URBAN-RURAL POLARIZATION AND SOCIAL COHESION: the case of Kaliningrad

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Kaliningrad agglomeration

**Territory:** 3,7 thous. sq.km (28% of the region)

**Population:** 688,6 thous. people (73%), incl.: urban- 593, 4 thous. people (81%)

rural- 95,2 thous. people (44%)

Population density: 186 people/sq.km (71 people/sq.km – regional average)

Situated 12 of 25 urban and 385 of 987 rural settlements
- steady natural decline \textit{(about 3 thousand people annually)}

- regional average index of reproduction per 1000 inhab. \textit{– 3,1}

- cities are major contributors in term of depopulation \textit{(-3,8 per 1000 inhab. in average)}

- declining east and growing west in the countryside \textit{(-0,5 per 1000 inhab. in average)}
MIGRATION BALANCE: Spatial dimension

- positive migration balance (about 3,4 thousand people annually)

- regional average index of migration balance per 1000 inhab. 8,9

- Kaliningrad suburb is major magnet for external and internal migrants (1/3 of migrants goes to Gurievsky rayon)

- The State promotion program on resettlement of fellow nationals since 2006
DEMOGRAPHY: main trends

- Stable population size by means of external migration and narrow reproduction
- steadily overcrowding West (Kaliningrad agglomeration) and depressed, depopulating periphery
- Lack of medium-sized cities
- urban-rural disparities
- about half of rural population does not deal with rural lifestyle
- high level of spatial and social mobility
- Exclave condition, spatial isolation, transit problems

Source: Annual report of Kaliningrad region Government, 2009
Challenges for social cohesion: policy recommendations

- Balanced system of settlement – sub-regional center in the eastern periphery
- Free migrational exchange with rest of Russia and neighboring countries
- Development of transport infrastructure and accessibility
- Leveling living conditions between cities and the countryside
- Balanced labour market of the region
- Urban-rural partnership and trans-border cooperation
Thank you for attention!

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