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Innovative Development of the Northern City: Case of Yakutsk, Russia

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The paper reveals the main trends of socio-economic development of Yakutsk, the largest city on the permafrost, in terms of the implementation of innovative strategies, population growth, agglomeration development, transition to the principles of sustainable development, human capital development and business initiatives.

In particular, the report examines the processes of formation of the city innovation system, its impact on the development of North-Eastern Federal University. The considered issues are: the structure of the innovation system of the city, the extent of its development, the involvement of major players in the process, the formation of clusters and the main features of the development of science, comparative analysis of innovative business and infrastructure in the northern cities of the world. This theme was chosen because of its importance to the city and regional development in general, as Yakutsk is the largest city in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and in the North- East of Russia, where all the scientific, educational centers, innovation infrastructure are. Therefore, Yakutsk performs a function of innovative generator, as well as the transit center, where carried revision and introduction of innovative products.

This investigation is based on analysis of secondary data, including statistics of science and education, review of municipal and regional policies and strategies and interviewing of key experts in the field of starts up and innovation policy.

The report examines the development processes in Yakutsk innovation clusters including in the field of web-industry, deep processing of carbon and biological materials. There will disclosed economic and institutional links between participants of innovation clusters. There will also be analyzed factors of sustainable development within economic, social and environmental dimensions in order to assess the role of university in affecting the functioning of the urban innovation system and how social and business practices in the innovative business influence the sustainable development of the city. The paper will make suggestions for the development of innovation system in northern cities of Russia.

Case: in the last 10 years in Yakutsk has greatly improved the situation in the field of modern communication and access to information resources.

In the region has formed competitive IT-microcluster making software and graphics development for web projects. The reasons for this were: concentration of creative and talented young people, the main enterprises in the sphere of information and communication technologies with the appropriate infrastructure, relative information isolation of the region due to the lack of federal broadband lines for a long time, the properties of the mentality of the local population.