



FORESIGHT AND STI GOVERNANCE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Dear Readers!

This is the first issue in our anniversary year: the *Foresight and STI Governance* journal, which has been published by the Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge (ISSEK) since 2007 turns ten years old. It is probably the first milestone in the journal's history big enough to review its mission, planning horizons, reliance on customary routines, the leadership "burden", and plans for the future. This is relevant particularly keeping in mind that speaking in such terms is very much appropriate here since they make up an integral part of the journal's essential thesaurus focused on long-term visions of the future, national development priorities, and STI policy.

There is hardly an area of life in Russia which has not experienced significant changes during the previous decade. The same goes for the institutional environment of research and innovation activities analysed in the very first issues of the journal: new institutions have emerged, relationships between economic agents have become increasingly complex, the administrative landscape has evolved, policy-shaping and decision-making mechanisms have improved. Throughout the years, the journal has strived to map the trajectories of future changes, foresee the more likely development scenarios, identify future growth points, and portray the new image of the economy, science, and innovation.

Like the ship in the Theseus's paradox which remained the same despite having its every plank replaced, today's *Foresight and STI Governance* does not look much like its initial issues. Apart from the changes in subject matter, the journal's own image is now quite different — from the format and visual design to major content-related shifts reflecting the quality of the published papers. If at the beginning we saw the publishing of "a high-quality academic journal specialising in economics, statistics, sociology, STI policy, and Foresight methodology and practices" as the priority, this objective was quickly accomplished during the first few years, to be replaced by more ambitious goals.

Indexed in Scopus since 2013, the journal became the third Russian academic publication specialising in economics to be included in the database, and in just two years' time it has moved on from the fourth to the third Scopus quartiles, and then to the prestigious second Scopus quartile (Q2) in the Business, Management and Accounting category. It holds an honourable second place in the overall Eastern European regional ranking. Among our immediate objectives is inclusion in the DOAJ, ProQuest, Open J-Gate, Emerging Sources Citation Index — Web of Science Core Collection databases, significantly improving the journal's citation figures, and advancing into the Web of Science's Core Collection segment — the "heart" of this international database.

A full-fledged English-language electronic edition has been published since 2015 (4 issues a year). At the same time, it was decided to change the English version's title from *Foresight-Russia* to *Foresight and STI Governance*, to more precisely position the journal as a genuinely international (as opposed to regional) publication. The English-language version is considered an independent edition, which allows for consolidating the journal's archive in various databases.

There is no more eloquent evidence of a journal's success than the readers' interest. More than 17,000 users from more than 100 countries visited the journal's website in 2017, making about 35,000 requests for specific papers. Along with the journal's growing reputation and strengthening positions



in international citation databases, its popularity among authors interested in presenting the results of their studies on the *Foresight and STI Governance's* pages has also grown. By the end of 2016 the editors received more than 200 papers (to compare, in 2015 the figure was 150, in 2014 — 113, and before that no more than 30). However, due to unwavering adherence to stringent research quality and depth requirements, the editors had to decline about 70% of the applications.

International experts also note the journal's leading positions. Following the expert evaluation of a large number of Russian academic magazines by Macmillan Science Communication (UK), *Foresight and STI Governance* was included in the top three most promising Russian academic publications. In 2014 the journal became one of the three winners of the open competition for participation in public support programmes to promote Russian academic magazines on the international arena, held by the Russian Ministry of Education and Science.

Implementing open access and digitalisation principles is the journal's strategic priority. Open access promotes the free exchange of S&T results, and the cooperation of scientists from various countries to accomplish common objectives. The journal is trying to pursue a careful editorial policy in this area. Given the ever-changing and increasingly complex international publication industry's landscape, we actively adopt advanced information formats, including those based on online technologies. We have launched bilingual mobile applications (*Foresight and STI Governance*, available in AppStore and Google Play) to increase the availability of electronic editions and attract new audiences, particularly young people. We are mastering SEO-optimisation technologies, and extending the website's functionality (electronic editing, etc.).

The journal is implementing a varied public events programme such as numerous scientific debates, lectures, workshops, round table discussions, and participation in conferences (including in the scope of specialised sections and panels). We provide information support to certain major events, and are extending the editorial board's network of partners. Such activities are the best channels for finding and engaging new authors, extending the journal's portfolio, promoting its international standing, and receiving feedback from the audience which can become a source of new ideas. All this helps to overcome limitations born by the inclination (conscious or unconscious) to adhere to a customary set of topics and maintain the circle of familiar authors with established reputations and steady research interests. The journal increasingly often publishes papers by new researchers who have never been among our authors before, some of them emerging from the audience. Thus, our readers become co-producers of knowledge. All this increases the journal's competitiveness as an academic communication channel.

Foresight and STI Governance actively cooperates with numerous Russian and international organisations, including other academic journals. The editors have established close partnerships with editors-in-chief of leading magazines specialising in relevant areas, such as *Foresight*, *Futures*, *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, *Technovation*, *Science and Public Policy*, *Journal of the Knowledge Economy*, etc.

Today we can confidently say that *Foresight and STI Governance* has secured, and confidently holds an impressive niche in the professional information environment. The journal is original, easily recognisable, and commands a steadily growing interest from readers and potential authors alike.