

Preface to the Thematic Issue of the Journal “Administrative Consulting”: About the Russian Research School of Strategizing

The development of the socio-economic potential of modern Russia, the choice of priority areas and their corresponding competitive advantages are impossible without a long-term strategy focused primarily on improving people's quality of life. Russia urgently needs a comprehensive, scientifically based strategy focused on the implementation of the multifaceted category of "human quality of life." This involves not only improving people's material and physical well-being, but also realizing their intellectual and emotional interests, strengthening and maintaining their health, and physical development. The scientific justification of such a complex national strategy requires the participation of highly qualified scientists in this process — economists, mathematicians, specialists in the fields of health, ecology and environmental protection, safety, labor protection, geologists and hydrogeologists, chemists. These professionals must necessarily be involved in the development of socio-economic strategies of the country, regions and sectors of the national economy.

Over the years, since the middle of the 20th century, research teams have been created and developed in universities and scientific institutions of the Soviet Union, and primarily in Russia, developing various types of forecasts and programs for long-term development. However, none of these teams was engaged in or focused on the development of theoretical foundations, methodology, and directly integrated socio-economic strategies, and such strategies that would be provided with all the necessary types of resources.

In order to scientifically substantiate and improve the practical effectiveness of strategy development and implementation, and train professionals in the field of strategizing, the Academic Council of Lomonosov Moscow State University established the Chair of Economic and Financial Strategy at the Moscow School of Economics (E&FS of the MSE MSU, 2007) and the Center for Strategic Studies of the Institute for Mathematical Research of Complex Systems (CSI IMISS MSU, 2010). The theoretical substantiation of the strategies being developed is facilitated by the creation of a dissertation council at Moscow State University, specializing in reviewing and supporting scientific research in the field of regional and sectoral economics and the economics of innovation, but only and exclusively developing the theory of strategy and methodology of strategizing.

Over the past years, the department staff has trained 537 professional masters in economics with specialization in the field of strategy development and implementation. At the meetings of the specialized dissertation council, 6 doctoral and 26 candidate theses of scientists from Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan were reviewed and successfully defended.

Teachers and researchers of the Chair and the Center, with the participation of professionals from other faculties and institutes of Moscow State University and the Russian Academy of Sciences, have developed several national, regional, sectoral and corporate strategies for Russia and a number of foreign countries. The importance and effectiveness of these strategies has been approved and confirmed. They have been approved by the relevant decision-making bodies, and their developers have been awarded high scientific state and corporate awards. Among these strategies, first of all, it is necessary to mention the fully implemented Program of Physical Culture and Sports, which, among other things, provided for and justified the holding of the World Summer Universiade in Kazan (2013), the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi (2014), the FIFA World Cup in Moscow and in ten other Russian cities (2018).

The Strategy for the Socio-Economic Development of St. Petersburg until 2035, developed with the leading participation of strategic scientists from Moscow State University, was approved in December 2018 as a regional law by the Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg. During 2019-2020, the teams of the Department of Economic and Financial Strategy and the Center for Strategic Studies of Moscow State University developed a Strategy for the socio-economic development of the Kemerovo Region — Kuzbass for the period up to 2035 and beyond. This regional strategy was also approved as a regional law on December 23, 2020 by the Kuzbass Parliament, and on March 6, 2021, it was confirmed by an order of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation. To monitor the implementation of this strategy, the Government of Kuzbass has established an Economic Council, whose meetings are held every 6 months under the chairmanship of the Governor of Kuzbass with the participation of scientists from Moscow State University, RAS, KemSU, other representatives of the Kemerovo region, national and regional government bodies and economic management.

The implementation of these two regional strategies continues successfully, demonstrating continuity in the activities of the new leaders of these regions.

In accordance with the Vernadsky project, which provides for cooperation with Moscow State University to enhance the role of regional universities and institutes in the scientific, technological, and socio-economic development of Russian regions, universities in St. Petersburg and Kuzbass actively participated in the development of the above-mentioned regional strategies and continue to actively contribute to their implementation. This helps to strengthen the relationship of MSU scientists with regional educational and scientific institutions and their joint activities aimed at improving the quality of life of the Russian population. Through the efforts of teachers of the Department of Economic and Financial Strategy at the Moscow State Higher School of Economics, scientists from the IMISS Center for Strategic Studies at Moscow State University, together with scientists from several regions of Russia and foreign universities in Uzbekistan and Belarus, about 40 Schools of Young Strategists have been established and are successfully operating. This international scientific and educational movement mainly covers students in grades 10-11 of secondary schools, gymnasiums, lyceums, as well as students of colleges, technical schools and cadets of cadet schools. In these educational institutions, children receive not only the basics of knowledge about strategizing processes, but also actively develop their own strategic projects initiated by them.

To develop scientific research in the field of methodology and practice of strategizing, the Department and the Center have been holding annual scientific and practical conferences since 2018, which already include 22 Strategists' Universities. They were held in Russia (Moscow, Kemerovo, Novokuznetsk, Murmansk, Yekaterinburg, Apatity), Uzbekistan (Navoi, Tashkent), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek). Based on the results of these universities, 28 collections of scientific articles have been published.

To attract young scientists to the development of the theory of strategy and methodology of strategizing, international competitions of young scientists "Innovative Development Strategies" have been held annually for 10 years. The leading organizers of these competitions are the Center for Strategic Studies of Moscow State University, the Northwestern Institute of Management of the Presidential Academy of Russia, Kemerovo State University and Shanghai University (China). The laureates of these competitions were young researchers from more than 60 countries.

The activities of scientists of the Russian school of strategizing are highlighted primarily on the pages of such scientific journals as Strategizing: Theory and Practice, Administrative Consulting, and Industrial Economics. In collaboration with Moscow State University, the North-West Institute of the Presidential Academy publishes the Strategist Library series of books, which has already published 45 volumes of monographs and textbooks on various aspects of national, regional, sectoral and corporate strategizing.

The works of strategic scientists are also reflected in 9 volumes of the library "Strategy of the Russian Far East". The special feature of this book series is that 8 volumes of this series have been translated and published in the USA, Canada and the UK. The results of the development and monitoring of the implementation of the Kuzbass Socio-Economic Development Strategy are reflected in the nine-volume Library of the Kuzbass Strategy. Of particular note are the publications of the prestigious "Classical University Textbook" series published by Moscow State University, the world's first textbook "Economic and Financial Strategy". In 2026 For the first time, the Prosveshchenie publishing house has published a specialized textbook "Strategy" for students in grades 10-11 of secondary schools, colleges and lyceums.

All this accumulated scientific, educational, pedagogical, and practical experience in developing and implementing a strategy is reflected in the pages of this issue of the highly rated Administrative Consulting journal. For the proposal to publish such a specialized issue, the team of scientists from the Russian School of Strategy expresses its sincere gratitude to the Director of the North-West Institute of Management of the RANEPa, Doctor of Economics, Professor Andrey Dragomirovich Khlutkov and the scientific director of the Institute, Editor-in-chief of the journal "Administrative Consulting", Doctor of Economics Vladimir Alexandrovich Shamakhov.

*V. L. Kvint,
Academician, Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences,
Doctor of Economics, Professor,
Honored Fellow of Higher Education of the Russian Federation*