the emerging transition to the modern economy in relation to the growth of the importance of the regions, the scientific work of the processes of development of the regional economy and inter-regional economic unions and associations has been strengthened. Various aspects have been studied by Yu.P. Alekseev, A.N.Alisov, Yu.S. Dul'shchikov, V.N. Leksin, N.V. Markova, O.I. Prudnikov, Sh.V. Semenov, A.I. Shvedov, V.F. Shumeiko, etc.

The works on regional and interregional issues during the period of determining market relations are described in the studies of Russian authors A.N. Alisov, O.V. Hrytsay, M.K.Bandman, Yu.P.Alekseev,

A.G.Granberg, Y.S. Dul'shchikov K.V.Guseva, I.N.Evseenko, L.A.Ivanchenko, and others, as well as foreign economists, such as: E.M. Hoover, X.Bos, A.Weber, U.Izard, V.Leontiev, A.Leš, V.Kristaller, T.Palander, D.Ricardo, G.Richardson, A.Predel, I.G. Von Tyunen, and others.

Therefore, insufficient study and the level of definition of management issues by the formation of an interregional economic union, first and foremost, and, in addition, the scientific and practical importance of increasing the effectiveness of the functioning of the unions, account for the feasibility of the research topic.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

At the present time, economic integration processes, interregional economic unions and associations are growing at different regional levels: between different countries and groups, between territories among state borders. The movement from the planned, directive economy to the market economy urges to treat the issues of inter-regional economic unions and associations in a different way. Initially, this process is formed by the development of economic sovereignty of the regions of Russia and their economic structures, by their ability to choose and promote their autonomous economic decisions.

It should also be said that interregional interaction as to the questions of productive forces organization, the regional division of labor, the economic structure of the large economic territories and their districts have been studied in detail and got approbation in the period prior to the reform of the movement towards market ties. This experience is evidenced by experience in the division of the state's territory, in the formation at the country level of basic production schemes and the concentration of productive forces, methods of formation of global territorial production and other areas of activity.

In the period of economic autonomy in the regions of Russia, their economic entities, the issue of forming a process for determining and promoting interregional economic cooperation is of great importance. The described research became a measure of methodological scientific analysis of economic relations formed between territories and their economic entities, a measure of the formation of methodological aspirations to determine and evaluate the effectiveness of economic interaction between territories.

The object of the study was the aspects of economic interaction between the regions of Russia, under which the authors imply economic relations, common economic elements, conglomerations at the level of local government bodies of Russian regions and other aspects.

The subject of the study is the economic and managerial relations that are formed in the process of interregional economic cooperation.

The theoretical base of the work is the scientific works of Russian and foreign authors on the problems of development of regional and national economy in the period of formation of market relations, legislative bases, documents of the Government of Russia, materials of scientific and practical conferences and periodicals.

Methodological basis of the work was the study of Russian and foreign economists, legislative acts, periodicals in the field of economics. The scientific basis, deterrence method, the method of historical analysis, statistical research, etc. were used as elements of the work.

The scientific novelty of the research is the specificity of the acquired experience of interregional economic unions and associations and the promotion on this basis of theoretical foundations, the definition

of methodological and practical comments on the management system regulation by interregional economic unions and associations in market conditions.

Practical significance and promotion of the results of work. The results of the research have theoretical and applied quality; they can be applied both in the practice of management and in the theoretical coverage of the optimal production of economic complexes and systems.

## DISCUSSION

**The problem of geopolitical stability in Russia.** In the period of globalization of the world landscape, both political and economic, which is accompanied by modern challenges for the formation of the individual, the society and the country, it is necessary to revise the state policy in the sphere of determining geopolitical stability, where territorial policy is of great importance. At the same time, in the period of increasing information, mobile, economic and technological aspirations, geopolitical complexities acquire a strong significance for the border areas, “contact zones”, territories located at the intersection of state cooperation.

The role and depth of the difficulties of instability grows in difficult periods of development of the society. The current transformation of the civilizational lever of development has definitely contributed to the negative transformation of systemic definitions, to the growing hostility of the socioeconomic environment, this is reflected in the growth, scale and intensification of threats to the livelihoods of territories of all levels of the economic system. At the turn of the 21st century it is considerably multiplied and has a significant number of difficulties that threaten the formation of both the entire society and individual countries, including Russia (Granberg, 1989).

At the present time, the growth of different types of national views, such as:

- economic,
- social,
- ecological.

The presented elements characterize the sufficient urgency of the issue of the formation of the safety definition system, which is characteristic of the transformational displacements being determined. The growth of the economic, social, political, and other types of imbalances in life is the main feature of the present moment - it relies on the interests of all the territories of the economy and consequently requires the formation of an integral conceptual model of stability and effective development that takes into account not only unilateral but also other requirements of economic agents.

The last decade of the 20th century saw difficult and multifaceted changes in the international arena. The disintegration of the USSR, and then the fall of the bipolar geopolitical structure of the world structure, did not lead to a safe and stable order in the world. The stable geopolitical structure of the world economy was followed by a period of continuous instability formed by the aspiration of states that defined themselves as winners in the Cold War, to form a modernized world order, and that the distinct polarity, the assertion of the requirements of an uninterrupted group of developed industrial states to all other countries and peoples.

In the current conditions, the global issues of today are being strengthened. Today the issues of blocking the nuclear war and the obstacles to the sale of weapons of mass destruction, overcoming the

existing inequality in the socio-political world between the “rich” and “poor” states, overcoming the energy and food crisis, cleaning up the ecological situation in the world, balancing The demographic situation in the world, the growth of the quality of people’s relations with nature, the renewal and careful use of natural resources (Neklessa, 1996; Kobersy *et al.*, 2017).

There is an increase in the number of interdependence and interconnection between countries in the global world. It was the activation of the political activity of the territories of international existence that is focused on promoting national interests. Therefore, there is a process of aggravation of the struggle between different states for owning natural resources, obtaining a higher living status for the citizens of their state. The methods of such work with the problems are not the same, but the methods have difficulties and uncompromising nature, it indicates that the actualization for all countries separately of the issues of the formation of state security, the issues of preservation and development in the next century (Wallerstein, 1992).

**Regional geopolitics in Russia.** The geopolitical account of the confrontation of the late 20th and early 21st centuries was formed in the fact that interests of the main countries of the world are reflected on a fairly small regional level, and the main civilizational, socio-economic conciliation is reflected. The countries of the world, as subjects of international law, cease to be one and the main creators of world geopolitics. The formation of a transnational world leads to a “transfer” of the internal policies of countries into the external and from the external to the internal. The limit between them is imaginary. The current processes of world production lead to an increase in the subjectivity of the territories, their geopolitical and geo-economic definition in the state and global aspects. Consequently, the new creators, who received in the last decade all the significant impact at the international level, have formed intrastate territories (Dijkink, 1996).

In the Russian Federation, in conflict agreements for the transformation of society, territorial difficulties came to the foreground as dynamically as in no other country in the world. According to experts, the visible future of the Russian Federation is determined ambiguously, with a multifaceted spectrum of opposing axiological and vast views, different documentary provisions with respect to domestic and foreign policy of the country.

Hence, the main issue for the newly created subject of international relations - Russia is the preservation of the internal Russian geopolitical space, a geopolitical unit and security within the former RSFSR. The uncertainty and inaction of the authorities or the incessant willingness to rely initially on capacity to establish order are formed into levers of conflict. Independent decomposition of discipline in its geopolitical space can not be measured from the point of view of the country’s geopolitical status in global processes (Tsygichko, 1998).

Concluding, one might say, from the geopolitical standpoint, it is important to maintain the geopolitical space controlled by Russia at the expense of the common conjugation of the opinions of the territories among themselves, territories and the central region on the basis of federal relations, not allowing to bring the situation to the collapse of the historically formed ethnosystem of the Russian Federation, the integral political, economic And spiritual spaces. Issues of internal geopolitics play both theoretical and practical part for the Russian Federation. One of the main aspects of the global importance and geopolitical position of the Russian Federation in global issues at the current stage is the preservation of territorial integrity,

political, economic, demographic and spiritual unity, which strengthens the significant role and influence of Russia's internal geopolitics.

**Types of inter-regional unions and associations in Russia.** In the Russian Federation, unions and associations of local authorities began to be formed quite recently, with the formation of the period of perestroika in the 1980s. In 1986, the Association of Siberian Cities was formed, which later became the Association of Siberian and Far Eastern Cities. Great importance in the development of the inter-municipal union and protection of the requirements of local self-government bodies was determined by the "Union of Russian Cities" formed in 1991, which mainly connected the capitals of Russian regions and other large cities. By this time, more than ten all kinds of unions and associations of municipal entities have been established and are functioning in the Russian Federation.

Based on the current legislation, the union (association) of local government is a legal entity and subject to state registration in the form in which it is established for non-profit enterprises. The founders of unions and associations are local self-government bodies (Ivanov, 1999).

By the Decree of the President of Russia of 22. 10. 1998, the proposal of unions (in other sources called associations) of Russian municipalities to determine the Congress of municipalities of Russia was approved.

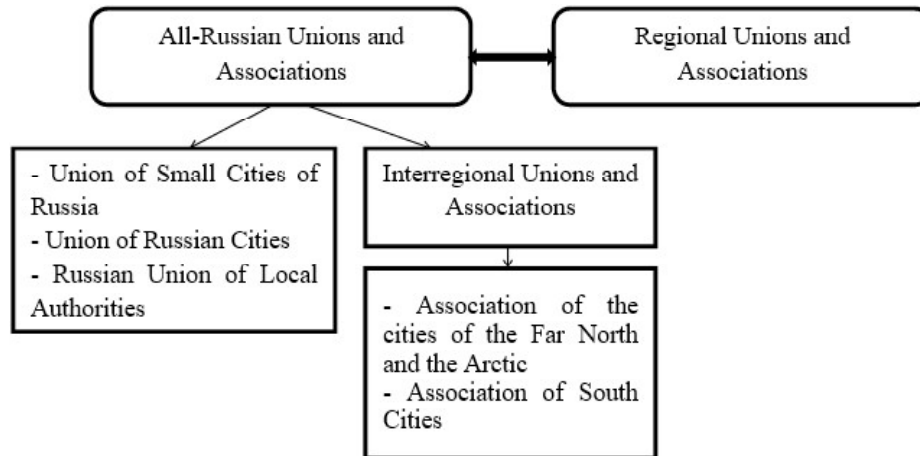
The Congress is an all-Russian organization that represents the interests of the municipalities of the Russian Federation. The objectives of the formation of the Congress is to promote the rights of citizens to local self-government, to regulate the activities of municipal entities of the Russian Federation and the formation of their work with federal government bodies and international companies of local government.

The main objectives of the Congress are:

- promotion of citizens' rights to local self-government;
- coordination of the work of municipalities in Russia;
- formation of interaction of municipalities with federal bodies of state power (Leksin & Shvetsov, 1999).

The Administration of the President of the Russian Federation together with the Government of Russia forms interaction with unions and associations of municipalities for the formation of the participation of local self-government bodies in the formation of housing and communal, budgetary, tax and social and other reforms.

Interregional economic unions and associations of municipalities take part in the formation and definition of draft laws that relate to the interests of local self-government, the promotion of state programs, take an active part in parliamentary elections and international forums on issues of local self-government, and cooperate with foreign economic unions and associations. A number of positive results that have been registered in recent years in the Russian Federation, during the municipal reform period have largely been the result of the joint work of unions and associations of municipalities (Shumakov, Troitskiy & Silnov, 2017). Thus, the Union of Russian Cities unites large cities and regional centers; The Russian Union of Local Authorities is an all-Russian union of municipalities, dynamic in the policy of developing relations of local self-government in Russia. Regional unions and associations organize municipal entities that are located within the subject of Russia.



**Figure 1: Types of interregional economic unions and associations**

Interregional economic unions and associations should be distinguished from a number of public associations, such as, for example: the “Russian Zemsky movement” and other associations that are formed by citizens, and not by municipal entities in the person of their local government bodies. It should also be taken into account that it is likely to form associations of economic cooperation between local governments (Parkhanina, 1996).

The Provisional Regulations on the Procedure for the Formation, Registration, and Activity of Voluntary Associations of Economic Assistance to the Subjects of Russia and Local Governments were formed by the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation on September 16, 1993. According to the Regulations (Il’Yaschenko *et al.*, 2015; Shkurkin *et al.*, 2017), unions and economic cooperation associations are formed by local self-government bodies to solve their internal economic and social goals in the framework of jointly defined agreements, programs and projects.

**Tasks and functional responsibilities of unions and associations.** The main goals and functions of inter-regional economic unions and associations are to define the activities of local self-government bodies for more effective implementation of their duties and interests on the basis of traditionally defined accommodation, socio-economic development goals, demographic situation and other local specifics;

- the formation of concerted actions to resolve the economic situation and social protection of the population; The formation of general decisions on the formation and promotion of local programs and projects on issues that are part of the functions of local government and the formation of the necessary financial institutions and material resources by using the abilities of the founders of unions and associations, in addition to the entrepreneurial activities of the structures formed by associations, Associations for these tasks;
- the formation of proposals for the promotion of state policy in the field of self-government;
- preparation of recommendations and implementation by local governments of legal measures to promote federal programs and projects, in addition, local agreements and programs.
- Unions and associations in accordance with the established goals determine the best conditions for taking into account local interests;



- contribute to the central bodies of the federal, executive power in the period of conflict situations in interethnic relations with the local authorities in the promotion of measures to resolve the situation;
- affect the ethnic communities that are located on the territory of the founders of unions and associations, in the formation of cultural centers, entities, communities, other public associations (Divlygarova, 1993).

The founders of inter-regional economic unions and associations are local self-government bodies. The rights of unions and associations are formed within the limits of powers delegated to them by the founders. Unions and associations have their rights as a legal entity (Silnov & Tarakanov, 2015; Gapsalamov, 2013). The management of the associations on behalf of the founders has the right to represent the interests of the unions in state and other government bodies within the boundaries of the delegated powers. The type of activity, equity participation and the right to apply the final results within the unions and associations are formed by constituent contracts, in addition, the order and procedure for making decisions on the issues of production and activities of unions and associations is formed.

Organizational forms of management of unions and associations are characterized by a meeting of founders. The main body of management of unions and associations is the council, which includes heads of local self-government bodies or authorized representatives. The rights of the council are established by the memorandum of association.

Inter-regional economic unions and associations have the right to manage within the scope of their competence activities to promote socio-economic programs and projects; To form coordinating centers and representative offices in the established order in cities and other points of Russia; Involve in the process on a contractual basis scientific institutions and professionals, form periodic creative and scientific associations to form programs and projects of socio-economic, industrial, cultural and educational and other nature within the limits of their competence; To acquire in a certain order from government authorities and management, state research organizations and organizations the information necessary to determine their functions.

## CONCLUSION

In the period of transformation of the market economy of production of interregional relations and processes of involvement in Russia should be determined by the main object of definition by the state and public enterprises. Increases the role of regions in defining the common economic space and promoting joint processes (Mamycheva *et al.*, 2017). Along with this, a certain classification of the territory of the Russian Federation suggests that the subjects of Russia have ambiguous abilities for the growth of inter-regional economic partnership and integration, depending on the basic conditions, preserved uncertain issues and the standard of living of the population.

The currently determined economic conditions in the Russian Federation do not yet have real conditions for self-actualization of interregional economic relations. It is necessary to form a transition to an aspiring state policy of promotion, formation and strengthening of interregional economic relations, which is aimed at creating a legislative framework that would contribute to the consolidation of the state market, this in turn increases the competitiveness of different sectors of the national economy, determine the

stable movement of goods, money and services with regard to the acceptable needs of the economy (Sazanov & Akhmetshin, 2016).

Prospective directions of the theory of development of inter-regional unions and integration for formation of political integrity and economic safety of the state are:

- definition and consolidation of the whole economic space;
- progressive development of all regions, taking into account their specificity and optimal application of the resource potential;
- stepwise growth of competitive advantages in the period of transition economy

The main specificity of the production strategy is the more equal use of the capabilities of federal regions in the consolidation of federalism and interregional relations.

The main role in the striving for the organization of interregional relations and unification processes in the conditions of the formation of market relations is exerted by economic methods of determination that include the tax involvement of all types of interregional relations, transaction insurance, credit and financial support, provision of benefits for the use of resources, etc.

The main measure to promote interregional relations is the restraint of mutual settlement procedures, for both companies of different regions, and local administrations among themselves. Interregional bill process, mutual budgetary enterprises within the framework of the formation of the Interregional clearing centers could be advisable (Goryushkina, Shkurkin, Petrenko, Demin & Yarovaya, 2016; Mullakhmetov, Nazmiev & Akhmetshin, 2015). In the process of their formation, the experience, mechanism and material and technical basis of state centers should be applied.

Provision of interregional economic unions and associations is necessary, to be a method of activity of the main management structures that need to be organized in the territories, within local administrations. In the configuration of the main system for determining economic ties between the subjects of the country, it is necessary to form a management structure, according to the type that was formed in the capital.

A steadily increasing role in the definition and development of interregional economic unions and associations should be a part of public organizations, associations and unions of entrepreneurs. It is necessary to increase the role of regional trade and industrial societies as the boundaries for the development and improvement of interregional relations of entrepreneurs, to form similar structures within the boundaries of the Association for the Economic Interaction of Russian Regions, to form departments, structures and representative offices in other regions. During the formation and development of public organizations, entrepreneurs can take over the share of power in the regulation of inter-regional trade.

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