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Active longevity policy in Russian regions

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Purpose for the research

Several documents on the policy of active longevity are implemented at the federal level

- 2016 – Strategy of action for elderly citizens
- 2018 – Federal project “Older generation”

However

- Russian regions differ in their need for support of elderly population
- Policy outcomes are largely dependent on implementation on regional level
Purpose for the research

Our research aims at assessing

- the degree of development of regional active longevity policy
- the degree of its compliance with the needs of the population of regions

Does the current policy meet the needs of the population of the regions?
Method

- Analysis of federal and regional legal acts implementing active longevity policy in Russia (February 2016 – September 2019)

- Statistical analysis (one-way ANOVA) of the relationship between the characteristics of policy and characteristics of regions:
  - share of the elderly population,
  - health and functional status of the elderly
  - material wealth
  - level of economic development

Data:
- Consultant Plus Legal Database
- Official statistics: Rosstat, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection
- Rosstat surveys – regional estimates

Limitations:
- To include in legal act does not mean to do properly
Key results

Number of Russian regions that included different types of objectives in their complex regional programs for the elderly

- Regions rarely include in the complex programs for active longevity more than 5 areas of support designated at the federal level. On average – 3-4 areas/types of objectives.

- Measures with direct effect on health and life expectancy are most common in the regions. As a rule, these areas are implemented in a region in conjunction with 1-2 priorities for leisure or the development of social ties.

- Most of the regional initiatives to increase the material well-being of the elderly are formulated in terms of actions, not results.

- The potential of “silver economy” is underutilized. Activities in this area are mainly represented by the development of new forms of sales of existing goods and services: trade, social services mechanisms.

* Excluding measures of general regional programs on employment.
Key results

What is o.k.

- Objectives on health care and long-term care for the elderly are not typical for regions with low proportion of elderly population and for regions with low share of elderly with severe restrictions in everyday life.

- Efforts to develop social service and LTC are associated with lower life expectancy in regions. And actions to increase material wealth are implemented in regions with lower healthy life expectancy.

- Employment policy is not top priority for regions with high proportion of elderly with low functional status.
Key results

What is not very good

- Regions without measures on health care and non-professional education for the elderly have higher level of poverty.
- Active employment policy is probably more characteristic of regions with labor markets tolerant to elderly (with shorter search period).