



Elena V. Berezina, Pavel P. Bochkovskiy, Konstantin V. Lebedev, Nadezhda A. Pluzhnova

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to examine the existing approaches to assessing the level of technological development of the countries of the world. Methods: Using the experience of previous studies, the article supports and develops ideas for constructing a composite index, allowing to assess the level of technological development of the research and development area at the subnational level. Results: According to the level of technological development of the sphere of research and development with the use of the proposed index, we compiled the rating of Russian regions. The factors, determining the gap in the level of technological development in the sphere of research and development, are identified, and the size of the existing gap between the Russian regions is estimated. In the course of the study, it was possible: to assess the level of technological development of research and development at the subnational level; to identify the strengths and weaknesses that affect the level of technological development of research and development; to identify Russian regions-leaders and regions-outsiders as a whole in terms of the level of technological development of the sphere of research and development, as well as for individual "referent elements"; to conduct a comparative analysis of the level of technological development in the sphere of research and development of Russian regions; to determine the impact of each subindex on the composite index. Practical relevance: The necessity of developing a given approach is substantiated simultaneously at the sectorial and regional levels. There is a composite index describing the level of technological development of research and development at the subnational level.

Keywords: scientific policy, technical policy, composite index, complex index, subindex, region.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Relevance of the study

The need for scientific and technical policy is recognized by many countries of the world [3, 4, 19, 20, 45]. Among the reasons for the increased attention to it we can distinguish:

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\* Correspondence Author

**Elena Berezina\***, Scientific Research Institute – Federal Research Centre for Projects Evaluation and Consulting Services (SRI FRCEC), Moscow, Russia. Email: e.berezina81@mail.ru

**Pavel Bochkovskiy**, Scientific Research Institute – Federal Research Centre for Projects Evaluation and Consulting Services (SRI FRCEC), Moscow, Russia. Email: pbochkovskiy@gmail.com

Konstantin Lebedev, Scientific Research Institute – Federal Research Centre for Projects Evaluation and Consulting Services (SRI FRCEC), Moscow, Russia. Email: kos.lebedev@gmail.com

Nadezhda Pluzhnova, , Scientific Research Institute – Federal Research Centre for Projects Evaluation and Consulting Services (SRI FRCEC), Moscow, Russia. Email: sonvik123@gmail.com

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- degree and complexity of technologies, their interdependence,
- novelty of problems arising in the field of research,
- high speed of technological changes,
- unpredictable consequences of scientific discoveries [14 15, 23, 25].

The formation of effective scientific and technical policy is impossible without a comprehensive analysis of the state and trends in the development of research and development, an integral part of which is the assessment of the level of technological development.

#### B. Notion of the composite index

The composite indexes are the one of the tools that allow us to assess the characteristics of complex processes, such as socioeconomic progress, globalization, innovative, technological development, etc. [27, 30-32, 44].

#### C. Composite elements

As composite elements of the composite index we define five "supporting elements":

- material and technical resources;
- · human resources;
- cooperation of organizations in the implementation of research and development and the innovative activity of organizations;
- costs associated with research and development to create new and improve existing products and technological processes;
- release of innovative goods (works, services).

#### D. Tendency for the use of indexes

The growing tendency for the use of indexes for analysis and generalizations is explained by the fact that indeterminate qualitative characteristics are reduced to a clear, concrete and easily interpreted form [33, 34]. During the past two decades, various indexes have been proposed by individual researchers and international organizations [16, 17, 36, 37], some of which were used for cross-country level of comparison of technological development [12, 13, 42, 43]. At the same time, while choosing as the unit of analysis of the country as a whole, problems of intracountry differentiation remained outside of attention. The index calculated for the country, overstated the level of technological development for some of its regions and understated for others. The differences between regions could reach dozens of times.



In recent years, researchers have been actively developing and applying indices to analyze complex processes, objects, or phenomena, allowing the identification of existing differences at both the subnational [5, 21, 22] and the municipal [1] levels.

#### E. The purpose of this study

Main purpose of this study is to propose an indicator that allows us to assess the level of technological development in the sphere of research and development at the subnational level. As an indicator, a composite index was made, using the example of Russian regions to identify interregional differences and determine their causes.

The construction of the index took into account the experience of previous studies on the nature of technological development and the measurement of this process.

#### F. Main questions posed in the paper

The paper poses two theoretical questions, the answers to which are of interest to the institutions responsible for the development of scientific and technical policy:

- Is there a gap in the level of technological development of the field of investigations and engineering at the subnational level, and what is its magnitude?
- The reasons for the differences in the level of technological development of research and development in the regions?

#### G. Tasks that were solved

When searching for answers to these questions, the following tasks were solved:

- the statistical information, which is necessary for building the index, is analyzed;
- the indicators for the final composite index are selected;
- the index values for the regions according to which they were reorganized, were calculated;
- the gap in the level of technological development of the regions was assessed and the factors influencing this gap were identified.

The results of the study were used in the summary report on the level of technological development of the economy of the Russian Federation on the whole and certain types of economic activity.

#### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### A. The Index of Technological Progress

One of the first comprehensive indicators assessing technological development is the Index of Technological Progress (ITP) [18]. This index characterized the achievements of the countries of the world in terms of the development of information technology. The index was calculated for 110 countries. At its construction five indicators were used:

- · personal computers;
- · Internet hosts;
- · facsimile machines;
- · mobile phones;
- TVs.

The index values ranged from 0 to 100. The first ten places in the ranking of countries in the Technology Progress Index belonged to OECD member countries. The last ten positions were occupied by the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

#### B. The Technology Achievement Index

The United Nations Development Program (the United Nations Development Program) in the Human Development Report 2001 published the Technology Achievement Index (TAI) [39]. It was a complex indicator built on the basis of four subindexes:

- · creation of technology;
- diffusion of recent innovations;
- diffusion of old innovations;
- · human skills.

Each of the subindexes included two indicators. Both subindexes and their constituent indicators had equal weights. The index was calculated for 72 countries, which were divided into four groups:

- Leaders (TAI > 0.5);
- Potential leaders (TAI = 0.35-0.49);
- Actively introducing innovations (Dynamic adopters) (TAI = 0.35-0.49);
- Marginalized (TAI < 0.20).

#### C. The ArCO Technology Index

Using the principle of building the Technology Achievement Index, and improving it, Archibugi and Coco offered the Technology Capability Index for developed and developing countries (ArCo Technology Index) [10, 11]. The ArCo technology index, like the TAI index, was a complex indicator. It was built with three subindexes:

- the creation of technology;
- the technological infrastructures;
- the development of human skills.

The subindexes had equal weights. Unlike the Technology Achievement Index (TAI), the ArCO index allowed not only to conduct cross-country comparisons, but also comparisons in dynamics. The coverage of countries also increased. The index was calculated for 162 countries, which could be divided into four groups:

- leaders (from 1 to 25 place);
- potential leaders (from 26th to 50th place);
- latecomers (from 51 to 111 places);
- marginalized (from 112 to 162 places).

Between the isolated groups of countries there was a significant gap.

#### D. The Technology Index

In the Report on Global Competitiveness for 2001-2002, The World Economic Forum published the Growth Competitiveness Index. This index contained three subindexes, one of which was the Technology Index. Let us dwell on it in more detail. Initially, the Technology Index was calculated for 75 countries that were divided into two groups [24]. For the first group of countries (core economies), the Technology Index was formed taking into account two subindexes:

- Innovation Subindex;
- Subindex of information and telecommunication technologies (ICT Subindex).

The weight coefficients for them were equal. For the second group of countries (non-core economies), this index was built on three subindexes:



- Innovation Subindex (weight ratio 1/8);
- Subindex of information and telecommunication technologies (ICT Subindex) (weight coefficient 1/2);
- Technology Transfer Subindex (weight coefficient 3/8). In the future, the number of countries for which the index was calculated increased [2].

#### E. The Technological Readiness Index

In the Global Competitiveness Report for 2004-2005, The World Economic Forum presented a new index – the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) [29]. As the Growth Competitiveness Index, it was a complex indicator. Initially, the Global Competitiveness Index was built on the basis of nine "pillars", which comprised three sub-indexes [28]. One of the "supporting elements" was the technological readiness (Technological Readiness), which characterizes the existing technological infrastructure of the country and the ability to apply domestic and foreign technologies.

In the future, the methodology for calculating the Global Competitiveness Index has been improved. Currently, his calculation is based on 12 "supporting elements" [26, 36, 37]. Increased coverage of countries for which the index is calculated.

# F. The Index of Industrial and Technological Advancement (ITA index)

In 2005, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in its Report [27, 28, 40, 41] published the Index of Industrial and Technological Advancement (ITA index). This index was calculated on the basis of two subindexes:

- Industrial development subindex (Industrial advance);
- Subindex of technological development (Technological advance).

The subindex of technological development consisted of two indicators:

- the share of high- and medium-technology industries in industrial production;
- the share of exports of high- and medium-technology industries in the export of products.

The weight coefficients of these indicators were assumed to be equal.

#### G. The Technological Activity Index

Simultaneously with the Industrial and Technological Development Index, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) presented the UNCTAD Innovation Capability Index (UNICI) [38]. The index consisted of two subindexes:

- the index of technological activity (the Technological Activity Index);
- the Human Capital Index.

Let us dwell on the first of them. Its components were three indicators:

- number of personnel performing research and development, per 1 million people of the population;
- number of patents granted to inventions by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO);
- number of scientific publications per 1 million people of the population.

These indicators had the same weighting coefficients. Subindex was calculated for 117 countries, which were

grouped into 4 groups:

- High innovation 30 countries;
- Highly innovative medium level (Medium-high innovation) 29 countries;
- Medium innovation 29 countries;
- Low innovation 29 countries.

#### H. The Global Innovation Index (GII)

Since 2007, the International Business School INSEAD, Cornell University and the World Intellectual Property Organization annually publish the Global Innovation Index (GII) [7-9].

This index is a complex indicator, calculated on the basis of two subindexes:

- resources needed to implement innovation (innovation inputs);
- results of innovation activities (innovation outputs).

The subindex "innovation inputs" is calculated on the basis of 5 "supporting elements" (institutions, infrastructure, human capital and research, the degree of development of the market and the degree of business development), and the subindex "innovation outputs" – based on two (products of knowledge, technology and creativity). In 2017, seven "supporting elements" included 81 indicators. The index was calculated for 127 countries, accounting for 92.5% of the world's population and 97.6% of the world's gross product [6, 9, 36].

This review focuses on indices, which at different times were used to assess the level of technological development of countries. Many of them are not currently calculated.

#### III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Using the experience of previous studies, the article supports and develops ideas for constructing a composite index, allowing to assess the level of technological development of the research and development area at the subnational level.

Two assumptions were made:

- The scope of research and development has a certain specificity. As the results of research and development, not only material values (new materials, products, devices, systems, etc.) act, but also nonmaterial ones (new knowledge and concepts that may not initially have an applied nature).
  - In choosing a system of indicators characterizing the technological development of the sphere of research and development, the focus was on activities whose results are directly embodied in the form of innovative goods (works, services):
- 2. The concept of "region" can be used both in a broad and a narrower sense. In this study, the Russian federal districts acted as a region.

The construction of the composite index (Itd (r)) was based on the analysis of statistical information contained in Russian statistical databases. The analysis made it possible to distinguish five "supporting elements" that affect the technological development of the sphere of research and development:

- material and technical base;
- · human resources;
- level of cooperation of organizations in the implementation of research and development, innovative activity of organizations;
- costs associated with research and development to create new and improve existing products and processes;
- release of innovative goods (works, services).

These "supporting elements" contain 13 indicators. A comprehensive indicator of the level of technological development of the sphere of research and development of the region is calculated by the formula:

$$I_{id(r)} = \frac{I_{eq(r)} + I_{hr(r)} + I_{c(r)} + I_{ex(r)} + I_{ip(r)}}{5}$$
(1)

where we have:

 $I_{ea(r)}$  subindex 1 'material and technical base';

 $I_{hr(r)}$  subindex 2 'human resources';

 $I_{c(r)}$  subindex 3 'cooperation of organizations and innovative activity';

 $I_{ex(r)}$  subindex 4 'costs associated with research and development to create new and improve existing products and processes';

 $I_{ip(r)}$  – subindex 5 'release of innovative goods (works, services)'.

Each of the five subindexes has the same weight. It means that the composite index of technological development of the sphere of research and development of the region is the arithmetic mean of five subindexes.

The difference between the proposed index and similar ones is as follows. First, it is intended to be used simultaneously at the sectoral and subnational levels. Comparison at these levels gives an advantage in terms of the availability of statistical information. With cross-country comparisons, it is very often necessary to abandon certain indicators because of the unavailability of statistical data or their incompatibility. Hence the second difference, consisting in the collection of indicators of each of the "support elements".

Subindexes are calculated in the same way as the composite index. The weight coefficients of the indicators that make up the subindex are determined expertly.

The indicators, based on which the subindexes are calculated, are below:

- a1 the share of machines and equipment under the age of 5 years in the total average annual cost of machinery and equipment in the field of research and development;
- a2 \_ the technician's level of researchers<sup>1</sup>;
- a3 the cost of equipment included in the fixed assets, the average annual cost of machinery and equipment in the field of research and development;
- b1 the proportion of researchers in the total number of personnel performing research and development;

<sup>1</sup> The technician's level of researchers is the average annual cost of machinery and equipment per researcher. Here and further we use the adjusted number of researchers (researchers in the field of social and human sciences are not taken into account).

- b2 the proportion of researchers with a degree (candidate, doctor of science) in the total number of researchers;
- b3 the share of technicians in the total number of personnel performing research and development;
- b4 the share of technicians with higher education in the total number of technicians;
- c1 the proportion of organizations that carried out technological innovation in the total number of organizations surveyed in the field of research and development;
- c2 the number of centers for the collective use of scientific equipment and unique scientific installations per one organization performing research and development;
- d1 the share of domestic operating costs for research and development to create new and improve existing products and processes in the internal operating costs of research and development;
- d2 the share of costs for technological innovations falling within the scope of research and development, in the total amount of costs for technological innovation in the economy as a whole;
- e1 the share of innovative goods, works, services newly introduced or subjected to significant technological changes during the last three years in the total volume of innovative goods, works, services in the field of research and development;
- e2 the share of innovative goods (works performed, services) in the total volume of goods shipped (work performed, services) by organizations in the field of research and development.

Instead of the actual values of the indicators for each of the regions, the normalized values calculated using the minimax normalization method:

$$\frac{X_{ij(r)} - X_{\min(r)}}{X_{\max(r)} - X_{\min(r)}} \tag{2}$$

where we have:

 $X_{ij(r)}-\mbox{the actual value of the $j$---index of the region of the $i$---subindex;}$ 

 $X_{\text{min(r)}}$ ,  $X_{\text{max(r)}}$  – minimum and maximum values of the j—index among the considered regions for the period of observation.

Below we have the formulas for calculating each of the five subindexes:

$$I_{eq(r)} = \sum_{j=1}^{3} a_{1(r)} * 0.4 + a_{2(r)} * 0.3 + a_{3(r)} * 0.3$$
 (3)

$$I_{hr(r)} = \sum_{j=1}^{4} b_{1(r)} * 0.5 + b_{2(r)} * 0.3 + b_{3(r)} * 0.1 + b_{4(r)} * 0.1$$
(4)

$$I_{c(r)} = \sum_{j=1}^{2} c_{1(r)} * 0.6 + c_{2(r)} * 0.4$$
 (5)

$$I_{ex(r)} = \sum_{j=1}^{2} d_{1(r)} * 0.6 + d_{2(r)} * 0.4$$
 (6)





$$I_{ip(r)} = \sum_{j=1}^{2} e_{1(r)} * 0.6 + e_{2(r)} * 0.4$$

technological development in the sphere of research and development in the Russian federal districts. The obtained values of the indices are presented in the Table 1.

#### IV. RESULTS

The proposed approach was tested in assessing the level of

Table 1. The values of subindexes and composite indexes for federal districts in 2013-2016

The values of subindexes and composite indexes for federal districts	2013		2014		2015		2016	
in 2013–2016 Federal district								
			te index – Itd(1			1		
	I <sub>td(r)</sub>	Place	I <sub>td(r)</sub>	Place	I <sub>td(r)</sub>	Place	I <sub>td(r)</sub>	Place
Central	0.51	5	0.53	4	0.61	2	0.58	3
Northwest	0.57	2	0.57	2	0.59	4	0.59	2
South	0.54	4	0.58	1	0.56	5	0.53	6
North Caucasus	0.31	8	0.41	7	0.38	7	0.31	8
Volga	0.57	3	0.53	5	0.68	1	0.60	1
Ural	0.48	6	0.43	6	0.51	6	0.58	4
Siberia Fort	0.61	7	0.56 0.36	3 8	0.60	3 8	0.56	5 7
Far East	0.33	, ,		8	0.36	8	0.33	/
	т т		$\frac{1-I_{eq(r)}}{r}$	D1	т .	Disease	т .	Di
Central	I <sub>eq(r)</sub> 0.16	Place 8	I <sub>eq(r)</sub> 0.23	Place 8	I <sub>eq(r)</sub> 0.43	Place	I <sub>eq(r)</sub> 0.33	Place
	1					6		6 5
Northwest	0.41	7	0.37	7	0.48 0.48	4	0.34	4
South North Coversus	0.66 0.47	<u>3</u>	0.75 0.60	3	0.48	5 7	0.46 0.51	2
North Caucasus Volga	0.47	6	0.60	4	0.43	2	0.51	3
Volga Ural	0.47	1	0.51	2	0.68	1	0.50	1
Siberia	0.69	2	0.43	5	0.73	3	0.09	7
Far East	0.54	4	0.43	6	0.32	8	0.29	8
Pai East	0.34		$lex 2 - I_{hr(r)}$	U	0.37	0	0.20	0
	$I_{hr(r)}$	Place	$\frac{I_{\text{hr}(r)}}{I_{\text{hr}(r)}}$	Place	$I_{hr(r)}$	Place	I <sub>hr(r)</sub>	Place
Central	0.44	4	0.43	4	0.56	4	0.56	4
Northwest	0.60	1	0.43	1	0.63	3	0.50	3
South	0.00	6	0.38	5	0.03	5	0.43	6
North Caucasus	0.35	5	0.32	6	0.34	8	0.32	8
Volga	0.16	8	0.29	7	0.43	6	0.51	5
Ural	0.23	7	0.23	8	0.42	7	0.42	7
Siberia	0.55	2	0.59	2	0.73	1	0.75	1
Far East	0.51	3	0.50	3	0.71	2	0.72	2
Tur Dust	0.51		$\frac{1}{\text{dex } 3 - I_{c(r)}}$		0.71		0.72	
	$I_{c(r)}$	Place	I <sub>c(r)</sub>	Place	$I_{c(r)}$	Place	$I_{c(r)}$	Place
Central	0.53	5	0.64	3	0.79	2	0.81	2
Northwest	0.60	4	0.66	2	0.73	3	0.80	3
South	0.65	2	0.41	5	0.50	5	0.59	4
North Caucasus	0.19	8	0.27	7	0.22	8	0.25	8
Volga	0.63	3	0.58	4	0.64	4	0.56	5
Ural	0.31	6	0.08	8	0.25	7	0.43	7
Siberia	0.81	1	0.71	1	0.93	1	0.88	1
Far East	0.29	7	0.31	6	0.43	6	0.49	6
		Subino	$lex 4 - I_{ex(r)}$					
	$I_{ex(r)}$	Place	$I_{ex(r)}$	Place	$I_{ex(r)}$	Place	$I_{ex(r)}$	Place
Central	0.66	2	0.65	4	0.61	2	0.57	3
Northwest	0.51	4	0.66	3	0.57	3	0.66	2
South	0.38	6	0.44	6	0.43	6	0.22	6
North Caucasus	0.03	7	0.02	7	0.11	7	0.06	7
Volga	0.73	1	0.68	1	0.73	1	0.73	1
Ural	0.43	5	0.51	5	0.51	4	0.57	4
Siberia	0.59	3	0.68	2	0.45	5	0.50	5
Far East	0.00	8	0.00	8	0.00	8	0.00	8
		Subine	$lex 5 - I_{ip(r)}$					
	$I_{ip(r)}$	Place	$I_{ip(r)}$	Place	$I_{ip(r)}$	Place	$I_{ip(r)}$	Place
Central	0.76	2	0.70	3	0.66	4	0.65	4
Northwest	0.74	4	0.55	7	0.53	6	0.53	5
South	0.74	5	0.91	1	0.92	1	0.97	1
North Caucasus	0.53	6	0.81	2	0.78	3	0.40	6
Volga	0.87	1	0.62	5	0.91	2	0.68	3
Ural	0.75	3	0.68	4	0.63	5	0.80	2

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Siberia	0.40	7	0.40	8	0.36	7	0.40	7
Far East	0.31	8	0.60	6	0.29	8	0.18	8

The results of the research made it possible to identify the existing gap in the level of technological development of the sphere of research and development between the Russian federal districts and determine its magnitude. Between the first and last place in the rating gap was about 2 times:

- 1.97 times in 2013;
- 1.61 times in 2014:
- 1.89 times in 2015;
- 1.94 times in 2016.

Starting from 2014, this gap is widening.

In 2015 and 2016 years, on the level of technological development of the sphere of research and development the first place belonged to the Privolzhsky Federal District. In 2015, this federal district was in the lead in the rating of the subindex No. 4, in the subindex ratings No. 1 and No. 5 ranked second. In 2016, the Volga Federal District continued to lead in the rating of the subindex No. 4, but lost one position in the subindex ratings 1 and 5.

The last two places in the level of technological development of the sphere of research and development belonged to the North Caucasus and Far Eastern Federal Districts. These federal districts in most cases occupied the last three places in the subindex ratings. The exception was subindex number 2 (in the rating of which the Far Eastern District was in the second and third positions, and the North Caucasus rose to the 5th) and the subindex number 1 (in the rating of which the North Caucasus District only dropped to 7th place, and only once The Far Eastern rose to the 4th).

Among the reasons that caused the differences in the level of technological development, we can distinguish the following:

- the state of the material and technical base necessary for research and development;
- the level of professionalism of personnel engaged in research and development;
- the degree of cooperation of organizations in the implementation of research and development, the level of their innovative activity;
- the amount of costs associated with creating new and improving existing products and technological processes, carrying out technological innovations.

#### V. DISCUSSION

The composite index proposed in this work for assessing the level of technological development of the sphere of research and development allowed:

- to assess the level of technological development of research and development at the subnational level;
- to identify the strengths and weaknesses that affect the level of technological development of the research and development area;
- to identify the regions-leaders and regions-outsiders as a whole in terms of the level of technological development of the sphere of research and development, and for individual "supporting elements";

- to conduct a comparative analysis of the level of technological development in the sphere of research and development of Russian regions;
- to determine the impact of each subindex on the composite index characterizing the level of technological development in the field of research and development.

At the same time, the study faced certain limitations:

- Presence of a subjective estimation at definition of weight factors of indicators on which subindexes are calculated. The most experienced expert a priori is not immune from error. Partially, this restriction is smoothed by averaging the weighting coefficients presented by the experts.
- Limited statistical information. Statistical observation covers not all organizations that implemented innovations. Individual organizations may not provide information for any reason.
- Lateness of statistical information. As a result, assessing the situation at the current time is very difficult or impossible.
- Availability of statistical information on individual indicators only from 2013.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

Despite the existing limitations that were encountered during the study, it was possible to draw a picture of the level of technological development of the sphere of research and development of Russian regions. The results of the study were used in the summary report on the level of technological development of the economy of the Russian Federation as a whole and certain types of economic activity. In addition, the results obtained may be of interest to institutions responsible for the development of scientific and technical policy. As future directions of research, it is possible to suggest improving the presented approach to assessing the level of technological development of research and development at the subnational level.

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