**Annotation**

**TOR-141**

Topic: "Monitoring of Social Stability and Propensity of the Population to Change"

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**The object of the study** is the population of Russia.

1. **The purpose of the work** is to determine the attitude of the population to actual and potential changes related to education, healthcare, and social support in the Russian Federation, the perceptions of Russians about the role of the state, and to identify solutions that work to preserve social stability in the country.
2. **Methods used:** quantitative analysis of population survey data, qualitative analysis of focus group data, analysis of open data from the Federal State Statistics Service and the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, systematization and analysis of research materials on education and health.
3. **The empirical base of the study:** the results of mass surveys of the population of the Russian Federation conducted in 2021: "Readiness for Change" (self-filling of an online questionnaire, sample size of 6000 people aged 15-72 years); "Consumer Choice and Time Budgets" (self-filling of an online questionnaire, sample size of 4979 people aged 18 years and older); data from specialized focus group discussions held in 2021 (20 focus groups on social sustainability issues with representatives of the population aged 20-45 years, six focus groups with doctors from Barnaul and Yekaterinburg who worked in hospitals in the "red zone,” in hospitals not in the "red zone,” in medical clinics). In addition to the above surveys conducted within the framework of the project, data from official statistics; federal statistical observations; Monitoring of the education economy; Monitoring of the Digital transformation of general education; the Doctors of the Russian Federation survey; data from the Medvestnik portal survey; the Doctor's Handbook survey; a series of surveys of the Institute of Sociology of the Federal Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences; data from sociological surveys conducted by order of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation were used.
4. **Results of the work:**

During the monitoring implementation, a comprehensive analysis of potential sources of social sustainability and the demand from the population for changes, especially in the coronavirus pandemic, was carried out.

Macrostatistics data indicate that in 2021, the recovery of real disposable monetary incomes of the population continued. However, the income growth in the third quarter of 2021, which exceeded the pre-pandemic income levels, was primarily associated with large-scale one-time social payments to families with children and pensioners, which in most cases have already been spent on current expenses. At the same time, a drop in labor income is recorded in the non-corporate sector, which affects the growth rate of real monetary incomes of the population. All this is happening against the backdrop of accelerating inflation. The bank savings of the population are increasing slightly, while credit debt is growing. The results of the 3rd quarter show that the pace of consumer demand recovery is not accelerating. Consumer sentiment remains generally unchanged and quite tense, despite the increase in real monetary income, and subjective assessments of the financial situation. The dynamics of consumer sentiment reflect the incomplete nature of the crisis phenomena associated with the coronavirus pandemic. The threats of repetition of quarantine restrictions that materialized at the end of the first half of the year have increased uncertainty about the future course of events.

The results of the survey of the Levada Center "Readiness for Change" show that the modern understanding of social justice is associated with the provision of equal starting opportunities and social guarantees to all members of society, ensuring equal pay for equal work, the need to support the deprived strata and groups of the population. The Russian population does not approve of high stratification in society, but at the same time, does not share the opinion of universal equality in the level of well-being. The most "painful point" of the social sphere is the health care system, which the population considers underfunded and does not meet the needs of modern man. This is accompanied by the fact that all respondents (and especially older ones) are very sensitive to the possibility of people with high incomes receiving higher-quality health care services. At the same time, getting a higher education and better quality housing in the eyes of the population looks fairer than paying for medical services.

Despite the fact that the economy is gradually recovering from the "pandemic" crisis (compared to 2020, in 2021, the share of respondents noting long-term unemployment as the causes of poverty fell almost three times, and non-payment of wages - nearly two times), the population still feels its negative impact and is waiting for help from the state, especially in terms of material support and solving health problems.

In general, the coronacrisis has demonstrated that the resources available to Russians are not enough to compensate for the deterioration of the overall economic situation, the resource availability of Russians has been declining for several years and the aggravated employment problems have hit the stability of the situation of many Russians quite painfully. In the conditions of the pandemic, the population of the country was forced to use all the alternative opportunities available to them to maintain their level of well-being. The primary forms of economic resource for ensuring the stability of the situation in the conditions of the coronacrisis were: "eating away" of existing savings, labor activity on household and garden plots, sale of property, and increasing the credit and debt burden with a change in its structure. Various forms of permanent secondary employment and rental income have proved to be comparatively more effective for the dynamics of the financial situation of Russians in the conditions of the crisis. But even these ways of improving their financial situation did not help the majority of those who are using them to keep their standard of living at least unchanged, and even more so to improve it. Additional resources for preserving the financial situation of Russians tend to be a social media resource and a qualification resource. However, the current situation in the field of employment leads to the fact that it is more expedient for all representatives of the mass strata of the population, including the most educated part of them, to increase their social rather than qualification resources. At the same time, the possibilities of such a strategy for the majority of the population are very limited and are increasingly being reduced due to the overall reduction in the potential of social networks. As a result, the resource provision of the majority of Russian families is insufficient to overcome the current crisis situation successfully, and the lack or absence of a critical resource in terms of efficiency, which is social, is characterized precisely by those groups of the population who do not own or lack other types of resources.

As part of the work, an analysis was also carried out in the field of health and education, in which social sustainability is essential; therefore it is necessary to understand the main problems and challenges that are emerging in these areas.

In terms of education, based on the data of the project "Readiness for Change" and a number of other large-scale studies devoted to the study of the transformation of the Russian education system, the opinion of the population and its individual groups on topics such as accessibility of higher education, new educational outcomes, the value of higher education and digitalization of higher education were analyzed. Five main challenges in the education system in Russia were identified. The first big challenge is connected with the fact that the steady demand for new educational results that are being formed in the systems of general and higher education is not yet sufficiently supported by educational policy decisions at both the national and institutional levels. The second challenge is related to the fact that inequality of access to high-quality higher education continues to be an urgent problem for the Russian system. Residents from families with higher incomes note greater accessibility of high-quality higher education compared to less well-off and give more positive assessments of the dynamics of changes in the situation with access to higher education. The third big challenge is related to the negative dynamics of the perception of the value of higher education. The results of the study demonstrate significant age differences in the perception of the value of higher education: among the youngest age cohort, the proportion of those who want their children and grandchildren to receive higher education is significantly lower. This puts the education system in need of a significant transformation both in terms of vocational education and in terms of higher education. The fourth challenge is associated with an increase in the flows of outgoing mobility of the population, which actualizes the problem of "brain drain.” The results of the dynamic analysis of studies over different years demonstrate a steady increase in demand for foreign educational migration. At the same time, the highest request is recorded in the youngest cohort (15-24 years old) and among the most educated. Finally, the fifth big challenge is connected with the problems of digitalization of higher education, which in modern conditions, when the use of digital learning environments becomes an uncontested everyday reality, jeopardizes the quality of higher education as a whole.

In terms of healthcare, an increase in the level of dissatisfaction of the citizens with the medical care provided was recorded, especially in terms of the interaction of patients with medical workers. At the same time, the professional and personal qualities of medical workers (a more conscientious attitude towards their duties and a more attentive attitude towards patients) are most often noted by respondents among the topical areas for improving the quality of medical care. Medical services are a priority for the population, and at the same time, society retains low expectations from free medical care, and when financial opportunities arise, citizens are ready to spend additional income on paid medical services, especially if they have already had the experience of using them before. Special attention was paid to the work of doctors within the framework of the project. Doctors note a decrease in the availability of planned outpatient and inpatient medical care over the past year and a half, also because of the growing staff shortage, which may increase over time. Work in the "red zones" attracted personnel due to high wages; however, difficult working conditions lead to professional burnout, the postponed COVID-19 and its consequences aggravate the situation, which ultimately will contribute to the outflow of personnel from medicine, reduce the quality of work of medical personnel, weaken them labor motivation. A separate concern is a decrease in income when returning to "ugly" working conditions. Doctors point out that income when returning to previous employment is lower than before, and if this phenomenon is massive, it can lead to a weakening of the work motivation of doctors and an increase in social tension.

In general, uncertainty, anxiety, and instability prevail in the population's perception of the future development of the country. This is largely determined by the experience of the pandemic: people know what has become of their plans and expectations, and are generally cautiously pessimistic. The planning horizon has dropped to 1-2 years. On the one hand, part of the changes in the country, according to the opinion, is capable of supporting sustainable development - this is, first of all, the development of technologies, urban development, and social guarantees. On the other hand, it is recognized that there are accumulating problems that negatively affect the development of the country, which are falling incomes and living standards, growing inequality, the raw material orientation of the economy.

**The degree of implementation, recommendations for implementation, or the results of the implementation of the results of research (to be filled in if the practical use of the results obtained is possible):** some research results were used in the preparation of analytical notes and expert opinions in 2021. The results of this work can be used to identify key points of social tension in Russia and develop measures to ensure social sustainability.