

INTRODUCTION BY THE GUEST EDITOR

This is the second Special Issue of our Journal (the first, No 5, was published in 2016) produced with the cooperation of the Kennan Institute of the Wilson Center. This issue consists mainly of articles prepared by scholars on the basis of research projects undertaken during their stays at the Kennan Institute. We appreciate the mutual cooperation with our colleagues despite a difficult period of political turbulence between the Russian Federation and the USA. Indeed, academics can stand on the fixed ground of objective analysis of governance processes and show that we are not so far from each other in our analytics.

The broad spectrum of research that has been produced by scholars, mostly from Kennan projects but also from our colleagues that have decided to join the Special Issue, can be roughly distributed among subjects that have recently been in high demand in the research field of public administration, public policy and public affairs.

First of all is the problem of governance of innovations: how to better manage scientific research and how to evaluate the impact of military R&D complexities on the acceptance of innovations in the civil sector. The rich analysis of data from Russia and Armenia not only clarifies the present situation in this field and shows the real picture of innovative development – and not just in these countries – but also produces conclusions as to how innovative development can be operated on the level of pure science and through investment into break-out technologies.

Regional development is the second issue and is one that has attracted a lot of attention from scholars in public administration. It covers a variety of levels and sub-sets of the problems: from analysis of the relations between Federal centers and Regions in Federal states regarding the prospects of its asymmetry, and the controversial picture of intergovernmental relations of Regions inside Russia, to municipal attractiveness distribution and its foundations – the problems of safety in big cities. It is a mosaic that shows the essence of regional development in its different forms and trends.

The NPG concept also is at the heart of contemporary interests of public administration scholars, and in this Special Issue some successful practices for advocating the public interest and its protection against the dominance of corporative and bureaucratic interests are discussed. At the epoch of the extremely strong lobbying of corporate interests it is, definitely, the key problem of governance for many countries, especially for so-called “developed democracies”.

Finally, we welcome the publications by our colleagues – economists who have the interests and abilities in order to research those problems bordering the economy, public administration, public governance, and public affairs. State policy, which should protect competition, avoid monopoly prices and set anti-trust barriers, is the common ground for both economists and for public administration scholars.

Once again, I extend my utmost appreciation to all the authors, to the Kennan Institute of the Wilson Center for their willingness to take part in this Special Issue, and to the NRU-HSE who have constantly supported international collaborative publications and research.

Alexey G. Barabashev