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INFORMATION SUPPORT FOR PRO-COMPETITIVE REGULATION OF THE SOCIALLY SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL MARKETS

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Abstract. Purpose of the study: The purpose of this paper is to provide a theoretical underpinning and develop the information support for pro-competitive regulation of socially significant regional markets. Research methods: The study mainly employed the method of analyzing the content of Internet resources and quantitative evaluation of the obtained results. The study involved the analysis of 757 publications on major regional information resources regarding 15 types of priority and socially significant markets. Findings from the study. The paper suggests a method to evaluate publications on pro-competitive regulation of priority and socially significant markets on information resources available for businesses and consumers of products and services in the Orenburg region. The suggested method involved a comprehensive

study of information openness of procompetitive regulation of priority and significant markets socially and the assessment of rankings of priority and socially significant markets of Orenburg region by a set of indicators that were obtained through a survey of entrepreneurs and describe the state of the competitive environment. Conclusions. The paper presents information openness metrics for pro-competitive regulation of priority and socially significant markets. A disproportion was found in coverage of individual types of markets on Internet resources. The information resources were ranked by the level of activity in ensuring the information openness and availability of data on procompetitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets for businesses and consumers of products and services. It is

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shown that the work toward information openness of pro-competitive regulation of priority and socially significant markets is inefficient. The paper has a practical value for specialists engaged in the competitive development of meso-economic market systems and professors of economics at higher education institutions.

Keywords pro-competitive regulation, information support, information resources, competition, sources of information.

1. Introduction.

The rationale of this research is the need to study problems of pro-competitive regulation of socially significant regional markets in the form of municipal and regional public agencies' action to stimulate and develop competition, support innovative initiatives to provide the local residents with life-supporting amenities and services (the social significance of the markets is due to a broad coverage of customers, the scale of the generated external positive effects), and to develop appropriate information support to maintain the conditions of pro-competitive regulation. The purpose of this paper is to provide a theoretical underpinning and develop the information support for procompetitive regulation of socially significant regional markets. It is assumed that procompetitive regulation of socially significant regional markets is based on sufficient coverage of this process in various sources: public agencies, civil society institutions, and media. To achieve the above purpose, the following goals were established: to suggest an assessment method for publications on pro-competitive regulation of priority and socially significant markets on information resources available for businesses and consumers of products and services in the Orenburg region; to assess the regional information resources by information openness and accessibility of information on pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets for businesses and consumers of products and services; to draw conclusions on the effectiveness of activities to ensure information openness of pro-competitive regulation of priority and socially significant markets.

2. Materials and methods.

The study is based on evaluating publications on pro-competitive regulation of priority and socially significant markets on most popular information resources available for businesses and consumers of products and services in the Orenburg region.

The main purpose of the proposed method is to refine and develop assessment tools for information openness of pro-



competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets. In accordance with its purpose, the research involved the analysis of the content of leading regional information resources on the example of the Orenburg region, the ranking of priority and socially significant markets, and expert assessment of the obtained results.

The analysis covered the content of six information sources belonging to public agencies and media. The assessment focused on information on 15 types of priority and socially significant markets listed in the Decree of the Governor of the Orenburg region No. 111-yk dated March 10, 2016, On the Introduction of a Development Standard for Competition in Federal Subjects of the Russian Federation" for the period 2015 through 2018 (www.orenburg-gov.ru/upload/iblock/604/604072f8dcf6e90f fc1396203aa3c36e.pdf, accessed 2018).

The general principles for identifying regional socially significant and priority markets include:

 Introduction of provisions and principles of the Competition Development Standard in federal subjects of the Russian Federation;

 The use of positive experience and best practices of other federal regions while identifying the markets; 479 — Transparency of criteria for identifying socially significant and priority markets in the region;

 Social examination of proposals on identification of socially significant and priority markets in the region;

Ensuring comprehensive stability of the region and its development prospects;

Systematical implementation
 of the approaches for identifying socially
 significant and priority regional markets;

- Improving the region's investment-grade status;

 Development of a regional system of material and non-material production of products and services;

- Improving the quality of products and services, etc.

The study involved the analysis of 757 publications. The content was evaluated in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Competition Development Standard of the Russian Federation:

1) Information on pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets for businesses and consumers of products and services should be available to a broad range of citizens. An exception could be information that is confidential according to the federal law;

2) The published information should be reliable;



3) The posted information should be relevant, the timeliness of publication is important here;

4) Information on pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets for businesses and consumers of products and services should be published in a variety of sources to ensure its accessibility for people;

5) Publications should be in line with the citizens' right to personal integrity, to preservation of the organizational image, and personal security (Development Standard for Competition in the Federal Subjects of the Russian Federation, accessed 15.11.2018).

The following variables of the publications were analyzed:

- The number of publications on the information resource;

- The content of publications on a socially significant or priority market and competition regulation in it.

То rank priority and socially significant markets of the Orenburg region on a set of variables that were obtained through a survey of entrepreneurs and describe the state of competitive environment, an integral index was calculated in the form of the Ordered Multiple-Choice model. The Ordered Multiple-Choice model made it possible to rank the regional markets of products and services by the integral index calculated from the survey results of 480 businesses and characterizing the competitive environment.

3. Findings.

The following are seen as mandatory elements of the information openness model of pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets for businesses and consumers of products and services:

- Data and resources;

The analysis of resources containing information on pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets for businesses and consumers of products and services in the Orenburg region allowed to identify the most in-demand information resources:

http://www.orenburg-gov.ru — the portal of the Orenburg regional Government;

http://www.oreneconomy.ru — the website of the Ministry of Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade of the Orenburg region;

http://www.orbinvest.ru — Investments in the Orenburg Region portal;

https://orenburg.fas.gov.ru — the Office of the Federal Antimonopoly Service for the Orenburg region;

http://ria56.ru — RIA56;

http://vestirama.ru — Vestirama TV and radio company.



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- The list of information to be published;

According to the Resolution of the Government of the Orenburg region, No. 299 dated April 29, 2010, On the Development Program for Competition in the Orenburg Region for 2010–2012, the information to be published on pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets for businesses and consumers of products and services include: draft development plans for territories, their open discussion on the Internet; databases of regional retail business, accessible to the regional authorities and local government, offices of federal agencies (Directorate of the Federal Tax Service in the Orenburg region, Orenburg Office of the Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service, the Directorate of the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing for the Orenburg region, law enforcement agencies, etc.); information on open biddings for the right to own and/or use (leasing etc.) of public or municipal property, etc. (orenburggov.ru/NPA/09/02 09 2.53.5 Nº%20299пп 29.04.2010 1.pdf, accessed November 15, 2018).

Under the Executive Order of the Russian Federation Government No. 1738-p, dated September 5, 2015, On Approval of the Development Standard for Competition in the Federal Subjects of the Russian 481 Federation, the official website of the authorized body and the Internet portal on investments in the federal region of the Russian Federation provide information on compliance with the Standard and the measures listed in the road map, and documents adopted in pursuance of the Standard and the road map and to promote competition (Development Standard for Competition in the Federal Subjects of the Russian Federation, accessed November 15, 2018).

Information on the work of the government agencies of the federal subject of the Russian Federation and local governments to promote competition is also covered in media for public reference.

- Variables and criteria for information openness of the public agency.

The criteria of the information openness of pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets for businesses and consumers of products and services can be the following variables:

1) Internet coverage of measures of pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets for businesses and consumers of products and services;

 2) Specialized events for mass media, businesses entities and consumers of products and services;



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 High-quality interaction with media, businesses and consumers of products and services.

The content of the resources showed that none of the surveyed Internet resources included full information on all the socially significant and priority markets.

Assessment of the level of coverage of pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets indicated a disproportion in coverage of certain types of

markets. The study found that the most covered was the pro-competitive regulation the healthcare services market of (21 percent), the social services market (14.9 percent), retail market (12.9 percent), housing maintenance and utilities market (10.8 percent), and communications market (8.6) Taken together, percent). the information for the five markets accounts for 68.2 percent of the total number of analyzed publications (Table 1).

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Table 1 — Socially significant and priority markets most covered on information resources of the Orenburg region in 2015–2018.

| Market Type | Number of | Percentage in the total number of |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| | publications | publications, % |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Healthcare | 159 | 21 |
| services | | |
| Social services | 113 | 14.9 |



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Table 1 (continued)

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------|
| Retail | 98 | 12.9 |
| Housing maintenance and utilities | 82 | 10.8 |
| Communications services | 65 | 8.6 |
| Total for the five markets | 517 | 68.2 |

The least publications were accounted for vegetable growing under cover and services in the cultural sector (1.9 percent each), surface passenger transit (1.6 percent), passenger transit by scheduled road transport in municipalities (1.2 percent), and psychological and pedagogical support for children with disabilities (0.4 percent). The information on pro-competitive regulation of these markets accounts for 7 percent of the total number of analyzed publications (Table 2).

Table 2 — Socially significant and priority markets least covered on information resources of the Orenburg region in 2015–2018.

| Market Type | Number of | Percentage in the total number | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | publications | of publications, % | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | |
| Services in the cultural sector | 15 | 1.9 | | | | |
| Surface passenger transit | 15 | 1.9 | | | | |
| Vegetable growing under cover | 12 | 1.6 | | | | |
| Passenger transit by scheduled road | 9 | 1.2 | | | | |
| transport in municipalities | | | | | | |
| Psychological and pedagogical support for | 3 | 0.4 | | | | |
| children with disabilities | | | | | | |
| Total for the five markets | 54 | 7 | | | | |

The study involved ranking of the information resources by the level of activity in ensuring the openness and availability of data on pro-competitive regulation of socially

significant and priority markets for businesses and consumers of products and services (Table 3).



Table 3 — Percentage of information resources in coverage of measures of pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets, %

| Information resource | Number of | Percentage of |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| | publications | the total volume |
| The portal of the Orenburg regional Government; | 477 | 63 |
| The website of the Ministry of Economic Development, | 22 | 3 |
| Industrial Policy and Trade of the Orenburg region; | | |
| Investments in the Orenburg Region portal; | 6 | 1 |
| Office of the Federal Antimonopoly Service for the | 16 | 2 |
| Orenburg region; | | |
| RIA56 news agency | 108 | 14 |
| Vestirama TV and radio company | 129 | 17 |

The Orenburg regional Government uses its portal to the fullest extent to ensure the openness and accessibility of information about measures of pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets for businesses and consumers of products and services. Most publications relate to the markets of social and healthcare services (18.8 percent and 18.6 percent, respectively). The official website of the Government of the Orenburg regional Government provides almost no information on such important markets as the services in the cultural sector and services of psychological and pedagogical support for children with disabilities. Minimum consideration in the period under review was given to the markets of surface passenger transit and passenger transit by scheduled road transport in

municipalities (2 percent each), vegetable growing under cover (1.5 percent), vegetable and grains storage (2.5 percent each).

Among the media, the Vestirama website was the most active in ensuring openness and accessibility of information (129 publications — 17 percent). The analysis showed that the market of healthcare services also holds a leading position by the number of publications (34.1 percent) by Vestirama TV and radio company, retail business was also covered rather frequently (20,2 percent). Regional media provided no information whatsoever on the markets of services of psychological and pedagogical support for children with disabilities and services passenger transit by scheduled road transport in municipalities. Little coverage was given to the regulation of the markets of



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children's recreation and health improvement, vegetable growing under cover (1.6 percent each), and children's supplementary education (2.3 percent).

Very little information was found on the website of the Ministry of Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade of the Orenburg region, although this resource is the official agent of the Competition Development Strategy in the Orenburg region.

The study showed that the least active resource in the coverage of competition regulation of socially significant and priority 485 markets was the Investments in the Orenburg Region portal. The resource covers only 5 out of 15 types of analyzed types of markets: healthcare services, services in the cultural sector, housing maintenance and utilities, grains storage, and retail business. The resource's share in the total volume of the analyzed publications for the period under review is about 1 percent.

Socially significant and priority markets of the Orenburg region were structured and ranked by the level of coverage on the analyzed resources (Table 4).



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Table 4 — Markets of Orenburg region by the integral index characterizing the coverage on information resources

| Markets of products and services | Market | Integral | The | Website of | Investme | Office of | RIA | Vestira | Total |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|------|---------|-----------|
| | ranking | index | portal of | the | nts in the | the Federal | 56 | ma TV | number |
| | | | the | Ministry | Orenbur | Antimono | news | and | of |
| | | | Orenburg | of | g Region | poly | agen | radio | publicati |
| | | | regional | Economic | portal | Service for | cy | compan | ons |
| | | | Governm | Developm | | the | | У | |
| | | | ent | ent, | | Orenburg | | | |
| | | | | Industrial | | region | | | |
| | | | | Policy | | | | | |
| | | | | and Trade | | | | | |
| | | | | of the | | | | | |
| | | | | Orenburg | | | | | |
| | | | | region | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Healthcare services | 1 | 0.29 | 89 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 24 | 44 | 159 |
| Social services | 2 | 0.29 | 90 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 113 |
| Retail | 3 | 0.88 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 26 | 98 | 9 |
| Housing maintenance and utilities | 4 | 0.21 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 8 | 82 | 2 |
| Communications services | 5 | 0.91 | 25 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 28 | 3 | 65 |



| | | | | | | | | | 107 |
|------------------------------------|---|------|----|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Children's recreation and health | 6 | 0.29 | 50 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 56 |
| improvement services | | | | | | | | | |
| Preschool education services | 7 | 0.32 | 32 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 50 |
| Children's supplementary education | 8 | 0.32 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 33 |



Table 4 (continued)

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------|-----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Grains storage market | 9 | 0.68 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 25 |
| Vegetable storage | 9 | 0.68 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 22 |
| Services in the cultural sector | 10 | 0.29 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 15 |
| Surface passenger transit | 10 | 0.91 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 15 |
| Vegetable growing under cover | 10 | 0.68 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 12 |
| Passenger transit by scheduled road transport in municipalities | 11 | 0.91 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Psychological and pedagogical support for children with disabilities | 12 | 0.29 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Total publications on the resource | | | 477 | 22 | 6 | 16 | 108 | 129 | 757 |



4. Discussion

Competition is an indispensable mechanism for market regulation. If a market participant or a number of those can monopolistically impact the universal conditions of product turnover, this may significantly limit the potential of other participants. Unregulated monopolistic dominance (monopoly or oligopoly) suppresses competition and entails business stagnation.

The principal tool to regulate monopolistic activity and maintain competition is government's antimonopoly policy against abusive practices in the market, both through a direct prohibition of certain types of business and inhibiting anti-competitive trends.

The main components of antitrust regulation were first laid down in the US statutes, the European tradition, though, sees cartels as a means of ensuring price stability and the outcome of the implementation of the principle of freedom of enterprise (Ikaeva, 2009).

Thomas D Fina analyzes American antitrust acts and their origins, explains how changes affected industry, looks at antitrust trends, and identifies the potential effect of the antitrust laws (Fina, 2016) Alberto Pera and Andrea Pezza address competition and competitive regulation and review competition law against pro-competitive regulation. The authors emphasize that there is a variety of approaches in Europe regarding regulatory actions aimed at promoting competition and protecting other public interests (Pera, Pezza, 2016)

Jon Stern also compares the UK with other EU and OECD member states by the role of actual competition policy regarding the expected regulation and interactions between regulators of the sector and antitrust authorities (Stern, 2015).

For the Russian legal framework, the antitrust regulation is one of the most For recent areas. example, A. I. Bagandov notes that "public antitrust regulation was hardly expected in Russia until recently. This was due to the internal situation in the country, lack of market regulators for public production and the predominant absolute public monopoly in the economy." (Bagandov, 2003)

Thus, the approach for creating a competitive environment to serve the needs of the business community and the people of a respective territory can be pro-competitive regulation, which



should be initiated at the regional and municipal levels and developed as global public policies.

It should also be noted that theoretical and methodological research in the field of implementation of public competition policy and antitrust regulation is mostly focused on the federal level of implementation of these, while problems protective of mechanisms of the competitive environment at the regional and municipal levels are almost unaddressed. This explains the relevance of this study, which looks at the problems of procompetitive regulation at the regional level.

In the economic literature, regulation is seen as a management function or a process of impacting an object aimed at eliminating of or adapting to factors that affect the object's behavior. The following elements of the regulatory process are distinguished: 1) subject(s) of impact; 2) object of impact; 3) method of impact (Borisevich, 2014).

The English word "procompetitive" literally means "promoting competition". V. A. Vaypan, A. V. Gabov, M. A. Egorova, and others see the term "pro-competitive" as positive, that is, having a positive impact 490 on competition. By contrast, "anticompetitive", the opposite of it, means a negative impact on competition. The authors point out that monopolistic activity always has a detrimental effect on the competitive environment and therefore comes under anti-competitive (Vaypan, Gabov, Gabov, Egorova, Kinyov, 2016).

The essence of legal regulation of business is described in the theories of public choice and public Interest. The public choice theory has it that actors actually aim at the regulation they deem most optimal (Egorova, 2014).

In our view, these approaches reflect the basic idea of pro-competitive regulation. Markets unable to resolve problems on their own need procompetitive regulation. The main areas of pro-competitive regulation are the following: reducing barriers to entry and doing business; a favorable investment accessible climate; infrastructure; encouraging business to innovate: developing the interest in doing business; a legal framework for business.

According to the Development Strategy for Competition and Antitrust Regulation in the Russian Federation for 2013–2024 (the Strategy), adopted by the Federal Antimonopoly Service, the



present-day public competition protection policy needs to extend beyond the protective function and focus on systemic macroeconomic activities that should entail shaping a pro-competitive legal and institutional environment in key sectors of the Russian economy (Development Strategy for Competition and Antitrust Regulation in the Russian Federation for 2013–2024, accessed November 14, 2018).

Just as crucial is the development of the competitive environment as an active component of competition policy, which requires designing and implementing economic incentives for evolution of the markets and introduction of pro-competitive standards in different areas of Russian legislation.

In that connection. Sara Biancini's standpoint is interesting: based on a mathematical model, she argues that the production costs of Russian and foreign companies strongly correlate, this is why the antitrust policy should consider that supporting only Russian manufacturers can lead to a significant increase in costs of information resources (Biancini, 2018),

The regional and municipal policy can have a substantial pro-

491 competitive or anti-competitive (depending on the relevant incentives of the authorities) impact on the local economy. The regional government can use arguments of social policy to justify anti-competitive actions and excessive regulation (Development Strategy for Competition and Antitrust Regulation in the Russian Federation for 2013–2024, accessed November 14, 2018).

to

E. M. Rojdestvenskaya, the content of pro-competition policy as a policy of protection and support of free competition implies not only welldeveloped antitrust legislation but also that the government stimulates intercompany competition that meets the needs of innovation-driven growth (Rozhdestvenskaya, 2015).

According

In this regard, there is a need for clearer definitions in the area of procompetitive regulation at the regional level for socially significant and priority markets.

Let us consider the international experience of antitrust policy and procompetitive regulation. Linda Gratza and Markus Reisinger also explore the correlation between antitrust policy and pro-competition regulation. The authors point out that when a contract is



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concluded with a specific organization, the pro-competitive effect is achieved without additional efforts (Gratza, Reisinger, 2013).

Gregory L. Rosstona and Michael D. Topper suggest using the antitrust analysis to identify the public effect of measures and to identify areas that should be regulated by antitrust authorities (Rosstona, Topper, 2010).

R. Preston McAfeea, Hugo M. Mialonb and Sue H. Mialon look at antitrust legislation and pro-competitive regulation as a means to achieve strategic corporate goals (McAfeea, Mialonb, Mialon, 2007).

Monopolistic competition in international business is addressed by Robert C. Feenstr. He considers procompetitive markup reduction as a way to increase corporate profits and national welfare (Feenstr, 2018).

Negative externalities of procompetition policy are described by Keita Kamei. His study demonstrates a general model of oligopolistic equilibrium with the division of labor. The author believes that the procompetitive policy weakens the division of labor and therefore reduces labor productivity (Kamei, 2014). 492 Federico Quartieri reviews problems of strategic alliances from the perspective of pro-competitive price regulation and advocates a noninterference policy in relation to such consortia (Quartieri, 2017).

Thomas P. Tangerås and Joacim Tåg look at the model of network competition in light of the government regulators' impact on it. The authors explore alternatives directed at increasing the social and economic effects of regulatory impact (Tangerås, Tåg, 2016).

Guy Arie, Sarit Markovich, and Mauricio Varela address inter-sectoral and multi-market agreements between companies. The authors point out that such agreements affect market capacity and price factors and explore conditions of horizontal mergers and their impact on profitability, even without explicit collusion between those companies (Arie, Markovich, Varela, 2017).

Lingli Wu, Shiming Deng, and Xuan Jiang explore sampling and pricing strategy for sellers of competing products in an oligopoly. As a research tool, the authors suggest the Hotelling game in order to choose a compromise solution (Wu, Deng, Jiang, 2018).



Stephen Littlechild has an interesting view of competition regulation. On the one hand, we should aim at the perfect competition, but it is impossible practically without regulators. Regulators encourage amicable settlement between companies and their customers by means of negotiations. Oftentimes, however, procompetitive regulators responsible to promote competition actually do not enforce stringent control over pricing (Littlechild, 2018).

Jun Rentschler, Raimund Bleischwitz, and Florian Flachenecker describe investment barriers that harm competition even in efficient markets. According to the authors, above all, such barriers include information, capacity, financial restrictions, uncompetitive market structure and inefficient fiscal policy (Rentschler, Bleischwitz, Flachenecker, 2018).

Knut Blind, Sören S. Petersen, and Cesare A.F. Riillo analyze the impact of formal standards and regulation on corporate innovative efficiency. In their view, formal standards reduce innovative efficiency in stable markets, while instructions have the opposite effect. In highly volatile markets, regulation lowers innovative efficiency, while formal standards have the opposite effect. Such outcomes should be taken into consideration when elaborating measures and conditions for pro-competitive regulation (Blind, Petersen, Riillo, 2017).

Pro-competitive impact at the regional level requires determining a system of conditions necessary for implementing the pro-competitive impact in socially significant and priority markets.

Markus Dertwinkel-Kalt, Justus Haucap, and Christian Wey analyzed the pro-competitive effects of dual pricing, that is, the entry price discrimination. The researchers argue that price discrimination in intermediary sellers markets has a positive impact on the allocative, dynamic and productive efficiency, respectively. And the prohibition of discrimination tends to facilitate market entry for relatively inefficient companies, thus subsequently increasing the market concentration (Dertwinkel-Kalt, Haucap, Wey, 2016).

Barriers to entry to regional markets were assessed in empirical studies carried out by Martin Lábaj, Peter Silanič, Christoph Weiss, and Biliana Yontcheva. The obtained data show that barriers to entry have gone



down and competition intensity has generally increased (Lábaj, Silanič, Weiss, Yontcheva, 2018).

These conditions will be the basis for the development of an effective methodical toolbox of pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets, a road map, and a system of performance monitoring for pro-competitive regulation in socially significant and priority markets.

In this regard, interesting are findings from the study of the correlation between the market size and the number of healthcare companies for a transition economy. The healthcare sector falls under socially significant and priority markets. Martin Lábaj, Peter Silanič, Christoph Weiss, and Biliana Yontcheva identified a correlation between market size and the number of healthcare companies for a transition economy. The study was carried out on a large number of different regional markets in Slovakia (Lábaj, Peter Silanič, Christoph Weiss, Biliana Yontcheva, 2018)

Another approach to price and production regulation is shown by M. Müller, M. Hanisch, A. Malvido, and J. Rommel. According to the researchers, theoretical and empirical evidence indicate that regional markets 494 and their attractiveness in terms of price dynamics largely depend on political support for the promotion of cooperatives. This study was carried out in 27 EU member states in the period of 2001–2015. In Russia, however, support of cooperatives is currently not developing (Müller, Hanisch, Malvido, Rommel, 2018).

The purpose of this research is to clarify the definitions of information support of pro-competitive regulation of socially significant regional markets, to determine the general content of procompetitive regulation and to identify the level of coverage of its impact on regional markets in the information resources.

The study found that the effectiveness of pro-competitive regulations, aimed at the development of regional markets, primarily depends on the relevant information support in different resources: public agencies, civil society institutions, and media.

5. Conclusion.

The analysis of information openness of pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets led to a number of conclusions.



The degree of active and full coverage of pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets for businesses and consumers of products and services depend, firstly, on the status of the information resource, and secondly, on the importance of the market type for the regional authorities.

There is no clear statutory list of data on pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets that would be mandatory to publish.

Disproportion in coverage is caused by the imperfection of the mechanism of interaction between public agencies and the media when it comes to providing information on procompetitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets.

The low activity of most of the studied resources is due to inefficient control by stakeholders over publishing information on pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets.

The lack of information on certain types of socially significant and priority markets is due to the insufficiency of measures to develop competition in these markets.

Low efficiency of procompetitive impacts in priority and 495 socially significant markets is confirmed by lack of correlation between the ranking of the market and the degree of its coverage on Internet resources.

A possible solution to the above problems is to implement a set of measures aiming to increase the information openness of pro-competitive regulation of socially significant and priority markets in general and for specific types of markets, which are currently hardly represented on information resources.

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