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**IMPROVEMENT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT  
SYSTEM FOR BUSINESS ACTIVITIES  
IN DIFFERENT TYPES OF REGIONS\***

*The article considers the system of infrastructure support for business activity in the regions of the Central federal district of Russian Federation. The proposed typology of regions by the level of infrastructure development for entrepreneurial activity is obtained on the basis of the authors' method of assessing the level of infrastructure in regions, including different assessment indicators by types of infrastructure depending on the life cycle of entrepreneurial structures. The complex of directions for regional economic development policy concerning infrastructure support for business activities is developed depending on the types of regions and the levels of their infrastructure development.*

*Keywords: entrepreneurship; infrastructure support; region; the level of development.*

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**ВДОСКОНАЛЕННЯ СИСТЕМИ ІНФРАСТРУКТУРНОГО  
ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ ПІДПРИЄМНИЦЬКОЇ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ  
У РІЗНИХ ТИПАХ РЕГІОНІВ**

*У статті розглянуто систему інфраструктурного забезпечення підприємницької діяльності в регіонах Центрального федерального округу Російської Федерації. Запропоновано типологію регіонів за рівнем розвитку інфраструктурного забезпечення підприємницької діяльності (інфраструктурозабезпечені, середньозабезпечені та недостатньо забезпечені). Таку типологію було отримано на основі авторської методики оцінювання рівня інфраструктурозабезпеченості регіонів, що включає в себе різноманітні оціночні індикатори за видами інфраструктури в залежності від життєвого циклу підприємницької структури. Розроблено комплекс напрямків регіональної економічної політики з розвитку системи інфраструктурного забезпечення підприємницької діяльності, диференційований в залежності від типів регіонів та рівня розвитку їх інфраструктури.*

*Ключові слова: підприємницька діяльність; інфраструктурне забезпечення; регіон; рівень розвитку.*

*Форм. 1. Рис. 1. Табл. 2. Літ. 14.*

Вера И. Меньщикова, Ульяна Г. Трибунская  
**СОВЕРШЕНСТВОВАНИЕ СИСТЕМЫ ИНФРАСТРУКТУРНОГО  
ОБЕСПЕЧЕНИЯ ПРЕДПРИНИМАТЕЛЬСКОЙ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТИ  
В РАЗЛИЧНЫХ ТИПАХ РЕГИОНОВ**

*В статье рассмотрена система инфраструктурного обеспечения предпринимательской деятельности в регионах Центрального федерального округа Российской Федерации. Предложена типология регионов по уровню развития инфраструктурного обеспечения предпринимательской деятельности (инфраструктурообеспеченные, среднеобеспеченные, недостаточно обеспеченные), полученная на основе авторской методики оценки уровня инфраструктурообеспеченности регионов, что включало различные оценочные индикаторы по видам инфраструктуры в*

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*зависимости от жизненного цикла предпринимательских структур. Разработан комплекс направлений региональной экономической политики по развитию системы инфраструктурного обеспечения предпринимательской деятельности, дифференцированный в зависимости от типов регионов и уровня развития их инфраструктуры.*

*Ключевые слова: предпринимательская деятельность; инфраструктурное обеспечение; регион; уровень развития.*

**Introduction.** Today one of the main challenges facing the Federal and regional authorities in Russian Federation, is the provision of necessary conditions to improve the level and quality of life of population on the regions and the country as a whole, which, in turn, will be expressed in economic and social development, directly connected with the state of entrepreneurship and the creation of appropriate infrastructure. It should be noted that today the system of infrastructure support for business activities in Russia and its regions is not yet fully formed, due to its fragmentation in some areas, lack of infrastructure objects of different types, and the underestimation of the factors hindering the development of infrastructure support for business activities, as well as the imperfection of the methodological research on the level of infrastructure development.

**Literature review.** Infrastructure support for entrepreneurial activity is studied in the works by M.G. Lamansky (2009), O.N. Levshina (2010), M.O. Orlov (2010), D.A. Sapegin (2010), I.V. Stecyk (2011), S.A. Sukhova (2007), V.V. Tupikin (2011), V.V. Zverev (2007) and others. The works by M.V. Goryainov (2011), S.N. Kostychev (2010), D.A. Sapegin (2010), A.S. Semenov (2013) present the main directions of infrastructure support system development for business activities in today's Russia and its regions.

Despite extensive research on the subject matter, there still remain unresolved issues driving the need to improve the system of infrastructure support for business activity under the current economic conditions.

**The main aim** of this research is the development of scientific and methodological provisions for the creation of favorable environment for business development in a region based on the infrastructure improvement.

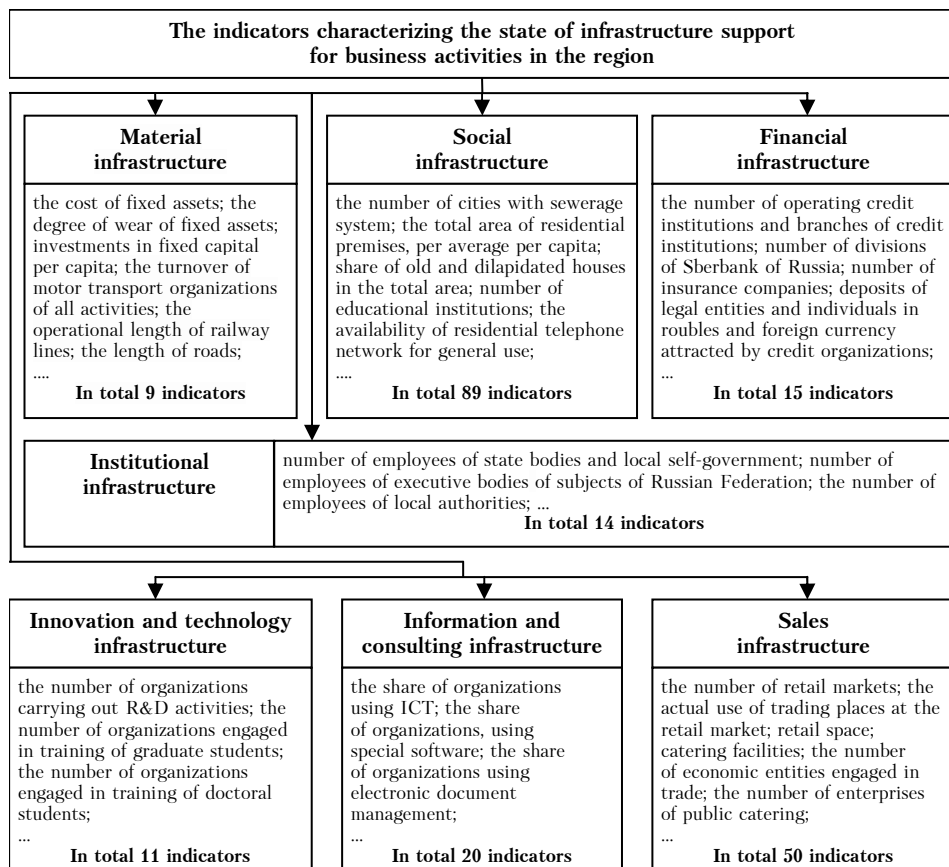
**Key research findings.** In order to identify the level of infrastructure support development for business activity in the regions of Central federal district of the Russian Federation and ranking them on the appropriate types we conduct a comprehensive assessment. A.F. Martynov and D.V. Gudov (2013), M.O. Orlov (2010) have made the attempts to assess the development level of entrepreneurial activity infrastructure in Russia. G.A. Dremina (2009) has analyzed the level of small and medium-sized business development in the Omsk region and suggested additional indicators to be used to evaluate the regional programs of support for small and medium-sized business.

One of the key reasons for the development of a typology of the regions of the Central federal district is that it is incorrect to offer the same direction of development for all regions of Russian Federation, as well as it is incorrect to compare all subjects of Russian Federation by the level of their socioeconomic development.

The typology of regions has been developed to assess the level of business infrastructure including 4 stages:

*Stage 1 – selection of indicators characterizing the state of the infrastructure support business.* Infrastructural potential of regions is characterized by a complex structure of indicators, including several blocks, each describing a set of indicators.

To assess the development level of the system of infrastructure support for business activity we use the following indicators characterizing the state of business infrastructure by type of infrastructure, depending on the life cycle of entrepreneurial structures (Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Fragment of the system of indicators to assess the level of infrastructure development for entrepreneurial activity in a region**  
(www.gks.ru)

*Stage 2 – the ranking values of the parameters characterizing the state of infrastructure support for business activities in the regions.* The ranking is based on the level value. For indicators of positive development, the grade is assigned as follows: the higher is the index value, the higher is the rank (the highest rank = 1). For the indicators of negative phenomenon – on the contrary. The minimum grade is taken depending on the number of investigated regions. In this case, the minimum rank = 17.

*Stage 3 – to calculate the total rating values, characterizing the level of infrastructure development of entrepreneurial activity for each region separately by the type of*

*infrastructure*. To test the developed method we take 17 regions of the Central federal district (excluding Moscow). Because of the anomalous values of the indicators of entrepreneurship infrastructure, Moscow is not used in calculations.

The following results were obtained (Table 1).

**Table 1. Rating of regions of the Central federal district by the development of infrastructure support for business activities, 2012**

Region	Type of infrastructure							Rating
	Material	Social	Financial	Institutional	Innovation and technology	Information and consultation	Sales	
Belgorod region	6.44	7.13	6.13	7.93	8.45	7.6	7.36	7.22
Bryansk region	10.11	9.36	12.4	10.14	13.45	15.6	10.66	10.74
Vladimir region	11	9.64	8.93	12.93	9.82	6.75	8.94	9.42
Voronezh region	4.78	6.63	5.33	4.43	5	8	4.92	5.94
Ivanovo region	14.78	10.45	9.67	13.36	8.36	9.55	11.6	10.87
Kaluga region	9.11	9.25	6.07	10.21	8.27	9.2	11.62	9.59
Kostroma region	14	11.51	13.53	16	15.64	11.25	14.12	12.85
Kursk region	7.78	10.15	10.4	10	7.82	15.75	11.46	10.79
Lipetsk region	7.33	8.38	6.47	11.14	13	7.15	10.24	8.95
Moscow region	6.77	4.10	2.6	1.64	3.45	5.25	1.72	3.45
Orel region	9.67	10.73	14.4	15.43	8.18	13.9	14.52	12.37
Ryazan region	8	9.73	10.2	8	10.91	6.35	11.08	9.62
Smolensk region	9.11	9.54	7.73	8.64	14.64	7.55	9.88	9.55
Tambov region	5.78	10.56	12.53	11.86	11.64	13.3	12.08	11.27
Tver region	7.33	8.51	7.73	4.93	10.09	15.75	7.8	8.76
Tula region	10.89	7.33	8.87	9.43	7.45	11.6	6.92	8.05
Yaroslavl region	7.78	8.18	6.73	9.64	4.45	5.35	7.44	7.5

*Stage 4 – grouping of regions by the level of infrastructure support development for business activities and determining their types.* For the typology implementation we need to group the regions of the Central federal district by the development of infrastructure system, which is possible through the use of Sturges formulas:

$$n = 1 + 3.322 \lg N. \quad (1)$$

Applying the statistical methods, the following results were obtained (Table 2).

**Table 2. The grouping of regions of the Central federal district by the development of infrastructure system, 2012**

Type	Range rating	Level of provision	Regions
1	3.45–7.25	infrastructure availability	Moscow, Belgorod, Voronezh
2	7.26–9.15	middle level of infrastructure availability	Lipetsk, Tver, Tula and Yaroslavl
3	9.16–12.95	not provided infrastructure	Bryansk, Vladimir, Ivanovo, Kaluga, Kursk, Ryazan, Smolensk, Kostroma, Orel, Tambov

The results of the evaluation of the infrastructure level in the regions of the Central federal district of Russian Federation (except Moscow) allowed us group all the regions into 5 groups according to the interval estimates. The subjects belonging to the same group, on the one hand have close values of indicators of socioeconomic development, and on the other hand, the overall trends. Due to the fact that some

regions have almost the same level of development of infrastructure, it became necessary to group them together.

Thus, all the regions of the Central federal district (except Moscow) can be divided into 3 groups:

- infrastructure availability – Moscow, Belgorod and Voronezh;
- middle level of infrastructure availability – Lipetsk, Tver, Tula and Yaroslavl;
- not provided infrastructure – Bryansk, Vladimir, Ivanovo, Kaluga, Kursk, Ryazan, Smolensk, Kostroma, Orel, Tambov.

The most important factor of business development at present is the state of infrastructure. The research on the level of infrastructure support for business activity in the Central federal district of Russian Federation reflects the inadequacy in this sphere.

Directions for development of business support infrastructure are considered by S.N. Kostychev (2010). His work presents the measures necessary for support of small and medium-sized private business engaged in municipal economy. A.S. Semenov (2013) on the basis of the evaluation of policies' effectiveness supporting entrepreneurship in the Leningrad region justifies the need to improve its effectiveness and provides recommendations on the improvement of regional infrastructure supporting small and medium-sized business. In his opinion, the development of complex infrastructure supporting the SME in the Leningrad region should be undertaken in the following areas: development of regional and municipal microfinance institutions, establishment of a regional leasing company, creation of an information-consulting centre, support of innovative entrepreneurship.

To improve the infrastructure support for business activities in different types of regions, we propose the following complex directions of regional economic policy:

- *for regions with sufficient infrastructure* – to maintain favorable investment climate; further modernize production and efficient use of resource potential; update fixed assets; rationally use production capacities;
- *for the regions with middle level of infrastructure development* – development of a coherent and effective system of training, retraining and advanced training of personnel for small entrepreneurship; development of forms of public-private partnerships; improving the system of social services; more efficient use of existing infrastructure of small business support and information systems to ensure business; the use of Internet technologies to provide easy access to information; interaction with media in promotion of business; expanding the range of information services provided to small businesses and other;
- *for regions with not sufficient infrastructure* – dissemination of best practices of existing business support systems; integration of information resources related to small business support; development and introduction of new information technologies in information service business; constant update of information resources existing in inter-regional networks to support small businesses; development and implementation of information technologies that provide cheap and effective forms of participation of Russian entrepreneurs in international trade; improving the state system of credit guarantees, interest rate subsidies on loans to small businesses; provision of soft loans to small businesses through the system of funds for small business support; assistance in attracting extra-budgetary financial resources; development of venture

capital for innovative projects of small businesses; reducing tax burden, simplification of tax procedures; use of simplified procedure on registration and liquidation of small enterprises; the state of registry controlling, audit, and inspection for small businesses; strengthening the procedure of conducting inspections of small businesses and the responsibility of officials conducting them; determination of the scale of possible punishments for fiscal cases and excess of authority; prevention of discrimination of small businesses relative to large businesses and public enterprises etc.

**Conclusion.** Implementation of the proposed directions of regional economic policy will help to improve the system of infrastructure support for business activity in the region in order to create favorable environment for business development.

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