

**Minutes for the Annual Meeting
of the
Regional Studies Association Russia Division
by Zoom on 11 November 2021**

1. Chair's welcome and attendances

The Chair welcomed people to the Annual Meeting of the Regional Studies Association Russia Division and noted the attendances as follows:

Attendances: Leonid Limonov, Irina Turgel, Vladimir Klimanov, Nadir Kinossian, Olga Rusetskaya, Marina Nesena, Konstantin Gluschenko, Elena Sadovnikova, Polina Yakovleva, Ekaterina Stepanova, Elizaveta Kolchinskaya, Elena Stryabkova. Oleg Golubchikov, Andrey Yakovlev, Evgeniya Kolomak.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

The Chair presented the Minutes from 2020 general meeting and all participants of the previous meeting agreed that these are accurate minutes of the meeting of the RSA Russia Division held on 6 November 2020 by Zoom. After that the Chair signed and dated the copy of the RSA-Russia AGM of 2020.

3. Report to the Board of Division Activities

RSA Russia Division Chair – Leonid Limonov

The Chair noted that the Division arranged 2 special panel sessions at the International Leontief Readings “REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL POLICIES”, organized by the Leontief Centre on September 10-11, 2021 in St Petersburg to celebrate 30th anniversary of the Leontief Centre. Online RSA-Russia sessions included presentations of well-known regional economists and geographers - Jacques-Francois Thisse, Robert Huggins, Michael (Mick) Dunford and Kristian Behrens (see details on http://www.leontief-readings.ru/UserFiles/Program_LR_eng.pdf). Another activity of the Division was a Discussion panel at the International Conference on Inequality and Diversity (IDC), organized by St Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Area Studies of the Higher School of Economics on November 11 - 13. The panel “Regional Inequalities and Efficiency of Regional Policies” was organized by Leonid Limonov (as the panel Chair and Moderator) and included presentations of RSA Russia members – Irina Turgel, Vladimir Klimanov, Evgeniya Kolomak, Marina Nesena and Leonid Limonov. The Chair reported that the pandemic and arranging almost all activities online led to some decrease in RSA members from Russia. He asked the meeting participants to renew their membership or to join RSA, if they still hadn't done it. He noted that there are Russian members of RSA, who currently work abroad and formally not included in the RSA-Russia list of the members. Among them Nadir Kinossian (from Germany) and Oleg

Golubchikov (UK), who actively participated at the AGM and have an interest to take part at other RSA-Russia activities.

RSA Ambassador to Russia and Member of the Board– Irina Turgel

Irina Turgel reported that she actively participated at RSA-Russia and some other RSA activities in 2021. She also expressed the desire to arrange in 2022 in Yekaterinburg RSA-Russia conference of young researchers.

RSA Ambassador to Russia and Member of the Board – Vladimir Klimonov

Vladimir Klimonov expressed his commitment to work as RSA Ambassador to Russia and Member of the Board, he also took part at the RSA-Russia events and is ready to help with arranging other activities.

RSA HQ – talk by Sally Hardy recorded at RSA AGM 10 November 2021.

Sally Hardy sent her greetings to RSA-Russia AGM, then there was presented her speech recorded at RSA AGM 10 November 2021 on the Association plans and challenges. After this presentation participants of RSA-Russia AGM discussed ways to better use RSA facilities and options – more active participation at the grant competitions, publications and conferences.

4. Events

The Chair reported that the next Division event was planned for the end of October 2022, and that most probably it will be arranged in a hybrid format. The decision will be made in 2022 (probably in June) depending on the situation with the pandemic and visa restrictions. Division conferences were normally annually in St Petersburg or in Yekaterinburg, however future events may be virtual or hybrid until the end of pandemic regulations.

The Chair suggested for the Division one general conference per year, and/or some smaller workshops focusing on particular problems or including some sessions within larger conferences. The Chair also suggested the format could be mixed – off and online/hybrid events.

Irina Turgel reported that the Ural Federal University was planning a young researchers conference as a joint activity with RSA-Russia Division in November 2022.

Vladimir Klimonov supported the creation of a database of experts to assist with the running and promotion of Division events and proposed to establish better coordination with Russian Division of ERSAs to plan some joint activities.

The Chair asked meeting participants to email him any suggestions they had in relation to potential Division events.

5. To elect Members to the Board

The Division is managed by a committee comprising elected members. The Division requires a minimum of 3 Board members but there is no maximum number. Board members usually hold office for 3 years.

At the last Annual Meeting, the RSA Ambassadors to Russia, Irina Turgel and Vladimir Klimonov were appointed as Members of the Board of the RSA Russia Division for the term of

November 2020 - November 2023. Leonid Limonov was re-elected as the RSA Russia Division Chair for the term of November 2020 - November 2023.

Board membership is critical to the success of the Division and it is important in the election of board members to ensure the correct balance of skills and competencies are available.

The Chair opened the floor for anyone to nominate themselves to be on the Board. Nadir Kinossian (senior researcher from Leibnitz Society Institute of Regional Geography in Leipzig, Germany) suggested himself. Before he actively participated many times in RSA-Russia conferences and workshops and also created RSA-Russia network in Facebook with 113 members up to now. The vote was taken and the meeting agreed to the proposal to include Nadir Kinossian to the Board of the RSA Russia Division for the term of November 2021 - November 2024.

6. Future direction of the Division

Members had several proposals and ideas on the future direction of the Division. Vladimir Klimanov said that this year regular contacts with the Russian Division of ERSAs (European Regional Science Association) were not productive, because of pandemic, but next year they may be continued through its Chair Prof. Aleksandr Pelyasov. In particular to discuss with him an initiative to organize a joint event of 2 Divisions at the end 2022 (or in the framework of Annual Forum of Russian Regions and Cities on Strategic Planning). Irina Turgel said that the student and young researchers conference in Yekaterinburg may be arranged as RSA-Russia event in November 2022. Nadir Kinossian proposed to establish cooperation with Eastern European Division of RSA and to take part at the Division conference in Leipzig in September 2022.

7. Any other items for discussion but not decision

Nadir Kinossian informed participants on 2 options to visit his institute (Leibnitz Society Institute of Regional Geography in Leipzig, Germany): for young researchers and PhD students – to get better supervision, advice and cooperation with German colleagues and for senior researchers – shortterm visits to develop joint research projects or to take part at joint workshops. He provided participants with links to apply for these grants.

End of minutes