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FACTOR ANALYSIS OF ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS TO ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES

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Abstract

This paper presents the results of a multivariate factor analysis of administrative barriers to entrepreneurial activities in the regional market. As the initial information, the authors used the data of an informational and analytical report on the status and development of the competitive environment in the markets of goods and services of the Komi Republic (Russia) in 2018 prepared by the authors of the paper for the Ministry of Economy of the Komi Republic based on monitoring administrative barriers and assessing the competitive environment by business entities. As a result of the analysis, the authors have identified four enlarged groups of factors that impede the development of entrepreneurial activities in the republic, which are associated with legislative barriers, restrictions on access to government orders/public procurements, restrictive factors of interaction with representatives of government agencies and unequal business conditions. It is proposed to use the analysis results to develop measures for promoting the development of the entrepreneurship environment in the Komi Republic.

Keywords

Administrative barriers – Multivariate factor analysis – Monitoring of the competitive environment

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Introduction

Competition is an integral attribute and a system-forming factor in the functioning of a market economy, a condition for its existence and development.

The theoretical foundations of competition, the study of the characteristics of the competitive environment and the factors of its formation are presented in many works of foreign authors, such as M. Angelucci, A. Bevan, S. Estrin, J. Fennema, B. Kuznetsov, G. Mangiarotti and M. E. Schaffer¹, H. G. Broadman², A. N. Brown and D. J. Brown³, W. Carlin, M. Schaffer and P. Seabright⁴, H. Demsetz⁵, I. M. Kirzner⁶ and others. The possible directions and tools for developing a competitive environment are widely discussed in the works of Russian researchers, such as S. B. Avdasheva, A. E. Shastitko and B. V. Kuznetsov⁷, N. Ya. Kalyuzhnova⁸ and others.

Analysis and assessment of the competitive environment can be carried out not only within the framework of a specific market or industry but also within the country and in a particular region. At present, government authorities in Russia pay considerable attention to the regional aspect of the development of competition and the reduction of administrative barriers that negatively affect business-related activities. The heads of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation should create and improve a favorable environment for entrepreneurial activities, including the development of competition. To coordinate the actions of regional authorities on the development of competition, the authorities have introduced a Standard for the Development of Competition in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, the main means of implementation of which is annual monitoring of the current state and development of the business environment by regional authorities⁹.

¹ M. Angelucci; A. Bevan; S. Estrin, et al. The Determinants of Privatized Enterprise Performance in Russia. Centre for Economic Policy Research Discussion Paper, 3193, 2002. Available at: <http://www.cepr.org/pubs/>

² H. G. Broadman, "Reducing structural dominance and entry barriers in Russian industry", *Review of Industrial Organization*, Vol: 17 num 2 (2001): 155-175.

³ A. N. Brown y D. J. Brown, "Does Market Structure Matter? New Evidence Using Exogenous Market Structure", *Ostekonomiska Institutet*, num 130 (2001).

⁴ W. Carlin; M. Schaffer y P. Seabright, "A minimum of rivalry: Evidence from transition economies on the importance of competition for innovation and growth", *Contributions to Economic Analysis & Policy: Berkley Electronic Press*, Vol. 3 num 1 (2004): 1-43.

⁵ H. Demsetz, "Industry Structure, Market Rivalry, and Public Policy", *Journal of Law and Economics*, Vol: 16 num 1 (1973): 1-9.

⁶ I. Kirzner, *Moscow. Competition and Entrepreneurship* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1973) y I. Kirzner, "Moscow. Competition and Entrepreneurial Discovery and the Competitive Market Process: An Austrian approach", *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. 35 num 1 (1997): 60-85.

⁷ S. B. Avdasheva; A. E. Shastitko y B. V. Kuznetsov, "Konkurentsia i struktura rynkov: chto my mozhem uznat iz empiricheskikh issledovaniy o Rossii", *Rossiiskii zhurnal menedzhmenta*, num 4 (2006): 3-22; S. B. Avdasheva y A. E. Shastitko, "Promyshlennaya i konkurentnaya politika: problemy vzaimodeistviya i uroki dlya Rossii", *Voprosy ekonomiki*, num 9 (2003): 18-32 y A. E. Shastitko y S. B. Avdasheva, "Advokatirovaniye konkurentsii kak chast konkurentnoi politiki", *Voprosy ekonomiki* num 5 (2005): 109-121.

⁸ N. Ya. Kalyuzhnova, *Konkurentosposobnost rossiiskikh regionov v usloviyakh globalizatsii* (Moscow: TEIS, 2004).

⁹ Standart razvitiya konkurentsii, Federalnaya Antimonopolnaya sluzhba. Available at: <http://fas.gov.ru/pages/vazhnaya-informacziya/standart-razvitiya-konkurenczii/>

Monitoring results obtained from a survey of business entities in individual regions of Russia are currently actively discussed by Russian researchers, including A. Ya. Barinov and N. Yu. Lukyanova¹⁰, M. V. Goryachikh¹¹, V. V. Okshin and A. M. Savina¹², T. A. Radchenko and K. A. Sukhorukova¹³, A. P. Shikhverdiev¹⁴ and B.Yu. Titov¹⁵. This data can be used to develop measures to promote competition in socially significant and priority markets for goods and services in the regions.

Methods

The purpose of the empirical study conducted in September-November 2018 is to assess the state of the competitive environment in the markets of goods and services of the Komi Republic, where we studied the administrative barriers to entrepreneurial activities, largely associated with the development of regional markets.

Determination of the most significant administrative barriers to doing business allowed us to identify obstacles that entrepreneurs face from state and regional authorities and, accordingly, develop measures to overcome them.

This goal implied the development of a research methodology that provided for:

- designing forms for collecting information;
- providing a rationale for the sampled population;
- identifying specific problems and methods of analysis.

Let us consider the listed stages of the development of the research methodology.

Designing forms for collecting information. A highly standardized questionnaire was used to collect the necessary information. The structure of the questionnaire was built under the structure of the research problem, including the general characteristics of the business, the assessment of the state of the competitive environment by business entities, as well as the level of administrative and economic barriers to conducting and expanding entrepreneurial activities, i.e. a sectional approach to the design of the questionnaire was

¹⁰ A. Ya. Barinov y N. Yu. Lukyanova, "Konkurentnaya sreda, delovaya aktivnost i potrebitelskie nastroyeniya: regionalnyi aspekt", Vestnik Baltiiskogo federalnogo universiteta im. I. Kanta num 3 (2016): 73-85.

¹¹ M. V. Goryachikh, "Nekotorye aspekty razvitiya konkurentsii v Respublike Krym", Nauchno-tekhnicheskie vedomosti SPbGPU. Ekonomicheskie nauki num 5 (2017): 46-54.

¹² V. V. Okshin y A. M. Savina, "Monitoring sostoyaniya konkurentnoi sredy na regionalnom rynke", Obshchestvennye nauki. Sotsiologiya num 4 (2017): 105-114.

¹³ T. A. Radchenko y K. A. Sukhorukova, "Otsenki urovnya konkurentsii i sostoyaniya konkurentnoi sredy: obzor metodov i rezultaty oprosov v 2014-2016 gg.", Sovremennaya konkurenciya num 5 (2016): 28-46.

¹⁴ A. P. Shikhverdiev; N. A. Oganezova; N. I. Obrezkov y M. E. Kholodov, "Factors of Development of Small and Medium Entrepreneurship in the Region (by the Example of the Komi Republic)", International Journal of Engineering and Advanced Technology (IJEAT), Vol: 8 num 5 (2019): 1666-1671.

¹⁵ B. Titov, Sektor malogo i srednego predprinimatelstva: Rossiya i Mir. Institut ekonomiki rosta im. Stolpina P.A. 2018. Available at: <http://stolypin.institute/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/issledovanie-ier-msp-27.07.18.pdf>

involved. Blocks of questions were divided visually by textual notation. The questionnaire contained a preamble, which consisted of a welcome part addressed to business leaders and their deputies, which reflected the purpose of the study, made a warranty about the anonymity and strict confidentiality of the results and also indicated that the respondents' answers were very important for further work on promoting competition in the regional markets of the Komi Republic.

The classification part of the questionnaire consisted of the following questions: the place of registration of the enterprise, the type of economic activity of the company, the duration of the company's work on the market, the size of the business, the economic situation and the position held by respondents. Such detailed differentiation was necessary to identify the many relationships and differences between enterprises. In the target part of the questionnaire, we mainly used multiple closed-ended questions, which allowed respondents to give clear and useful answers for the researcher, as well as to simplify the procedure for encoding the received data.

The list of administrative barriers provided for by monitoring the state of the competitive environment by business entities was used as initial information (the conventional designations used for brevity are indicated in brackets):

- difficulty of gaining access to sites, industrial and other premises (Access to sites, premises);
- instability of the Russian legislation regulating entrepreneurial activities (Legislation);
- corruption (including bribes or provision of preferences to individual participants on obviously unequal conditions) (Corruption);
- complexity of or delay in the procedure for obtaining licenses (Licenses);
- high taxes (High taxes);
- restriction/complexity of the access to procurement for companies with state participation and entities of natural monopolies (Monopolies);
- need to establish partnerships with authorities (Authorities);
- coercion from law enforcement agencies (threats, extortion, etc.) (Coercion);
- other actions/pressure from the authorities that impede doing business on the market or new participants entering the market (Other actions);
- provision of privileges to individual business entities (Privileges);
- restriction/complexity of the access to the supply of goods, the provision of services and the performance of work within the framework of public procurement (Public procurement);
- restriction by the authorities against the initiatives to organize joint activities of small enterprises (Joint activity);

- requirements of the mandatory satisfaction of a certain demand, maintenance of mobilization capacities, preservation of jobs and social infrastructure (Requirements);
- restrictions on the import/export of goods (Import/Export);
- environmental restrictions, including the prohibition of the construction of production facilities and transport infrastructure facilities (Ecology);
- quotas (Quotas);
- standards and quality requirements (Standards).

Rationale of the sampled population. Since 2016, in the Komi Republic, under the Action Plan ("road map") to promote the development of competition in regional markets, the state of the competitive environment has been monitored annually in the form of a survey of business entities¹⁶.

The respondents were selected under the methodological recommendations of the Analytical Center under the Government of the Russian Federation based on quota sampling. Quotas are allocated depending on the type of economic activity and the size of the business.

In 2018, 2,644 business entities of all municipalities of urban districts and municipal districts of the Komi Republic took part in the survey. Among the survey participants, 58.0% were business owners (co-owners), 22.8% were senior managers and 19.2% were middle managers. 77.2% of the respondents represented microenterprises, 18.7% — small enterprises, 3.3% — medium-sized enterprises. Large enterprises accounted for only 0.8% of the respondents. The survey participants were selected randomly. The selection of enterprises for the study was based on the willingness of their representatives to participate in the monitoring when applying to the GAU RK MFTS (State Autonomous Institution of the Komi Republic "Multifunctional Center for the provision of state and municipal services of the Komi Republic"). It was possible to fill out questionnaires in the centers of "My Documents" public services, in social networks, on the websites of republican authorities, local administrations, municipal authorities, at large enterprises and in places of mass gathering.

45.3% of the respondents to the questionnaire had been working in the business for more than 5 years, i.e. had sufficient experience to assess the state of competition and administrative barriers in their market. 29.0% of the respondents stated that their business had existed from 3 to 5 years, 16.5% — from 1 to 3 years. 9.3% of the respondents stated that their business had been created shortly before the survey and had been operating in the field for less than a year. More than half of the respondents (62.3%) provided services to consumers, 18.6% of enterprises traded or distributed goods and services produced by other companies, 12.4% produced final products. Besides, some business entities were involved in the sale of components for the production of final products (2.6%), raw materials or materials for further processing (4.1%).

¹⁶ Rasporyazhenie Glavy Respubliki Komi ot 30.12.2016 g. No. 433-p "Ob utverzhdenii Plana meropriyatii ("dorozhnoi karty") po sodeistviyu razvitiyu konkurentsii v Respublike Komi". Available at: <http://base.garant.ru/43332662/>

At the same time, according to the answers to the question about the main type of business, 30.5% of the surveyed business entities were engaged in wholesale and retail trade. Operations with real estate, leasing and the provision of services were carried out by 18.6% of the respondents, while 12.7% worked in the field of transport and communications. 11.6% of the respondents ranked themselves among the enterprises occupying a leading position in the regional market in the main type of activity. The remaining 88.4% considered that they were not leaders in their industry.

The main geographic market for the products (works, services) of enterprises represented by respondents was the Komi Republic market in 31.2% of the cases and the local market of the municipality in 63.4%. 2.6% of the respondents stated they sold products (work, services) in other regions of Russia. Only 1.3% of the respondents were oriented to foreign countries, including 1.1% that worked for the CIS market. At the same time, 16.6% of the respondents said that the enterprise they represented occupied a leading position in the main geographical market.

The financial and economic situation of the enterprise at the time of the survey was rated as satisfactory by 63.2% of business representatives. 23.9% of the respondents stated that the financial and economic situation of the enterprise was good. 12.8% said it was unsatisfactory. Thus, the number of positive answers amounted to 87.1%. At the same time, more than half of the respondents (55.8%) stated that there were no changes in sales over the previous year, 20.3% said that that indicator had decreased, 23.9% said it had increased.

Identification of specific problems and methods of analysis. The specifics of the problems and calculations considered are determined by the subject of the study and the nature of the information available. Since the questionnaire is structured and the number of the respondents is significant for using quantitative estimates, one can use multidimensional statistical methods to assess the strength of the relationship between the studied administrative barriers. To concentrate the initial information on administrative barriers to entrepreneurial activities and identify the most significant of them, which explain the largest contribution to the variation of the initial variables, we used multivariate factor analysis. To process the initial information, we used the Excel and Statistica software packages.

Results and discussion

At the first stage of the analysis, we identified the administrative barriers that, according to entrepreneurs, did not affect their activities and practically had not been mentioned as barriers by respondents. Therefore, the initial variables “Coercion”, “Other actions”, “Joint activity”, “Requirements”, “Import/Export”, “Ecology” and “Quotas” were excluded from further research. At the second stage of the analysis, the number of initial variables was reduced to a smaller number of factors by combining them into enlarged groups of factors and identifying the most significant among them based on multivariate factor analysis. The essence of the formed enlarged factors can be determined using indicators of factor loads, which are understood as the correlation between the generalized factor and the initial variable. In other words, the factor load of the initial variable on the enlarged factor determines the correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient can take values from (-1) to (+1). The stronger the relationship between the initial variable and the enlarged factor, the closer the correlation coefficient (factor load) will be to 1 (in absolute value).

The sum of the squared factor loads is called the eigenvalue λ (lambda), which can be used to determine the number of aggregated factors and calculate the variance corresponding to this factor. The percentage of the total variance (P) corresponding to the enlarged factor is determined by dividing the i th eigenvalue (λ_i) by the number of initial factors, which should be equal to the sum of all eigenvalues ($\sum \lambda_i$).

$$P = \lambda_i / \sum \lambda_i$$

In multivariate factor analysis, one to several aggregated factors can be considered, but their maximum number should be equal to the number of initial variables. It is advisable to leave such a number of aggregated factors in the analysis that explain more than half of the total variance and for which $\lambda_i \geq 1$.

As a result of processing the initial information about administrative barriers to entrepreneurial activities in organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, we identified four aggregated factors. The values of the eigenvalues and the percentage of the explained variance are shown in Table 1.

Factors	Eigenvalues	Percentage of variance explained	Percentage of accumulated variance
Factor 1	1.200383	22.00383	22.00383
Factor 2	1.130208	11.30208	33.30592
Factor 3	1.102939	11.02939	44.33531
Factor 4	1.014341	10.14341	54.47872

Table 1

The eigenvalues of the generalized factors that impede the entrepreneurial activities

The data in Table 1 indicate that more than 54% of the variation of signs can be explained by the action of four aggregated factors. Moreover, the first factor accounts for the largest percentage of the explained variation. Each subsequent factor accounts for a smaller percentage.

Thus, the largest contribution to the explanation of the total variance belongs to factor 1, and the contribution of each subsequent factor decreases. Starting from factor 5, the influence of all those remaining is insignificant. Thus, the essence of the first five factors is of the greatest interest, which can be revealed through the definition of the initial variables that form the common factor, i.e. through factor load analysis.

A graphical representation of factor loads (scatter diagrams) allows one to see how the initial variables were grouped (Figure 1).

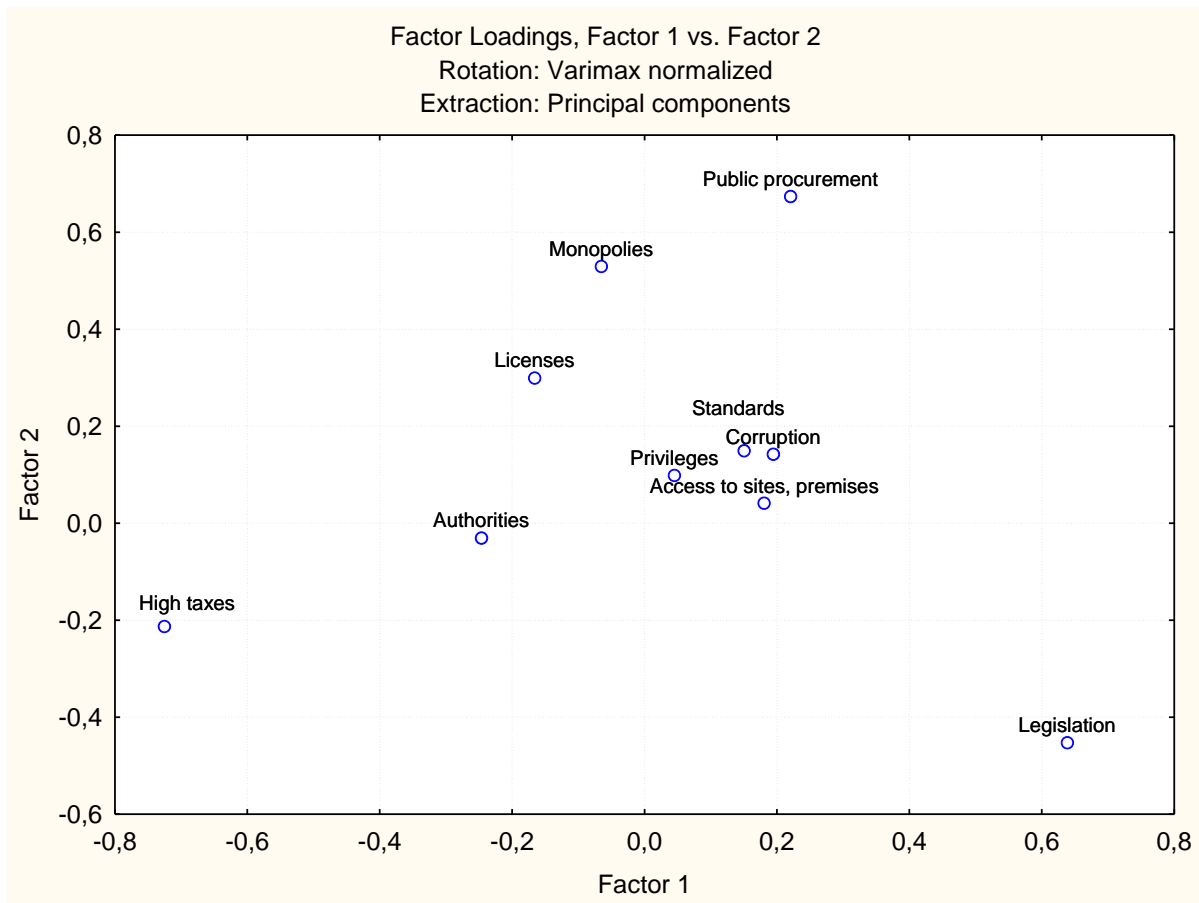


Figure 1
 The scatter diagram of the initial factors
 administrative barriers to entrepreneurial activities

In the diagram, each variable (initial factor) is represented by a point. Figure 1 shows how the initial factors were grouped. However, according to the obtained matrix of factor loads, it is rather difficult to judge the tightness of the relationship between the initial and aggregated factors.

To obtain a more understandable (interpreted) load matrix, that is, factors that are marked by high loads for some variables and low ones for others, one can use the methods of factor rotation, the most typical of which are Varimax strategies. The axis in the coordinate system can be rotated in any direction without changing the position of the points relative to each other. However, in this case, factor loads must change, which will provide a clearer picture of factor loads.

The results of calculations of the eigenvalues (λ) and factor loads after the rotation of the initial factors are presented in Table 2.

Administrative barriers	Conventional designations	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
The difficulty of gaining access to sites, industrial and other premises	Access to sites, premises	0.180723	0.041311	0.552832	0.166099
Instability of the Russian legislation regulating entrepreneurial activities	Legislation	0.638513	-0.452304	0.111294	0.000681
Corruption (including bribes or provision of preferences to individual participants on obviously unequal conditions)	Corruption	0.194684	0.142301	0.535986	0.068616
The complexity of or delay in the procedure for obtaining licenses	Licenses	-0.166174	0.299371	-0.040184	0.298181
High taxes	High taxes	0.725317	0.212817	-0.018937	-0.102938
The need to establish partnerships with authorities	Authorities	-0.246246	-0.030283	0.543894	-0.092124
Restriction/complexity of the access to procurement for companies with state participation and entities of natural monopolies	Monopolies	-0.065203	0.529352	0.170232	-0.219123
Restriction/complexity of the access to the supply of goods, the provision of services and the performance of work within the framework of public procurement	Public procurement	0.220643	0.673621	-0.056790	0.131794
Provision of privileges to individual business entities	PRIVILEGES	-0.045241	-0.098391	0.071501	0.865363
Standards and quality requirements	STANDARDS	-0.150686	-0.149470	0.432128	-0.259913

Table 2
Factor loads of observed variables

Factor Loadings (Varimax normalized). Clusters of loadings are marked; those clusters determine the oblique factors for hierarchical analysis

The highest values of the pair correlation coefficients of the initial and generalized (enlarged) factors are shown in bold. After the formation of four aggregated factors, we face the task of their meaningful interpretation.

To interpret the first factor, we distinguish two variables: high taxes, instability of the Russian legislation regulating entrepreneurial activities (Legislation). This general factor can rightly be interpreted as “legislative barriers”.

Over the past years, the list of taxes and obligatory payments, as well as their size, have been relatively stable. However, there are factors that directly and indirectly affect the increase in payments, including the following: the elimination of privileges, the growth of excise taxes on certain goods, the introduction of new and the growth of existing taxes, fees, insurance premiums, etc.¹⁷.

As for the instability of Russian legislation, this problem is manifested, first of all, in a significant number of regulatory legal acts adopted by state authorities of the Russian Federation. In 2018, the federal authorities of the Russian Federation adopted 17,416 regulatory legal acts, or 48 acts per day¹⁸.

A general upward trend in the number of adopted bills is confirmed by a study by the Center for Strategic Research¹⁹, as well as materials from forums, round tables and other events at which entrepreneurs of the Komi Republic expressed their opinions²⁰.

The second enlarged factor reflects the influence of the following variables: complexity of or delay in the procedure for obtaining licenses (Licenses); restriction/complexity of access to procurement for companies with state participation and subjects of natural monopolies (Monopolies); restriction/complexity of access to the supply of goods, provision of services and performance of works in the framework of public procurement (Procurement). All of the initial factors are associated with restrictions on access to certain types of activities and participation in the implementation of government orders; therefore, it is advisable to interpret the generalized factor as "Restrictions on access to government orders".

The third factor has maximum correlation coefficients with four primary variables: the difficulty of gaining access to sites, industrial and other premises (access to sites, premises); corruption (including bribes or provision of preferences to certain participants on obviously unequal conditions) (Corruption); the need to establish partnerships with authorities (authorities); standards and quality requirements (Standards). Bearing in mind that such situations can arise in the process of interaction between entrepreneurs and authorities, the third factor can be interpreted as "Interaction factors".

The fourth factor is related to the provision of privileges to individual business entities, which is interpreted by respondents as unequal conditions for doing business.

Thus, in the course of factor analysis, we managed to identify the most significant administrative barriers to entrepreneurial activities, which were combined into four groups: "Legislative barriers", "Restrictions on access to government orders/public procurements", "Restrictive interaction factors" and "Unequal business conditions". Therefore, to reduce administrative barriers, we need to develop activities that would address each of the

¹⁷ Nemchenko, I. Kak v Rossii rastut nalogi dlya biznesa. I chto izmenilos v 2017 godu? 2019. Available at: <https://incruussia.ru/understand/kak-v-rossii-rastut-nalogi-dlya-biznesa-i-chto-izmenilos-v-2017-godu/>

¹⁸ SPS "Konsultant Plyus". 2019. Available at: <http://www.consultant.ru/>

¹⁹ Doklad "Statisticheskii analiz federalnogo zakonodatelstva" [Report "Statistical Analysis of Federal Law"]. Tsentr strategicheskikh razrabotok [Strategical development center]. Available at: https://csr.ru/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Issledovanie_TSSR_statistika-po-zakonoproektam.pdf

²⁰ Ezhegodnyi doklad Upolnomochennogo po zashchite prav predprinimatelei v Respublike Komi za 2018 god. Ofitsialnyi sait Upolnomochennogo po zashchite prav predprinimatelei v Respublike Komi. Available at: <http://uppp.rkomi.ru>

groups. For example, to reduce the tax burden on a business (group 1), as well as reduce to a minimum the list of permits and simplify the procedures for obtaining them, we need to develop measures to support the participation of small and medium-sized businesses in tenders for public procurement (group 2), toughen the punishment for breaking the law, develop methods to combat corruption, in particular, eliminate redundant procedures and reduce the unreasonably wide powers of officials, provide opportunities to minimize personal interaction between representatives of the business environment and employees of state organizations responsible for decision-making (group 3) and formalize the criteria and procedure for obtaining privileges for business representatives, which will reduce subjectivity in managerial decision-making (group 4).

Conclusions

A survey of business entities in the Komi Republic made it possible to assess the level of administrative barriers to entrepreneurial activities in the region. Using multivariate factor analysis, we identified enlarged groups of factors that, for economic entities, had a particularly negative impact on business activity, among them: legislative barriers, restrictions on access to public contracts/public procurement, restrictive interaction factors and unequal business conditions.

The data obtained can be used to develop measures to promote the development of a competitive environment in the Komi Republic and increase the investment attractiveness of the region, among them: reduction of tax burden on business; reduction of corruption and power of state officials; simplification of the procedure for obtaining permits related to the creation and development of a business. Entrepreneurs expect government agencies to develop measures to support small and medium-sized businesses, including by simplifying their participation in competitions for government orders, formalizing procedures for obtaining privileges for business representatives, etc.

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