

The role of expert communities in the Inter-regional Cooperation and Development Process

Barabashev Alexey

Abstract

Inter-regional administrative cooperation is studied at different levels: cooperation of various (including TRANS-border) regions, inter-country/states cooperation, as well as cooperation of various organizations and sub-regional cooperation (municipalities – regional state bodies – public organizations – business), within the same region. The last mentioned (grassroots) level of administrative cooperation within a single region (sub-regional cooperation) is particularly important. At this level, cooperation becomes coordination, and the requirements of cooperation are to coordinate development plans and strategies, and create tools for evaluating the quality of implementation of plans and strategies.

The presentation will examine the example of one of the Russian regions of the North-West of Russia (Vologodskaya oblast) in organizing such cooperation, identify the mechanisms of cooperation and explore the role of expert communities in developing cooperative strategies and plans.