

Modern Model of a Scientist-Practitioner



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Author of a series of publications on the problems of contemporary global socio-economic and technological challenges and social models for responding to them. The scholar's publication record (according to RSCI data as of February 2026): 512 publications, of which 243 are in the RSCI core; over 10,000 citations; h-index – 45.

He is among the top 1% of most cited Russian economists.

My acquaintance with V.A. Ilyin began over the phone when he called me and proposed reprinting an article of mine that had appeared in the journal “Obshchestvo i ekonomika”. He found it so significant that he decided to feature it in his own journal. This very fact is unprecedented for our country and our time – the editor-in-chief of an academic publication personally and meticulously monitors interesting developments in other scientific journals, finds the necessary contacts, and reaches out to authors himself, striving to maximally enhance the content of the journal entrusted to him by attracting them. However, later, when I met Vladimir Aleksandrovich in person and began collaborating with VoIRC RAS, I learned that his activity is not limited to selecting interesting authors and articles.

He circulates articles he deems significant among the staff of his institute, thereby aiming to acquaint them with new ideas and developments. He invites researchers from other cities across the country to Vologda, where they give presentations at VoIRC RAS and provide external evaluations of the center's work. Sometimes Vladimir Aleksandrovich organizes public lectures in the city, open to all interested parties and representatives of the city administration. And there are many, many other initiatives too numerous to mention, but one deserves special attention.

The journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” has been published in full-format bilingual versions – Russian and English – for over 10 years. Moreover, the translation into

English is of very high quality, which was personally confirmed to me by an acquaintance from the USA: in his opinion, the text of the materials closely resembles authentic English, is lively, and completely adequate. Today, this initiative is being replicated for other journals of VolRC RAS – “Social Area” and “Problems of Territory’s Development”. Thus, the Center’s publications are increasingly penetrating the global knowledge market. I have witnessed firsthand how these three journals have transformed from purely regional ones into national publications, where even the most renowned researchers from Moscow, Saint Petersburg, and Yekaterinburg now actively seek to publish. Today, these journals are slowly but surely evolving into international publications, despite the extremely unfavorable international climate. For me, these achievements represent a certain benchmark for all scientific centers and journals in Russia, as I know of literally only a handful of organizations and periodicals that maintain a stable presence in both the Russian and English-language segments of the scientific research market.

As for Vladimir Aleksandrovich’s scientific style, it’s quite straightforward: he is a *scientist-practitioner*. Moreover, he himself formulated his scientific credo: what matters is not *induction*, *deduction*, or *abduction*, but *scientific output*. He refers to scientific output that would, in one way or another, influence the life of the country. This means he “gathers” fruitful ideas, concepts, practical mechanisms, and analytical tools that can offer a fresh perspective on serious national problems and provide additional opportunities for government bodies. Professor Ilyin has no interest

in purely theoretical research divorced from reality. It might seem that this is a perfectly normal stance, but that is not entirely true – today’s academic science in Russia, both on the part of individual researchers and organizational leaders, tends towards fruitless speculative inquiries. V.A. Ilyin counteracts this destructive trend – and this fact can hardly be overstated.

Today, V.A. Ilyin, as a researcher, has taken upon himself the difficult and largely thankless mission of quarterly compiling a “snapshot” of the situation in the country within his editorial articles. This work provides the raw material for periodically taking stock of where Russia is heading and what management decisions it needs. However, it would be a great mistake to perceive V.A. Ilyin merely as an *individual researcher*; he has long ceased to be just that – he is a *research organizer*. And the fact that today VolRC RAS, modest by Russian standards, has become one of the country’s leading regional scientific centers is the best proof of that.

Regarding Vladimir Aleksandrovich’s personal qualities, the key ones are his worldly wisdom and truly fantastic optimism. Nothing can discourage him, break his spirit, or deprive him of his drive. I believe these qualities, combined with his scientific and organizational skills, make him an indispensable element of the Vologda scientific system, even at 85. People of his caliber and experience become the embodiment of the national scientific environment, which younger generations need like air. Considering V.A. Ilyin’s creative plans, in the future he will undoubtedly surprise and delight us many times over with his innovative initiatives and projects.