**GOOD AND BAD REGIONAL GOVERNANCE IN MODERN RUSSIA: CASE OF CENTRAL FEDERAL DISTRICT**

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Researchers rarely find examples of successful governance in Russia, especially if it is not about individual policies or reforms, but about systemic policies aimed at long-term changes in a country's socio-economic development (Grigoriev 2017; Starodubtsev 2017). However, the role of successful cases is so significant that it is hardly justified to simply ignore them. Given the fact that the practices of bad governance in different countries demonstrate their vitality over long periods, it is these exceptions that become a resource for change, development and improvement of the lives of a large number of people. One of the areas for research of developmental changes is the analysis of current governance practices and the identification of conditions in which individual politicians and officials succeed in achieving the tasks that are formally set for them. “How can one adequately rule in bad governance conditions?” - this is how we formulate the central question of this research. To answer this question, we turn to the cases of successful and unsuccessful activity of governors and regional governments in modern Russia. The regions of the Central Federal District (CFD)[[1]](#footnote-1) are taken as a pool of cases for analysis. The literature on bad governance is used to describe the problems that Russian governors and regional governments face in carrying out their immediate responsibilities. There are three sets of conditions that can affect the success / failure of governance in the regions: *institutional* (Sharafutdinova 2009; Gel'man and Ryzhenkov 2011; Best, Hjort and Szakonyi 2017), *structural* (Remington 2018) and *actor-oriented* (Khmelnitskaya 2015; Gel’man and Travin 2017; Dekalchuk 2017; Grigoriev 2017). We test the following factors for a potential impact on the success and failure of governance in the regions of CFD: 1) GRP per capita, (2) foreign investment, (3) private investment, (4) federal donations, (5) natural resources, (6) conflicts between the elites, (7) governor’s background, (8) background of the vice-governor and (9) linkage of the governor to Moscow. The general method of data analysis is qualitative comparative analysis of multiple values (mvQCA). The results of the analysis demonstrate that the conditions that underlay bad and good governance in the CFD regions are related to the actor-oriented and structural-economic blocks.

1. Except Moscow and Moscow oblast. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)