## Methodology for evaluating socio-economic development of the territories based on revealing of the local backwardness attributes

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**Abstract.** Development of any territorial system is the resulting dynamics of its components – in the case of the regions of the Russian Federation – its constituent municipalities. It is at this level that economic agents and residents directly come into contact with the results of state policy to create favorable conditions for doing business and comfortable living. Comparative studies of socio-economic dynamics on a municipal region make it possible to identify territories with similar development characteristics, which forms a rationale for the implementation of targeted regional policy measures in relation to specific groups of territories. The article presents an overview of publications on the issues of assessing the socio-economic development of municipalities, and substantiates a need to develop our own approach. Based on the attributes of local backwardness such as lagging behind in development from the other similar territories, stable negative economic dynamics; lack of conditions and opportunities for endogenous development, the author's methodology of comparative assessment of the level of socio-economic development of municipalities is proposed. The logic of building a system of indicators is presented, in accordance with which three areas of assessment ("the state of the economy", "economic dynamics", "conditions for maintaining human potential") are identified. The selection of indicators is substantiated in the context of limited statistical data at the municipal level, and an approach for calculating integral indicators for each of the areas of assessment is given. An approach has been formed to the grouping of municipalities depending on the degree of manifestation of local backwardness. This grouping can serve as a basis for determining directions and instruments of selective regional policy for the territories with different levels of development.

**Keywords:** territorial backwardness, system of indicators, social and economic development, municipalities, municipal statistics

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