

# Socio-economic Policy of the Eurasian Economic Union Countries and Regions and Its Modernization Specifics: Problems and Contradictions

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**Keywords:** Socio-economic Policy, Integration, Eurasian Economic Union, Employment, Unemployment, Charged Services, Expenses.


**Abstract:** In modern conditions, the EEU countries socio-economic situation is transforming under the influence of external challenges and threats related to the current crisis, the change in the world economic system, the world monetary system transformation, etc. All these factors directly affect the Eurasian Economic Union countries socio-economic policy. This article is aimed at studying the key socio-economic indicators of the Eurasian Economic Union countries, at building a linear model of the households and monetary expenditures actual final consumption and expenditures for the goods and services purchase in Russia ratio, as well as calculating forecasts of individual economic indicators in the given area. Moreover, special attention is paid to the Russian socio-economic policy and its relation with the Eurasian Economic Union partner countries through the deepening integration processes prism. As a theoretical and methodological basis, the article uses historical, logical, dialectical principles and contradictions, the scientific abstraction method. The process-system approach, which was used in an in-depth analysis of key indicators in the given area, has become especially important in the argument about the need to strengthen the relations between the countries of the integration group in the socio-economic sphere. Based on an in-depth analysis of the EEU countries socio-economic indicators and the formation of a linear model, the key directions for the integration processes development in the region are identified. The emphasis is shifted towards strengthening the inter-country relations in key socio-economic areas of the partner countries and focusing on a coordinated economic policy in these areas. On the basis of the presented econometric model and the key EEU countries socio-economic indicators, the problems and contradictions in the socio-economic field are investigated, also the directions for the contradictions elimination are identified. This will lead to the development and strengthening of relations between the partner countries.


## 1 INTRODUCTION

In modern conditions, the world economy as a whole is experiencing serious transformations associated with the transition of countries to a new world economic and technological order, with the neoliberal model crisis, with changes in the monetary and financial systems, the appearance of new economic leaders in the world, etc. (Malakhova and

Kolesnikov, 2019). All these changes directly affect both individual countries and other subjects of the world economy, including integration groups (Malakhova, Dubinina, Maksaev, Fomin, 2019). The EEU is no exception, as it is actively internationalized in global economic relations with partner countries. Despite the strengthening of inter-country relations in the Eurasian Economic Union, there are problems and contradictions in the socio-economic sphere in each country, based on their development models. The

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article focuses on the current state of Russian socio-economic policy through the prism of integration processes with the EEU countries.

## 2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In Russia, many scientists and experts are engaged in research in the field of the country socio-economic policy through the integration processes prism. One of the notable scientists is the academician Glazyev S.Yu., who emphasizes that the key task of the EEU development is to build a proper single economic space and further implement a common policy in industry, agriculture, energy and other areas (Glazyev, 2020). Scientists Greenberg R.S. and Pylin A.G. note in their research that the integration group is at a critical stage of its development, and serious economic contradictions remain between the key participants of the Eurasian Economic Union (Greenberg and Pylin, 2020). Special attention in Borodushko I.V. research is paid to the coordination in the Eurasian Economic Union countries economic policy through the convergence of the countries socio-economic development level, increasing competitiveness in domestic and foreign markets (Borodushko, 2017). The scientists Pak Kh.S., Ushakova E.V., Borisova T.A. in their research propose the system that uses the principle of coordinated integration interaction in the EEU countries. This principle will allow to identify and assess the risk of potential threats, etc. (Pak Kh.S., Ushakova E.V., Borisova T.A., 2020). Knobel A. evaluates the EEU development prospects and problems, examines this integration group with other world economy subjects (Knobel', 2019). J. Garlick and G. Shakhanova emphasize that it is important for the Eurasian Economic Union countries to work on joint projects with China in the field of infrastructure, trade procedures, etc. (Garlic and Shakhanova, 2020). We can draw a conclusion that the scientists study the EEU countries economies from different sides and positions, which makes it possible to assess their socio-economic policies more deeply.

## 3 RESEARCH RESULTS

There is a number of key indicators for assessing and analyzing the current socio-economic policies in the EEU countries. They are presented in Table 1. The population in the EEU countries did not change significantly from 2016 to 2019. In Armenia from

2016 to 2019 it was 3.0 million people. In the Republic of Belarus, the population also did not change (from 2016 to 2019, the figure was at the level of 9.5 million people). Only in 2020, this indicator decreased by 0.1 million people compared to 2019. In Kazakhstan, the population in 2016 was 17.7 million people, in 2017 it was 17.9 million people, in 2018 it was 18.2 million people, in 2019 it was 18.4 million people. This indicator in Kazakhstan was unstable for the analyzed period. In 2019, compared to 2016, it increased by 0.7 million people. Every year there was an increase in the Kazakhstan population. In 2020, compared to 2019, the indicator increased by 0.2 million people. In Kyrgyzstan, the population in 2016 was 6.0 million people, in 2017 it was 6.1 million people, in 2018 it was 6.3 million people, in 2019 it was 6.4 million people. The Kyrgyzstan population is also increasing. In 2019, compared to 2016, the growth was 0.4 million people. In 2020, compared to 2019, the population increased by 0.1 million people. In Russia, the population in 2016 was 146.5 million people, in 2017 it was 146.8 million people, in 2018 it was 146.9 million people, in 2019 it was 146.8 million people, in 2020 it was 146.7 million people. In 2020, compared to 2016, there was an increase in the population by 0.2 million people. If we study the countries that are members of the CIS, but do not function in the Eurasian Economic Union, according to this indicator, then they also have an increase in the population. For example, in Uzbekistan in 2016, this figure was 31.6 million people, in 2017 it was 32.1 million people, in 2018 it was 32.7 million people, in 2019 it was 33.3 million people, in 2020 it was 33.9 million people. A significant socio-economic indicator is the employment rate in the EEU countries for 2016-2019. In Armenia, the employment rate was 52.1% in 2016, 51.9% in 2017, 49.7% in 2018, and 51.2% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2018, this indicator increased by 1.5%. In the Republic of Belarus, the employment rate in 2016 was 72.9%, 73.5% in 2017, 74.5% in 2018, 75.1% in 2019. As statistics show, the employment rate in the Republic of Belarus increases every year. In Kazakhstan, it was 73.7% in 2016, 73.3% in 2017, and 74.4% in 2018. In 2018, compared to 2017, the employment rate increased by 0.7 million people.

In Kyrgyzstan, this indicator was unstable over the analyzed time period. In 2016, it was 60.4%, 59.3% in 2017, 59.5% in 2018, 60.3% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, the employment rate decreased by 0.1%. In Russia, it was 70.0% in 2016, 70.3% in 2017, 71.0% in 2018, and 70.8% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, the employment rate increased by 0.8%.

Table 1: The key socio-economic indicators in the Eurasian Economic Union countries assessment through the prism of strengthening integration processes in the region for 2016-2019 (compiled by the authors based on the materials (Population and social indicators of the CIS countries and world separate countries 2016-2019, 2020)).

Countries	Population, in million people / Employment rate, in % / Unemployment rate, in % / Unemployment rate among young people aged 15-24, in % The income ratio of the 20% groups of the most and least well-off population, in times / Total number of pensioners, per 1,000 population			
	Years			
	2016	2017	2018	2019
Armenia	3.0 / 52.1 / 18.5 / 36.6 / 9.4 / 157	3.0 / 51.9 / 18.4 / 38.4 / 8.3 / 154	3.0 / 49.7 / 19.3 / 33.5 / 8.3 / 156	3.0 / 51.2 / 18.4 / 31.9 / 8.3 / 158
Belarus	9.5 / 72.9 / 5.9 / 10.7 / 4.2 / 276	9.5 / 73.5 / 5.6 / 9.3 /	9.5 / 74.5 / 4.8 / 10.7 / 4.0 / 270	9.5 / 75.1 / 4.1 / 10.2 / 4.0 / 267
Kazakhstan	17.7 / 73.7 / 5.0 / 3.8 /	17.9 / 73.7 / 4.9 / 3.8 /	18.2 / 74.4 / 4.9 / 3.7 /	18.4 / - / 4.9 / 3.6 /
Kyrgyzstan	6.0 / 60.4 / 7.3 / 15.5 / 8.4 / 123	6.1 / 59.3 / 7.0 / 14.8 / 7.7 / 123	6.3 / 59.5 / 6.2 / 12.4 / 7.1 / 124	6.4 / 60.3 / 5.5 / 12.8 / 6.6 / 125
Russia	146.5 / 70.0 / 5.6 / 16.3 / 8.9 / 294	146.8 / 70.3 / 5.2 / 16.1 / 8.8 / 296	146.9 / 71.0 / 4.8 / 16.6 / 8.9 / 299	146.8 / 70.8 / 4.6 / 15.5 / 8.8 / 297

Now we shall proceed to the analysis of the socially significant indicator that is the unemployment rate. In 2016, the unemployment rate in Armenia was 18.5%, 18.4% in 2017, 19.3% in 2018, 18.4% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2018, this indicator decreased by 0.9%. However, the analysis showed that there were no significant changes during this period. In the Republic of Belarus in 2016, the unemployment rate was 5.9%, 5.6% in 2017, 4.8% in 2018, 4.1% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, it

decreased by 1.8%. In Kazakhstan, no significant changes were observed during the analyzed period. In 2016, the unemployment rate was 5.0%, 4.9% in 2017, 4.9% in 2018, 4.9% in 2019. In Kyrgyzstan, the unemployment rate was 7.3% in 2016, 7.0% in 2017, 6.2% in 2018, and 5.5% in 2019. In Kyrgyzstan, there was a significant reduction in the given indicator. In 2019, compared to 2016, the unemployment rate decreased by 1.8%. It remains to analyze this indicator for Russia. In 2016, the unemployment rate in the country was 5.6%, 5.2% in 2017, 4.8% in 2018, 4.6% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, it decreased by 1.0%. Special attention should be paid to the youth unemployment rate in the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. The dynamics of the given indicator is also presented in Table 1. In general, the unstable dynamics in this indicator was observed in the EEU. In Armenia, the youth unemployment rate was 36.6% in 2016, 38.4% in 2017, 33.5% in 2018, and 31.9% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, the youth unemployment rate decreased by 4.7%. In the Republic of Belarus, there was an unstable dynamics in this indicator. In 2016, it was 10.7%, 9.3% in 2017, 10.7% in 2018, 10.2% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2017, the youth unemployment rate increased by 0.9%. In Kazakhstan, it was 3.8% in 2016, 3.8% in 2017, 3.7% in 2018, and 3.6% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, this indicator decreased by 0.2%. In Kyrgyzstan, the youth unemployment rate was 15.5% in 2016, 14.8% in 2017, 12.4% in 2018, and 12.8% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, this indicator decreased by 2.7%. In Russia, the youth unemployment rate was unstable over the analyzed time period. In 2016, it was 16.3%, 16.1% in 2017, 16.6% in 2018, 15.5% in 2019. This indicator in 2019 decreased by 0.8% compared to 2016.

A significant socio-economic indicator is the income ratio of the 20% groups of the most and least wealthy population. In Armenia, this indicator was 9.4% in 2016, 8.3% in 2017, 8.3% in 2018, and 8.3% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, it decreased by 1.1%. There were no significant fluctuations in this indicator in the Republic of Belarus during the analyzed period. In 2016, it was 4.2%, 3.9% in 2017, 4.0% in 2018, 4.0% in 2019. This indicator decreased by 0.2% in 2019 compared to 2016. In Kazakhstan, in 2016, the income ratio of the 20 percent groups of the most and least wealthy population was 4.0%, 4.2% in 2017, 4.2% in 2018, 4.2% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, in Kazakhstan, on the contrary, this indicator increased by 0.2%. In Kyrgyzstan, it was 8.4% in 2016, 7.7% in 2017, 7.1% in 2018, and 6.6% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, this indicator decreased

by 1.8%. As for Russia, there were no significant changes in the analyzed indicator. In 2016, it was 8.9%, 8.8% in 2017, 8.9% in 2018, 8.8% in 2019. It is important to note that in Russia this indicator is the highest not only among the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, but also among the CIS countries. For example, in Uzbekistan in 2017 it was 4.1%, 4.1% in 2018, 4.1% in 2019. In the Republic of Moldova in 2016, this indicator was 6.9%, 6.4% in 2017, 5.8% in 2018, 6.2% in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, it decreased by 0.7%. Another important socio-economic indicator is the total number of pensioners and their social support. Within the framework of this article, the total number of pensioners from 2016 to 2019 per 1,000 people of the population is analyzed. In Armenia, in 2016, this figure was 157 people, 154 people in 2017, 156 people in 2018, 158 people in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, it increased by 1 person. In the Republic of Belarus, this indicator was unstable during the analyzed period. In 2016, it was 276 people per 1,000 population of the Republic of Belarus, 273 people in 2017, 270 people in 2018, 267 people in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, this indicator decreased by 9 people. In Kazakhstan, there were no significant changes in the total number of pensioners. In 2016, the figure was 155 people, 157 people in 2017, 157 people in 2018, 157 people in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, this indicator increased by 2 people. It remains to analyze this indicator in Kyrgyzstan and Russia. In 2016, the total number of pensioners in Kyrgyzstan was 123 people per 1,000 people, 123 people in 2017, 124 people in 2018, 125 people in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, this indicator increased by 2 people. In Russia, in 2016, it was 294 people, 296 people in 2017, 299 people in 2018, 297 people in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2016, this indicator increased by 3 people. In general, there were no significant changes in this indicator (Population and social indicators of the CIS countries and world separate countries 2016-2019, 2020).

The Russian Federation socio-economic development forecast for the period up to 2024 pays special attention to the development of economic and social sectors (education, health, culture, physical culture and sports). The main directions of education development for the period up to 2024 are approved by the Decree and the State program "The Education Development". In the health care system in 2019-2024, certain measures will be taken to reduce the mortality rates of the working-age population, to develop infrastructure, to strengthen the preventive orientation of health care sphere, etc. The priority measures for the cultural sphere development, the

State cultural policy strategic objectives, as well as the key principles for the culture implementation until 2024 are provided for by the Decree, the Strategy of the State Cultural Policy for the period up to 2030, etc. The physical culture and sports development until 2024 will be carried out in accordance with the Decree, the State program "The Physical Culture and Sports Development", etc. (Forecast of socio-economic development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2024, 2019). Despite the implementation of the presented programs, strategies, etc. in the field of the Russian Federation socio-economic development there is a trend towards an annual increase in charged services (Table 2).

Table 2 generally shows the volume of charged services to the Russian population. In 2019, compared to 2010, this indicator increased by 5,451,737 million rubles. The volume of transport services to the population in 2010 was 940,545 million rubles, in 2015 it was 1,481,518, in 2016 it was 1,699,442, in 2017 it was 1,850,446, in 2018 it was 1,928,971, in 2019 it was 2,060,506 million rubles. In 2019, compared to 2010, this indicator increased by 1,119,961 million rubles. The next socially significant indicator is the volume of housing services to the population. In 2010, it was 286,552 million rubles, in 2015 it was 525,594 million rubles, in 2016 it was 580,614 million rubles, in 2017 it was 677,773 million rubles, in 2018 it was 722,209 million rubles, in 2019 it was 765,342 million rubles. In 2019, compared to 2010, the volume of housing services to the population of Russia increased by 478,790 million rubles.

The volume of charged medical services to the population in 2010 was 250,474 million rubles, 528,359 million rubles in 2015, 572,445 million rubles in 2016, 626,626 million rubles in 2017, 677,686 million rubles in 2018, 734,365 million rubles in 2019. In 2019, compared to 2010, the volume of charged medical services to the population of Russia increased by 483,891 million rubles. Also, special attention should be paid to the volume of charged services in physical culture and sports in Russia. In 2019, compared to 2010, this indicator increased by 62,497 million rubles. A similar trend was observed in the volume of charged tourist services to the population. In 2010, this indicator was 99,879 million rubles, in 2015 it was 158,252, in 2016 it was 161,344, in 2017 it was 166,520, in 2018 it was 172,090, in 2019 it was 186,839 million rubles. In 2019, compared to 2010, the volume of charged tourist services to the population of Russia increased by 86,960 million rubles. At the figure 1 there is a



calculated forecast of the volume of charged services in the education system until 2025.

Table 2: The dynamics of indicators of individual charged services in Russia for 2010-2019, in million rubles (compiled from the materials (Charged service to the population in Russia, 2019))

Indicators	Years					
	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Volume of charged services to the population	4,943,482	8,050,808	8,636,277	9,211,441	9,703,358	10,395,219
Volume of transport services to the population	940,545	1,481,518	1,699,442	1,850,446	1,928,971	2,060,506
The volume of housing services to the population	286,552	525,594	580,614	677,773	722,209	765,342
The volume of charged medical services to the population	250,474	528,359	572,445	626,626	677,686	734,365
The volume of charged services in the education system	326,100	539,685	567,312	613,294	655,472	696,039
The volume of charged services in physical culture and sports	30,089	62,209	70,274	78,466	87,684	92,586
The volume of charged tourist services to the population	99,879	158,252	161,344	166,520	172,090	186,839

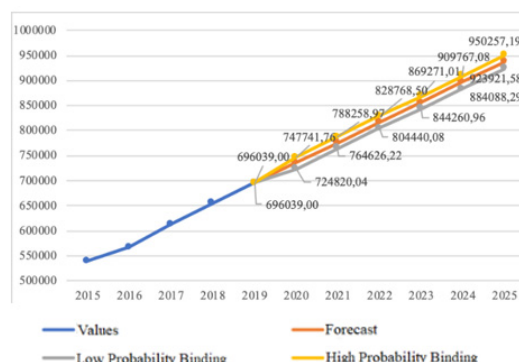


Figure 1: The volume of charged services in the education system from 2015 to 2019 and the calculation of the forecast until 2025. (compiled and calculated by the authors based on the materials (Charged service to the population in Russia, 2019))

Calculations have shown that the volume of charged services in the education system will increase with high and low probability until 2025. With a high probability, this indicator in 2021 will be 788,258 million rubles, in 2022 it will be 828,768, in 2023 it will be 869,271, in 2024 it will be 909,767, in 2025 it will be 950,257 million rubles. Based on calculations, in 2025, the volume of charged services in the education system will increase by 294,785 million rubles compared to 2018.

Let's build a linear model that includes the following indicators: the households actual final consumption and monetary expenditures for the goods and services purchase in Russia (Figure 2). In general, the Figure 2 shows the observations uniformity presence, also there is the regression equation and the determination coefficient (R2). The equation of the linear pair regression model describing the relationship between these indicators has the following form 1:

$$y = 61.076 + 0.0003 * x \tag{1}$$

It is important to analyze the quality of the presented model. To do this, we will estimate the regression coefficients significance using the Student's t-criteria. Then we will evaluate the model using variance and correlation analysis. The Student's test value is 2.262. It is important to establish the significance of the coefficients a and b, so we assume that:

- No\_a: a = 0 - not statistically significant
- No\_b: b = 0 - not statistically significant
- NI\_b: b = 0 - not statistically significant

N1\_a: a = 0 - not statistically significant  
 $55.570 > 2.262$   
 Ho\_a is rejected with a probability of 95%  
 Coefficient a is statistically significant

$14.550 > 2262$   
 Ho\_b is rejected with a probability of 95%  
 Coefficient b is statistically significant

The next way to analyze the quality of the model is the Fisher F-criteria or regression dispersive analysis. The hypothesis is as follows:

Ho:  $b=0$  (there is no linear relationship between x and y)  
 F critical – 5.318  
 F observed 211.704 > F critical 5.117, hence, the Ho:  $b=0$  hypothesis is deviated, i.e. there is a linear relationship between the x and y variables.

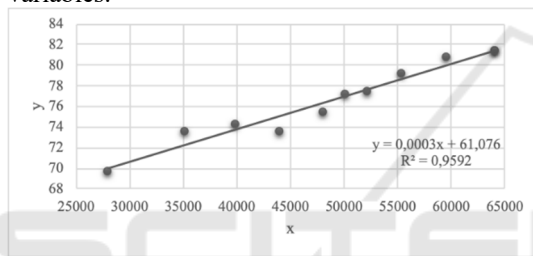


Figure 2: Linear model of the households actual final consumption and monetary expenditures for the goods and services purchase in Russia ratio (calculated by the authors)

The multiple R is the correlation coefficient value (the linear relationship tightness measure between the x and y variables). The multiple R was 0.959. Next, we transfer the correlation coefficient into a percentage and it is 95.9%. The 95.9% variation in the variable y (monetary expenditures for the goods and services purchase) is due to the variability of the variable x (households actual final consumption). The effect of x on y is 95.9%. Consequently, 4.1% is accounted for by other factors not taken into account in the model. The average approximation error is 0.756%. It is important to calculate the forecast of the analyzed data. Thus, x amounts to 50,601.28 billion rubles, and y amounts to 77.14%. Thus, if x increases by 3% of the average value, then y will be 77.14%. Forecast value intervals are the following: y min is 75.24%, y max is 79.04%. With a 95% chance of increasing the x score by 3%, the y score will be in the range of 75.24% to 79.04%. The analysis showed that, based on the current situation in the Russian socio-economic sphere, the maximum increase in the y indicator is most likely. On this basis, there is a need

for further development of the socio-economic policy not only in Russia, but also in other Eurasian Economic Union countries. In December 2020 the members of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council approved the Strategic Directions for the Development of the Eurasian Economic Integration until 2025 (On the Strategic Directions for the Development of the Eurasian Economic Integration until 2025, 2020). The document pays special attention to the expansion of economic cooperation in the fields of education, health, tourism and sport. Figure 3 shows only individual directions and their elements in the given areas. The presented strategic directions for the development of the Eurasian economic integration until 2025 will strengthen inter-country relations in key socio-economic areas of the partner countries and orient them towards a coordinated economic policy in these areas. The experience exchange between the Eurasian Economic Union countries will provide an opportunity to mitigate the problems and contradictions that exist in Russian socio-economic sphere (Malakhova, 2018).

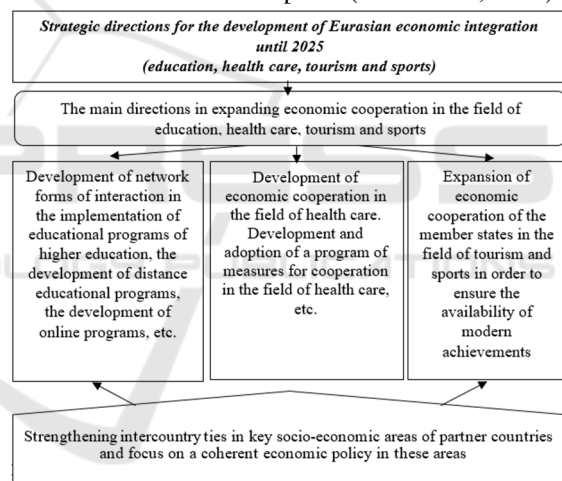


Figure 3: Key directions in the economic cooperation expansion in the field of education, health, tourism and sport (compiled by the authors based on the materials (On the strategic directions of the development of the Eurasian Economic Integration until 2025, 2020))

## 4 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The calculations and analysis have shown that certain socio-economic indicators in Russia are unstable, which directly affects relations with the Eurasian Economic Union countries. Any integration implies the economies convergence, the strengthening of cooperative ties within the association. However, internal problems and contradictions in the country

economic development can negatively affect these processes. The forecasts have shown that the volume of charged services in the Russian education system will grow until 2025 (forecasts with high and low probability show an increase in this indicator). Not only Russian socio-economic policy, but socio-economic policies of other EEU countries include a system of measures that should be implemented in the interests of society, national economies economic entities. This policy is focused on the economy dynamic development, on the elimination of social problems and contradictions that exist in the countries.

## 5 CONCLUSION

Thus, first, the article analyzes the key socio-economic indicators of the EEU countries for 2016-2019 through the prism of strengthening integration processes in the region. Special attention is paid to the problems and contradictions that arise in the partner countries of the association in the implementation of the current socio-economic policy.

Secondly, individual charged services indicators assessment and analysis for 2010-2019 in Russia was carried out. There was an increase in volumes for all types of services presented. On this basis, special attention is paid to the volume of charged services in the Russian education system from 2015 to 2019 and the calculation of the forecast until 2025. The calculation showed a similar increase in this indicator.

Third, a linear model of the households actual final consumption and monetary expenditures for the goods and services purchase in Russia ratio has been formed. The 95.9% variation in the variable y (monetary expenditures for the goods and services purchase) is due to the variability of the variable x (households actual final consumption). In addition, the strategic directions of the Eurasian economic integration development until 2025 in the field of education, health, tourism and sport were studied.

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