
PREFACE

This issue of the *Baltic Region* is timed to celebrate a landmark date — the 70th anniversary of our esteemed colleague, committed professional, talented researcher, and successful scientific manager Prof. **Gennady M. Fedorov**.

A graduate of Leningrad (today, Saint Petersburg) State University, Prof. Fedorov has dedicated himself to research, Kaliningrad, and its university, where he has worked for the past forty-eight years. He has held the important and responsible positions of Head of the Department of Socio-economic Geography and Geopolitics, Vice-rector for Research, Rector, Director of the Institute of Environmental Management, Urban Development and Spatial Planning, and, finally, Director of the Institute of Regional Studies.

The contribution of Prof. Fedorov to social geography is diverse and substantial. It includes multiscale geodemographic studies and analyses of trends and priorities in the development of the Kaliningrad region, which has been an exclave since the early 1990s. He has collaborated with colleagues from Poland, Germany, Lithuania, and other Baltic region states to study transboundary regionalisation in the Baltic amid rapid geoeconomic and geopolitical changes. He has authored a series of works focusing on the effect of the sea factor on the socio-economic development of territories. Overall, Prof. Fedorov has contributed to over 500 publications, including thirty-five monographs. In 1977, he defended his doctoral thesis on *The economic-demographic situation in the rural areas of the Kaliningrad region*. His postdoctoral thesis *A research framework for the concept of the geodemographic situation* followed in 1988. Some of the works of Prof. Fedorov have gained him recognition from both the academic community and the general public. In particular, he contributed to the Comprehensive urban planning scheme for the Kaliningrad region, which was awarded first prize by the State Committee for Construction of the Russian Federation.

In responding to ever-emerging socio-geographical challenges and constructing research designs for the teams he heads, Prof. Fedorov has continuously developed the original Kaliningrad (Baltic) school of socio-economic geographical thought, which is successfully functioning at the Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University. He has supervised over two dozen doctoral and postdoctoral theses, as well as numerous projects that have been supported by national and international science funding bodies, including the Russian Science Foundation and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research. The research team built by Prof. Fedorov is recognised and respected. They have created a prominent Russian centre for socio-economic geography, which is visible in the international arena. The team stands out for its

publication activities. The Kaliningrad researchers have held a range of conferences. They have set up a dissertation committee, which is famous for its both demanding and friendly attitude to candidates.

Prof. Fedorov, a respected authority in his field, has successfully performed many high-profile functions. He is the chair of the dissertation committee; a member of the Academic Council and the Council of Regions of the Russian Geographical Society (RGO); the chair of the Kaliningrad branch of the RGO, a vice president of the Russian Human Geographers Association; the editor-in-chief of the natural and medical sciences series of the *Vestnik* of the Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University (RSCI-indexed); and the deputy editor-in-chief of the *Baltic Region* (Scopus, Web of Science, the Higher Attestation Commission of the Russian Federation[HAC]) and the *Regionalnye issledovaniya* (HAC) journals.

This issue of the *Baltic Region* brings together leading Russian and international experts on issues that are thematically relevant to the research interests of Prof. Fedorov and the Kaliningrad school of socio-economic geographical thought. The contribution of Tadeusz Palmowski and Gennady M. Fedorov explores the formation of a Russian—Polish transboundary region as well as the role of the Kaliningrad region and the Tricity (Gdansk—Gdynia—Gdansk) in that process. Vladimir A. Kolosov and Aleksandr B. Sebentsov focus on regionalism in Nordic Europe and the Northern Dimension programme as interpreted in the Russian political discourse. Alexey V. Kuznetsov and Olga V. Kuznetsova investigate the changing role of border regions in the regional policies of the EU and Russia. Alexander I. Kostyaev explores the problems and development prospects of rural areas in Russia's north-western borderlands. Alexander G. Druzhinin analyses the factors and features of the localisation of large businesses in Russia's coastal zones. Andrey P. Klemeshev, Elena V. Kudryashova, and Sergey E. Sorokin examine the stakeholder approach and the ways to implement the 'third mission' of universities. Joachim von Braun and Alisher Mirzabaev explore the possibilities of bioeconomics in the Baltic region in the context of regional and global climate changes. Anatoly A. Anokhin, Ksenia D. Shelest, and Marina A. Tikhonova investigate trends in population change and stability in the socio-economic development of Russia's north-western cities.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Prof. Fedorov for his many years of professional communication and cooperation. We wish him ever-new creative breakthroughs and achievements for the good of the Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University and Russian social geography.

Kind regards,

Prof. Aleksandr G. Druzhinin, President
of the Russian Human Geographers
Association; and

Prof. Vladimir A. Kolosov, Past President
of the International Geographical
Union, Vice President of the Russian
Geographical Society.