

Секция «Государственное управление экономическим развитием в условиях перехода к новому технологическому и мирохозяйственному укладу»

Problems and peculiarities of the Russian expert community participation in the country's economic policy development

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At present, uncertainty is a fundamental component of the global environment. Since many countries are enduring turbulent times in enhancing public confidence and trust, efficient, flexible and responsive political decisions and economic reforms are especially significant. In addition, in the modern world a policymaker is frequently unable to navigate in steady information flow and finds it difficult to define problem areas in national economy, as it requires a comprehensive analysis. The given facts have caused the demand for to the dynamic development of expert communities and think tanks as a subject of the decision-making support at the state level in democratic countries.

In this paper the presenter shares the findings of her research as a graduate student. The presenter poses and answers a number of such essential questions as the position of expert community and its impact on the economic policy-making and implementation; functions of the expert institutions under the transition to a new technology and global economic order; some peculiarities of the expert community participation in Russian economy and politics and the ways to address the inadequacies of experts operation.

Following V. Filippov (V. Filippov, 2012) the presenter defines expert organizations as analytical centres or think tanks that are the subject of intellectual maintenance of public authorities and business communities in the matters of domestic and foreign policy and provide evaluations of possible social and economic consequences of government decisions. The result of these organizations' intellectual activity is the applied political expertise, recommendations on the key policy issues, analytical articles and reviews. Some analytical reports are used to legitimize the made decision in order to ensure public support, as well as to discuss various scenarios.

Further, the presenter discusses five most important functions of expert institutions: the research function, which is evident in expert community members exploring the object of appraisal for compliance with the modern trends of social and economic development of the country; communicative function enables interaction of experts with decision-makers, the federal and regional representatives of the executive power and the society; information and analytical function, which involves the collection, analysis and storage of expert information and provides access to it; educational function provides the exchange of experience between the expert community members, the increased special professional knowledge of experts, as well as the skills improvement; predictive function is carried out to determine the actual and objective understanding of the current situation and its possible development.

Then the presenter goes on to discuss the issues of experts' participation in a decision-making process that appear to be immensely controversial. On the one hand, "expertocracy"- expert authority and the ability to influence public opinion - is found to have a wide dissemination. On the other hand, the lack of expert advice as well as its inherent latent nature are stressed by some scholars. Moreover, one cannot deny that some experts are biased conductors of the existing policy.

According to D. Sosunov (D. Sosunov, 2012), Russian expert institutions are distinguished by a number of features. The first feature is a permanent authoritative selection of expert communities through administrative methods. The second feature is that the government of our country is not ready to exploit the potential of expert communities in a variety of cooperation, for example in the form of situational centres. The third one is the dominance of private (corporate) expert communities engaged in the economic and political processes. Professionals, united in closed expert communities, operate in the interest of state bodies and political elite, influencing the development of the most significant decisions. The fourth feature is that the relations between the Russian society and the authorities are not intended to interaction and adjustment and therefore the expert community is considerable neither for the society, nor for the authorities. The last but not the least, domestic expert community has to generate ad hoc ideas. Many different expert recommendations are stillborn. Expert institutions are formed by the President on a special occasion instead of working on a regular basis.

The research reveals that at present the expert community activities are unknown to the general public. Discrepancy of views and a fairly strong divergence, caused by ideological, party, religious and other differences, is common practice among experts. It is of utmost importance to overcome the fragmentation and competition, to avoid duplication. Expert community should raise the questions of participation in making major government decisions, whether it concerns domestic policies or international relations.

Since the state is the "customer" of the policy it is expected to mobilize skilled personnel, including experts, to ensure the decisions are implemented efficiently. A community of experts, in its turn, should be more involved in a dialogue with authorities.

However, the burden of a decision-making process on a particular issue falls on the state. An expert can only predict a sequence of events. It is important to understand that the expert community's work has to be transparent, and recommendations should be politically sensitive. Perhaps think tanks need their own lobbyist who might present expert performance in elite circles.

The presenter comes to the conclusion that the development of a network of national expert communities is essential for the government, society and citizens. Therefore, the creation of such a mechanism of cooperation, where the authorities would be interested in an impartial examination and expert communities would be able to deliver precise expert advice is an acute problem for the Russian society.

Источники и литература

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