

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

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V.A. Ilyin, the Journal's "Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast" Editor-in-Chief, Celebrates His 85th Anniversary



Vladimir A. ILYIN

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Honored Scientist of the Russian Federation, Honorary Doctor of VolRC RAS. Editor-in-Chief of the journal "Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast".

Author of a series of monographs and scientific articles on the problems of public administration efficiency.

The scholar's publication record (according to RSCI data as of February 2026): 442 publications, of which 171 are in the RSCI core; over 6,600 citations; h-index – 39. He is among the top 1% of most cited Russian economists.

This issue of the journal opens with a special section dedicated to the 85th anniversary of Vladimir Aleksandrovich Ilyin, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Sciences (Economics), Professor, Honored Scientist of the Russian Federation, and Editor-in-Chief of the journal "Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast".

The contributors are distinguished economists and sociologists who form the circle of the journal's regular authors and reviewers. Their essays reflect on the multifaceted contribution of V.A. Ilyin to the development of academic science. Colleagues and like-minded associates of Vladimir Aleksandrovich offer their assessments of his role in establishing a scientific center, in shaping the journal into a respected platform for professional discourse, and in exploring fundamental questions of public administration efficiency. These materials serve as vivid sketches contributing to the portrait of a man who, by common consensus, embodies the finest qualities of the Russian scientific community.



Aleksandra A. SHABUNOVA

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The scholar's publication record
(according to RSCI data as of February 2026):
425 publications, of which 142 are in the
RSCI core; over 9,600 citations; h-index – 44.
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sociologists.

On January 19, 2026, Vladimir Aleksandrovich Ilyin – Scientific Director of Vologda Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Honored Scientist of the Russian Federation, Editor-in-Chief of the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast” – celebrated his 85th birthday. Last December also marked the 35th anniversary of the Center itself.

The journey of our institution – from a modest regional outpost to a scientific center of federal significance – is a living testament to Vladimir Aleksandrovich's vision and dedication. For 25 years, he served as its founder and permanent director, and over the past decade, as Scientific Director, he has generously shared his unique experience with the team. It was he who built the very community that now shapes the Center's future. The secret of this success, as Vladimir Aleksandrovich often says, lies in a systemic approach. Only through such systemic thinking could academic science take root in a region during the difficult 1990s, grow, and unite both young and seasoned researchers around a shared purpose.

Over the years of our collaboration, I have repeatedly witnessed Vladimir Aleksandrovich's remarkable foresight – both in management and in science. He has an instinct for identifying the most promising directions and consistently brings them to life. Among the ideas that have become the hallmark of VoIRC RAS are the Research and Educational Center, which trains highly qualified specialists; the unique public opinion monitoring system, now in its third decade; and, of course, our journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast”, which under his leadership earned a place in the Web of Science database and today ranks among the leading economic journals in Russia.

An anniversary such as this invites us to reflect on the scale of Vladimir Aleksandrovich's personality through the eyes of distinguished colleagues who have known him through joint work. The editorial office has received essays from RAS Corresponding Member Zh.T. Toshchenko, professors E.V. Balatsky and V.A. Volkonsky, and foreign RAS member Professor Jacques Sapir. Each, from their own vantage point, recognized and emphasized systematicity as the core of V.A. Ilyin's multifaceted activity – offering deep and precise insights into what it takes to build and sustain a scientific organization at the highest level for decades.

RAS Corresponding Member Zh.T. Toshchenko aptly captured Vladimir Aleksandrovich's unique gift: an organic fusion of deep practical knowledge of production with fundamental scientific thought – a combination that enabled him to become a true scientist-organizer, transforming a small team into a recognized academic center. Reflecting on V.A. Ilyin's scholarly works, Zhan Terentyevich observes that they captivate readers above all because they offer the researcher's response to pioneering and underexplored issues of our time – such as trauma society, social health, and the social contract. Highlighting the editor-in-chief's section that V.A. Ilyin curates in the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast”, Zhan Terentyevich describes his articles as “a deep and thorough analysis of social relations”.

Professor E.V. Balatsky calls V.A. Ilyin a “scientist-practitioner” – someone for whom abstract theory matters less than scientific output capable of genuinely influencing the life of the country. Today, Vladimir Aleksandrovich has taken on the demanding mission of regularly composing a “snapshot” of the national situation through his editorial articles. Yet his greatest achievement, as E.V. Balatsky notes, lies in his enduring role as a research organizer who built one of Russia's leading regional centers. His worldly wisdom and extraordinary optimism, E.V. Balatsky emphasizes, make him irreplaceable even at 85.

Professor V.A. Volkonsky sees in V.A. Ilyin's works not merely academic inquiry, but a true chronicle of one of the most complex periods in Russian history. Of particular value, in Victor Aleksandrovich's view, is the issue V.A. Ilyin raises of public trust in authority and ideological unity. At the same time, V.A. Volkonsky observes, Vladimir Aleksandrovich displays a wise restraint, fully aware of the intricacy of historical processes and the role experts should play in helping those in power choose the right path.

Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor Jacques Sapir, offers his assessment of the journal “Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast”. He describes it as “an outstanding scientific achievement and a great intellectual adventure” – one that began 18 years ago under the guidance of Editor-in-Chief V.A. Ilyin. In J. Sapir's view, the journal's inclusion in the most prestigious international database stands as recognition of the competence, scientific rigor, and consistency of its editorial team.

Reflecting on these remarkably consonant voices, I realize they all converge on a single point: Vladimir Aleksandrovich Ilyin is a man of an era, one who created a unique system for the advancement of science in the region. I see him nearly every day and know the immense effort behind every one of his achievements.

On behalf of the Administration and the entire staff of Vologda Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, I once again extend our heartfelt congratulations to you, Vladimir Aleksandrovich, on your 85th birthday! Your energy, wisdom, and dedication over all these years have forged and sustained in us a special spirit and creative drive. We are endlessly grateful for your purposeful work in passing on unique experience and knowledge to the younger generation. Thanks to your gift as a mentor, a whole constellation of students has arisen, bringing your ideas to life. We wish you robust health, peace of mind, strength, and new accomplishments for the good of our Motherland!