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MODELING CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT USING PROGRAMMING METHODS: CASE OF RUSSIAN ARCTIC REGIONS*

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Abstract. The aim of this research is to show how the process of data analysis can be automated through development of an information system. The information system can be used for the identification of economic clusters and analysis of the regional potential for economic growth. The authors used data on the Russian Arctic regions with extreme social, geographical, and economic conditions collected from 2009 to 2016 as an example. The authors have designed a database using MS Access software. The authors used the methodology of the European cluster observatory and the approach suggested by M. Porter to identify economic clusters. This methodology was complemented by introduction parameters, which mirror the strength and employment dynamic of the clusters. Based on the employment data of 83 Russian regions during the period of 2009–2016 the authors have calculated cluster localization parameters for nine Russian regions, which are partly or fully located in the Arctic zone. The authors suggest that the cluster structure in this area is weak and most of the significant clusters are declining. The only significant cluster, which is growing in all regions, is the «Oil and Gas» cluster. In conclusion, the authors state that the obtained results are vital for policy makers and can be used for elaborating the regional economic development strategy in order to support regional diversification and specialization, which are closely related to positive spillovers.

Keywords: Arctic region; economic cluster; cluster identification; MS access; data processing; regional policy making

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JEL Classifications: O1, O3

1. Introduction

Creating conditions for the economic development of regions is one of the most important tasks for regional governments, who nowadays, in large part, are supported by informational systems (Morrissey, 2016; Rytova & Gutman, 2019). During this process, a regional government should take into account social, economic, and

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geographical factors, which can affect the development of each concrete territory (Andreyeva et al., 2018; Dvas et al., 2018; Baltgailis, 2019; Petrenko et al., 2019).

A combination of these factors determines whether a certain region will or will not be capable of developing industries which will be competitive at national and international scales. Consequently, analysts should process multidimensional data which reflect the current situation. Based on such analyses, they should receive specific results, which can be used for determining potential directions for development of the region (Degtereva et al., 2018; Kichigin, 2017; Kozlov et al., 2017; Thill, 2019). Therefore, it is essential to develop informational systems to support and enhance the processes of policy making and, consequently, positively affect regional economic development (Chun et al., 2010; Höchtl et al., 2016; Velasquez & Hester, 2013; Prodani et al., 2019).

A cluster approach to regional economic development put forth by Porter (1998) and developed further by a number of authors (Delgado et al., 2014, 2015; Tvaronavičienė, 2017; Tvaronavičienė & Razminienė, 2017; Razminienė & Tvaronavičienė, 2018; Bublienė et al., 2019), is one of the most innovative and effective tools for policy implementation. The results of applying a cluster approach in American (Gupta, et al., 2006; Guzman & Stern, 2015; Peiró-Signes, et al., 2015; Porter et al., 2011), European (Crawley & Pickernell, 2012; Looijen & Heijman, 2013; Sellar, et al., 2011) and Russian (Islankina & Thurner, 2018; Kutsenko et al., 2017; Rodionova et al., 2017) territories are widely represented in scientific literature. However, these applications are lacking in two main aspects which are essential for using this approach effectively in practice. The first aspect is that most of them are focused on receiving results, rather than making the process reproducible and applicable for other researches and practitioners. The second aspect is that they aim at finding global linkages between some factors and the level of cluster development (Akpınar et al., 2017; MATICIUC, 2015), but do not focus on concrete results for a concrete set of territories with extreme social, economic, and geographical conditions. This gap may lead to the development of a «cure» which is suitable for all territories, but in some extreme cases is ineffective and should be combined with some «additives». Therefore, it is necessary to describe how we can create an information system which will provide an analytical background for the development of the cluster-based policy and give examples of applying these results in territories with extreme social, economic, and geographical conditions.

As an example of such territories, we have chosen Russian regions which are partly or fully located in the Arctic zone (Leksin & Porfirjev, 2017). These are poorly developed territories which have a certain economic potential (Borisov & Pochukaeva, 2016; Komkov, et al., 2017; Korovkin, 2016). Developing these territories is claimed to be one of the top priorities for a balanced development of the Russian Federation (Gutman et al., 2018; Romashkina et al., 2017; Tatarkin et al., 2017). Developing an effective cluster-based policy, which relies on the results of comprehensive and multidimensional analysis, is key for long-term socioeconomic growth of the Russian Arctic regions (Komkov et al., 2017; Rytova et al., 2017).

Therefore, the aim of this research is to show how, through development of an information system, the process of data analysis can be automated, which is necessary for identifying and analyzing economic clusters. In addition, we demonstrate a potential approach to cluster structure analysis of the Russian Arctic regions, which have both extreme social, geographical, and economic conditions and a potential for economic growth, during 2009–2016.

2. Data and methods

2.1. Data and cluster identification methodology

In order to gather the information necessary for calculating the parameters of cluster localization, we obtained detailed data on employment from three main sources: the joint economic and social data archive of the Higher School of Economics (HSE, 2018), the Central Statistical Database of Russia (Federal State Statistics Service, 2019), and United Interdepartmental Information-Statistical Service (MinComSvyaz, 2019). These sources

provide official data obtained from the Russian Federal State Statistics Service. We used data from united interdepartmental information-statistical service as the main source of data, as it is better structured and contains more information. In some cases, when there were not enough data for some of the regions, we used data from the central statistical database of Russia and the joint economic and social data archive of the Higher School of Economics. The data were organized in the form presented in Table 1. As a result, we received 28044 observations for calculating the localization parameters of 37 clusters for 83 regions of Russia for the period of 2009–2016.

Table 1. Specifying the data used for identifying economic clusters in Russia

Federal District	Region	Year	Cluster	OKVED codes	Number of the employed
List of 8 Federal Districts, which include Russian regions	List of 83 Russian regions	Identifying the time: 2009–2016	List of 37 clusters, identified according to M. Porter’s classification for each region	Each of the 37 clusters is composed of several OKVED codes. Therefore, for each cluster, we detail its composition	For each code we filled the number of people employed in the region
<i>Sources: Employment statistics by activity type were obtained from: (HSE, 2018), (Federal State Statistics Service, 2019), (MinComSvyaz, 2019). Authors composed clusters based on employment statistics of separate types of activities, presented in each region.</i>					

We follow the methodology developed by Porter (1998), which is now used by the U.S. Mapping project and the European Cluster Observatory for identifying and monitoring cluster development. In particular, we use three coefficients which show the localization properties of each cluster: localization, focus, and size. This methodology was presented in detail by both developers (Ketels & Protsiv, 2014), their followers (Kopczewska, 2018; Kopczewska et al., 2017) and the authors of this research study (Berawi, 2017; Berawi et al., 2018; Schepinin et al., 2018) in earlier works. The European Cluster Observatory defined these three factors as the «Localization coefficient» (1), «Size» (2), and «Focus» (3). The values of the factors, within the threshold values, reflects whether the examined cluster has or has not achieved a sufficient «critical mass» to generate positive external effects and relations. These indicators are calculated using employment statistics and are reflected in the following formulae:

$$LQ = \frac{E_{ig}}{E_g} / \frac{E_i}{E}, \quad (1)$$

where LQ is the «Localization coefficient»; E_{ig} is the number of people employed in cluster i in region g ; E_g is the total number of people employed in region g ; E_i is the number of people employed in cluster i ; and E is the total number of people employed.

$$Size = \frac{E_{ig}}{E_i}, \quad (2)$$

where Size is the «Size» of cluster i ; E_{ig} is the number of people employed in cluster i in region g ; and E_i is the number of people employed in cluster i .

$$Focus = \frac{E_{ig}}{E_g}, \quad (3)$$

where Focus is the «Focus» of cluster i ; E_{ig} is the number of people employed in cluster i in region g ; and E_g is the number of people employed in region g .

G. Lindqvist, a Swedish economist from the European Cluster Observatory (Lindqvist, 2009), establishes the following criteria as the threshold values, which mark significant cluster groups in a region:

- 1) «Localization coefficient» ≥ 2 ;
- 2) the region should be included in top 10% in «Size»;
- 3) the region should be included in top 10% in «Focus».

In addition, a region cannot receive a star if critical mass of the cluster is less than 1000 employed people.

If a criterion is fulfilled, the cluster earns one «star». Thus, the maximum a cluster can receive is three «stars».

The number of «stars» determines the strength of the cluster group

Table 2. Level of region specialization in types of activities performed by cluster i in region g

Level of region specialization	Average number of stars, obtained by cluster i in region g
High	(2.3; 3]
Medium	(1.7; 2.4]
Low	[1; 1.7]
Region has no specialization in this type of activity	[0; 1)

Source: Compiled by authors

In order to systemize the results and present them more clearly, we also separate regions by two dimensions: the level of specialization in types of activities, performed by cluster i (Table 2) in region g and the dynamic state of employment of cluster i in region g (Table 3). We have built dimension «levels of region specialization» in types of activities performed by cluster i in region g based on the average number of stars which cluster i in region g receives for the analyzed period, while the second dimension is based on the employment dynamics, calculated through the growth rate:

$$GR_{t=0} = \left(\frac{x_{igt \geq 1}}{x_{igt=0}} - 1 \right) \times 100\%, \quad (4)$$

$$GR_t = \left(\frac{x_{igt+1}}{x_{igt}} - 1 \right) \times 100\%, \quad (5)$$

The growth rate allows estimating the change in clusters' critical mass and reflecting the dynamic aspect of cluster growth, where $x_{igt=0}$ is the number of people employed in cluster i in region g at the beginning ($t = 0$) of the analyzed period, and x_{igt} is the number of people employed in cluster i in region g at the time $t \geq 1$ and x_{igt+1} - at the time $t + 1$. $GR_{t=0}$ is the measure for calculating long-term employment dynamics, while GR_t is used for the short-term. In Table 3 we propose a possible classification of dynamic states of the cluster depending on the values of GR_0 and GR_t at the end of the period and their overall dynamics. It complements the existing localization measures, since the main problem of the «Size», «Focus», and «Localization coefficient» is their independence from the time trend. It means that if employment of the cluster, employment of the whole cluster group, and total employment are decreasing, the «Localization coefficient» remains stable, and vice versa, since it cannot catch up with dynamic changes in employment in certain cases

Table 3. Types of dynamic state of employment of cluster i in region g

Dynamic state	Characteristic	Interval for $GR_{t=0}$ and GR_t , %
Strong growth	Strong positive employment dynamics	[10; +∞)
Moderate growth	Moderate positive employment dynamics	[5; 10]
Stable	Stable employment dynamics with slight changes in employment	(-5; +5)
Unstable	Employment dynamics with rough positive and/or negative changes at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of the period	[5; +∞) and/or (-∞; -5]
Moderate decrease	Moderate negative employment dynamics	(-10; -5]
Strong decrease	Strong negative employment dynamics	(-∞; -10]

Source: Compiled by authors

2.2. Description of information system used for automated cluster identification

The database «Clusters of Russia’s Regions» was developed and registered in 2017 in order to support research of the cluster structure in Russia. During the development process, we wanted to achieve the following objectives:

- structuring and rationalizing big data concerning employment in different clusters in the Russian regions;
- creating a convenient system for data input and editing;
- creating a computing mechanism for estimating the localization coefficients for clusters in a certain year;
- creating a flexible system which can be modified in case some regions have to be added or new clusters have to be defined;
- automating the estimation results and converting them into analytical reports.

A user receives the results of analysis in the form of summary tables, where main results are given for each region and each cluster. The results are calculated in accordance with the methodology discussed in Paragraph 2.1.

Based on the research of the data structure we created four entities: «Federal District», «Region», «Cluster», and «Employment». These entities allow us to minimize input errors and provide integrity of data. The entity «Federal District» has two attributes: an identifier (which is a primary key), and a label. This table is a glossary, which provides secure and convenient input of data in interconnected objects and access to the groups of regions. The entity «Region» belongs only to one Federal District and cannot exist independently. Therefore, apart from its own primary key, it has a secondary key for connection with the entity «Federal District». The entity «Cluster» has two main attributes: a short label and a named key. Additional attributes are used for interface organization, because long labels take too much space and are not suitable for usage in headlines and summary tables. The entity «Employment» contains two external keys for connection with «Region» and «Cluster» and a nested primary key, which protects the table from data duplication since only one cluster *i* can be created for each region in a certain time period. Therefore, each cluster can be uniquely determined through such attributes as year, region, and cluster. For the sake of convenient data processing, we have also added a counter, which defines the unique nested key. The database evaluates the following attributes: «Localization coefficient», «Size», «Focus», and «Number of stars» (Table 4).

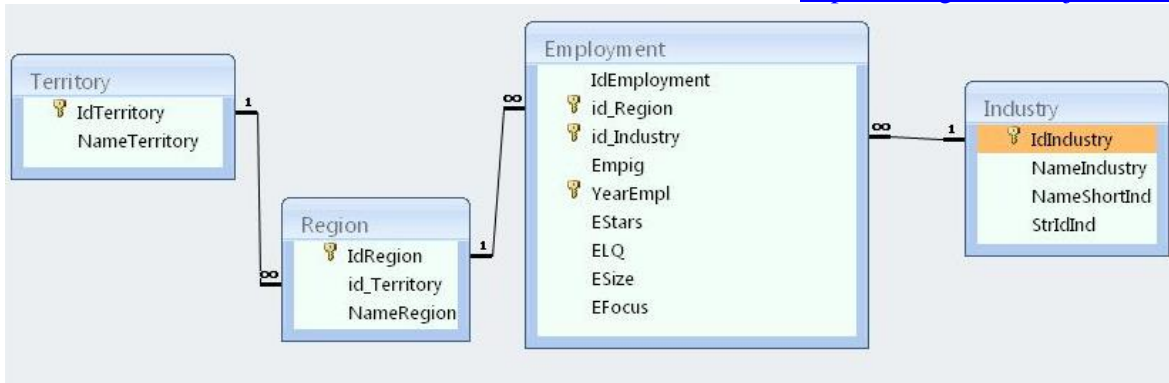
Table 4. Attributes of entity «Employment»

Attribute title	Attribute label
Year	YearEpml
Region	IdRegion
Cluster	IdIndustry
Emp _{ig}	Emp _{ig}
Size	Esize
Focus	EFocus
LQ	ELQ
Stars	Estars

Source: Compiled by authors

In order to organize the data input and provide immediate access to the clusters, a temporary entity, «Computation», with a varying number of attributes, has been introduced. It adapts for each region and cluster in a specific time period.

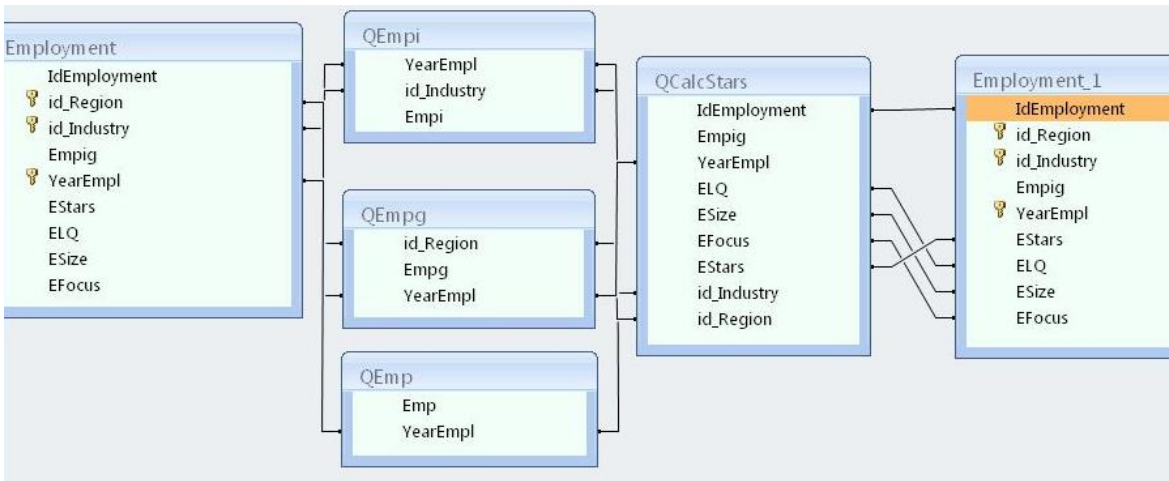
The physical model is SQL-based and realized in DBMS MS Access 2007 (Figure 1).



Source: Compiled by Authors

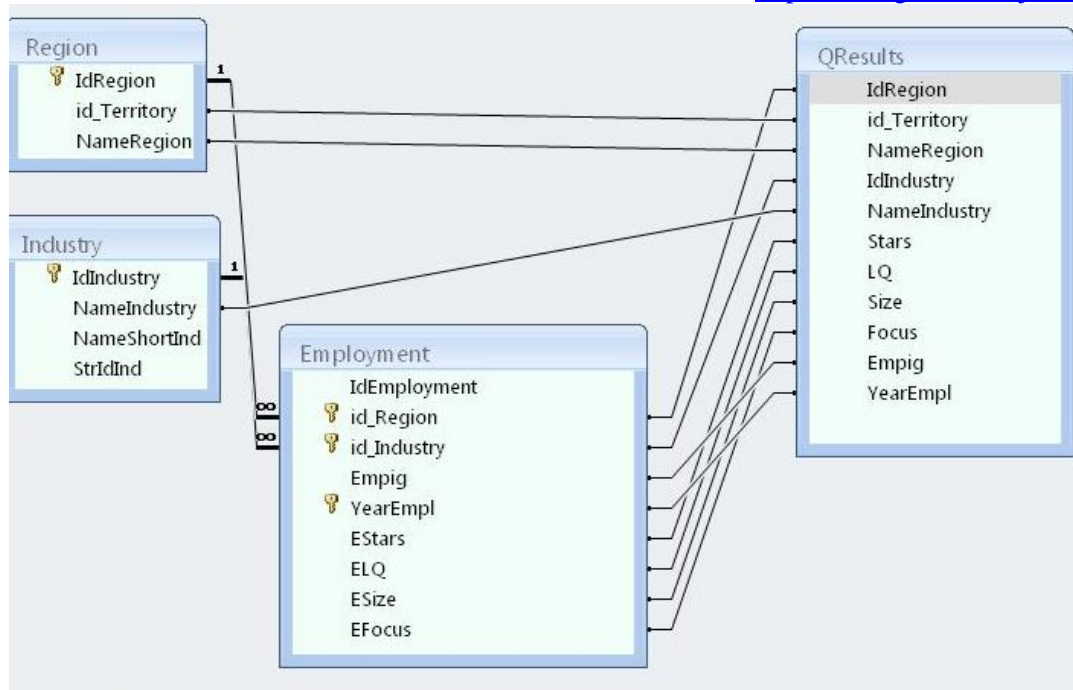
Figure 1. Physical model of «Clusters of Russia's Regions».

The table «Employment» contains data, which is used for calculation and data processing. Other tables provide a safe and convenient form for data input and make the main table free from redundant data. Using equations 1–3 the program calculates total employment by each region, each cluster, and each year. In order to implement calculations, we developed a chain of query operators and the function CalcStars (Figure 2). The program calculates the results and inputs them into the main table. The data from this table has to be analyzed and selected for display. A chain of query operators for displaying the result is presented in Figure 3.



Source: Compiled by Authors

Figure 2. A calculation model of the database



Source: Compiled by Authors

Figure 3. A chain of query operators for displaying the result

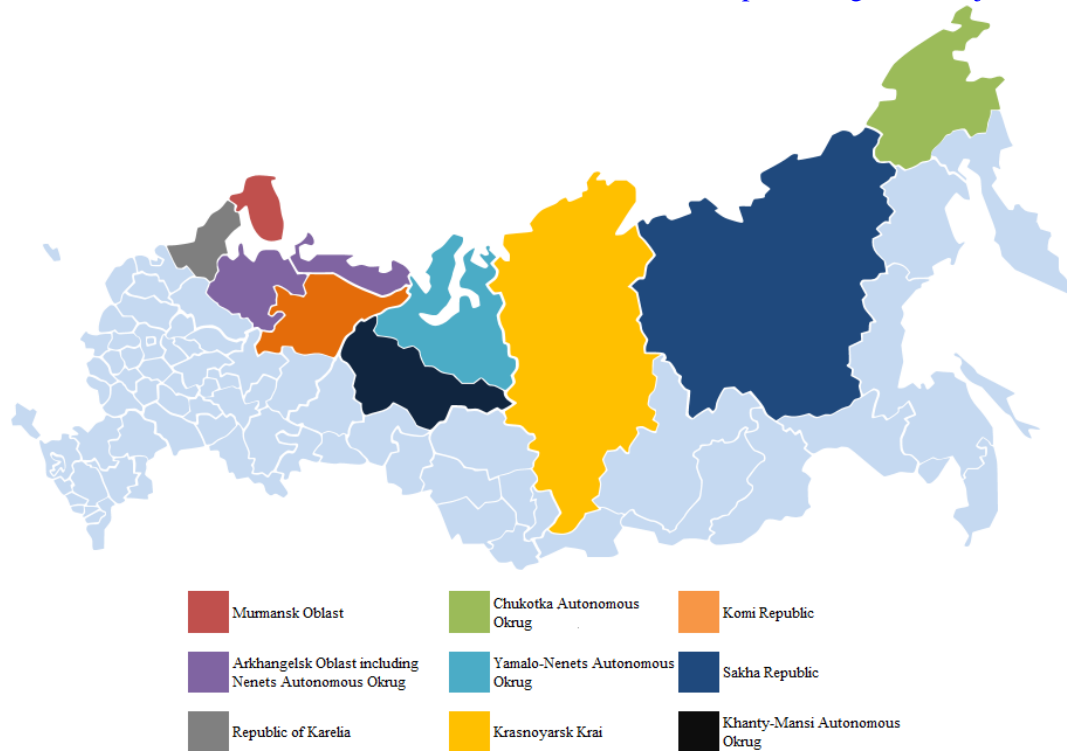
3. Results of database application

3.1. General information

In accordance with the methodology for cluster identification discussed in Section 2.1 and the database design presented in section 2.2, we have received analytical results for all 83 Russian regions for the 2009–2016 period.

Here we discuss only the results obtained for the Russian regions, which are partly or fully located in the Arctic zone. These regions are the following:

- Murmansk Oblast;
- Chukotka Autonomous Okrug;
- Komi Republic;
- Arkhangelsk Oblast including Nenets Autonomous Okrug;
- Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug;
- Sakha Republic;
- Republic of Karelia;
- Krasnoyarsk Krai;
- Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug.



Source: Compiled by Authors

Figure 4. The map of Russian regions, which are fully or partly located in the Arctic zone

The geographical location of the regions we analyze is presented in Figure 4. Next, we present a detailed analysis of cluster specialization of each Arctic region of Russia and, after that, aggregate the results for all arctic regions.

Komi Republic cluster specialization analysis

The overall employment dynamic in Komi Republic was negative. The total number of employed people decreased by 13.97% or by 53,967 people over eight years. Analyzing the employment statistics in Komi Republic during the period of 2009–2016, we have detected five clusters: Transportation and Logistics, Oil and Gas, Paper Products, Business Services, and Construction, with all of them receiving at least one star. It means that the level of localization of these clusters, at least in one year, was relatively high in accordance with the values of the «Localization Coefficient», «Size», and «Focus». The detailed results are presented in Table 5.

Komi Republic had a medium specialization level in Transportation and Logistics and the critical mass of this cluster was unstable during the analyzed period. After a decrease of the clusters' employment by 1.07% in 2010, there was a significant growth of the clusters' critical mass from 36,403 up to the 43,756 people; that is, by 19.7% in 2012. After that, there was a stable decrease in the Transportation and Logistics cluster's critical mass: 19.35% in 2016 compared to 2012. Nevertheless, the overall specialization of the region in Transportation and Logistics activities remained at a medium level, since two localization measures out of three fulfilled the threshold requirements.

Komi Republic had a high specialization level in Oil and Gas and the critical mass of this cluster grew significantly during the analyzed period, despite some falls in 2011 and 2016. The overall increase of the cluster's critical mass was 25.76% over eight years. This resulted in a stronger specialization of the cluster and its stabilization at the high level, since three out of three localization measures fulfilled the threshold requirements.

Komi Republic had a high specialization level in Paper Products and the critical mass of its cluster substantially decreased during the period of 2009-2016. The overall decrease of the clusters' critical mass was 27.61% over eight years. In addition, the decrease in the critical mass of the Paper Products cluster in Komi Republic was significantly greater than the overall decrease in the critical mass of the Paper Products Cluster, being 27.61% compared to 4.78%. It resulted in Komi Republic losing one star of cluster specialization in 2016, since one of the three localization measures did not fulfill the threshold requirements.

Komi Republic lost specialization in Business Services in 2012, since the cluster's critical mass decreased by 23.02% over eight years, while the cluster's overall critical mass increased by 7.41%. The breakpoint was in 2011–2012, when two localization measures did not fulfill the threshold requirements.

Specialization of Komi Republic in Construction was detected in the period of 2012–2013, when a sudden increase in employment levels brought about a fall in the construction cluster localization. However, it was a short-term increase, which did not allow the regional specialization to strengthen in the long run. Therefore, the long-term decrease of the cluster's critical mass in Komi Republic was 21.80%.

Table 5. Employment-based parameters of significant clusters in Yamalo-Nenets AO

Parameter \ Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Common employment parameters								
E_i (people)	47427502	46719007	45872388	45898382	45815640	45486400	45106533	44446352
E_g (people)	386402	382869	383163	382155	373393	360442	347562	332435
Transportation and Logistics cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	3489740	3370683	3371228	3400956	3360962	3377649	3352174	3308218
E_{ig} (people)	36797	36403	41187	43756	41241	39560	37282	35289
GR_i (%)		-1.07	13.14	6.24	-5.75	-4.08	-5.76	-5.35
GR_{i-g} (%)		-1.07	11.93	18.91	12.08	7.51	1.32	-4.10
Number of stars	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
LQ	1.29	1.32	1.46	1.55	1.51	1.48	1.44	1.43
Size (%)	1.05	1.08	1.22	1.29	1.23	1.17	1.11	1.07
Focus (%)	9.52	9.51	10.75	11.45	11.04	10.98	10.73	10.62
Oil and Gas cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	504955	504478	517301	536739	556754	578881	594546	606641
E_{ig} (people)	14858	15782	15357	15699	16624	18676	19911	18685
GR_i (%)		6.22	-2.69	2.23	5.89	12.34	6.61	-6.16
GR_{i-g} (%)		6.22	3.36	5.66	11.89	25.70	34.01	25.76
Number of stars	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
LQ	3.61	3.82	3.55	3.51	3.66	4.07	4.35	4.12
Size (%)	2.94	3.13	2.97	2.92	2.99	3.23	3.35	3.08
Focus (%)	3.85	4.12	4.01	4.11	4.45	5.18	5.73	5.62
Paper Products cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	137015	136152	137499	136273	132216	128119	125839	130471
E_{ig} (people)	4810	4709	4444	4195	4181	3769	3611	3482
GR_i (%)		-2.10	-5.63	-5.60	-0.33	-9.85	-4.19	-3.57
GR_{i-g} (%)		-2.10	-7.61	-12.79	-13.08	-21.64	-24.93	-27.61
Number of stars	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2
LQ	4.31	4.22	3.87	3.70	3.88	3.71	3.72	3.57
Size (%)	3.51	3.46	3.23	3.08	3.16	2.94	2.87	2.67
Focus (%)	1.24	1.23	1.16	1.10	1.12	1.05	1.04	1.05
Business services cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	2969478	2921201	2880799	3146204	3237312	3272631	3257275	3189467
E_{ig} (people)	32156	32050	31026	29169	27946	26602	26282	24755
GR_i (%)		-0.33	-3.20	-5.99	-4.19	-4.81	-1.20	-5.81
GR_{i-g} (%)		-0.33	-3.51	-9.29	-13.09	-17.27	-18.27	-23.02

Number of stars	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
LQ	1.33	1.34	1.29	1.11	1.06	1.03	1.05	1.04
Size (%)	1.08	1.10	1.08	0.93	0.86	0.81	0.81	0.78
Focus (%)	8.32	8.37	8.10	7.63	7.48	7.38	7.56	7.45
Construction cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	3425797	3430749	3163493	3254308	3225983	3123938	2983398	2800194
E_{ig} (people)	28568	28673	29713	35404	34969	29572	24566	22340
GR_t (%)		0.37	3.63	19.15	-1.23	-15.43	-16.93	-9.06
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		0.37	4.01	23.93	22.41	3.51	-14.01	-21.80
Number of stars	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
LQ	1.02	1.02	1.12	1.31	1.33	1.19	1.07	1.07
Size (%)	0.83	0.84	0.94	1.09	1.08	0.95	0.82	0.80
Focus (%)	7.39	7.49	7.75	9.26	9.37	8.20	7.07	6.72
<i>Source: Employment statistics were obtained from: (HSE, 2018), (Federal State Statistics Service, 2019), (MinComSvyaz, 2019)</i>								
<i>Calculations were performed by authors.</i>								

Out of the five clusters identified in Komi Republic during 2009–2016, only two clusters had a relatively high critical mass, which was enough for the region to have specialization in these types of activities. One cluster was decreasing—Paper Products—and one was growing—Oil and Gas. In addition, the region had medium specialization in Transportation and Logistics, which had unstable growth rates. The Business Services cluster was decreasing steadily, which resulted in Komi Republic losing specialization in this type of activity, and the Construction Cluster showed unstable employment dynamics.

Yamalo-Nenets AO cluster specialization analysis

The overall employment dynamic in Yamalo-Nenets AO was positive. The total number of people employed increased by 5.65%, or by 18,018 people over eight years. Analyzing Yamalo-Nenets AO employment statistics during the period of 2009–2016, we detected five clusters: Transportation and Logistics, Maritime, Oil and Gas, Business Services, and Construction, which have received at least one star. Detailed results are presented in Table 6

Table 6. Employment-based parameters of significant clusters in Yamalo-Nenets AO

Parameter \ Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Common employment parameters								
E (people)	47427502	46719007	45872388	45898382	45815640	45486400	45106533	44446352
E_g (people)	319089	314503	311693	328308	333527	329129	331108	337107
Transportation and Logistics cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	39386	35633	36513	40414	41824	37802	34637	34997
E_{ig} (people)		-9.53	2.47	10.68	3.49	-9.62	-8.37	1.04
GR_t (%)		-9.53	-7.29	2.61	6.19	-4.02	-12.06	-11.14
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Number of stars	1.68	1.57	1.59	1.66	1.71	1.55	1.41	1.39
LQ	1.13	1.06	1.08	1.19	1.24	1.12	1.03	1.06
Size (%)	12.34	11.33	11.71	12.31	12.54	11.49	10.46	10.38
Focus (%)	39386	35633	36513	40414	41824	37802	34637	34997
Maritime cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	148225	152423	136905	129441.6	126963	116436.8	116557	114799
E_{ig} (people)	2468	2267	2212	2153	2151	2102	2110	2093
GR_t (%)		-8.14	-2.43	-2.67	-0.09	-2.28	0.38	-0.81
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-8.14	-10.37	-12.76	-12.84	-14.83	-14.51	-15.19
Number of stars	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
LQ	2.47	2.21	2.38	2.33	2.33	2.49	2.47	2.40
Size (%)	1.67	1.49	1.62	1.66	1.69	1.81	1.81	1.82
Focus (%)	0.77	0.72	0.71	0.66	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.62

Oil and Gas cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	504955	504478	517301	536739	556754	578881	594546	606641
E_{iq} (people)	31962	31838	33940	35253	37616	39032	40693	41514
GR_t (%)		-0.39	6.60	3.87	6.70	3.76	4.26	2.02
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-0.39	6.19	10.30	17.69	22.12	27.32	29.89
Number of stars	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
LQ	9.41	9.38	9.66	9.18	9.28	9.32	9.32	9.02
Size (%)	6.33	6.31	6.56	6.57	6.76	6.74	6.84	6.84
Focus (%)	10.02	10.12	10.89	10.74	11.28	11.86	12.29	12.31
Business Services cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	2969478	2921201	2880799	3146204	3237312	3272631	3257275	3189467
E_{iq} (people)	20241	23056	24426	27574	28247	28332	29160	31328
GR_t (%)		13.91	5.94	12.89	2.44	0.30	2.92	7.43
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		13.91	20.68	36.23	39.55	39.97	44.06	54.77
Number of stars	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
LQ	1.01	1.17	1.25	1.23	1.20	1.20	1.22	1.30
Size (%)	0.68	0.79	0.85	0.88	0.87	0.87	0.90	0.98
Focus (%)	6.34	7.33	7.84	8.40	8.47	8.61	8.81	9.29
Construction cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	3425797	3430749	3163493	3254308	3225983	3123938	2983398	2800194
E_{iq} (people)	49716	48086	44634	51707	52911	52487	53417	55937
GR_t (%)		-3.28	-7.18	15.85	2.33	-0.80	1.77	4.72
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-3.28	-10.22	4.00	6.43	5.57	7.44	12.51
Number of stars	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
LQ	2.16	2.08	2.08	2.22	2.25	2.32	2.44	2.63
Size (%)	1.45	1.40	1.41	1.59	1.64	1.68	1.79	2.00
Focus (%)	15.58	15.29	14.32	15.75	15.86	15.95	16.13	16.59
<i>Source: Employment statistics were obtained from: (HSE, 2018), (Federal State Statistics Service, 2019), (MinComSvyaz, 2019) Calculations were performed by authors.</i>								

Yamalo-Nenets AO had a medium specialization level in Transportation and Logistics and the critical mass of this cluster was unstable during the analyzed period. After a 9.53% decrease of the cluster's employment in 2010, there was a significant growth of the cluster's critical mass, from 35,633 up to 41,824 people employed; that is, by 17.3% in 2013 compared to 2010. After that, there was a stable decrease of the Transportation and Logistics cluster's critical mass: 16.32% in 2016 compared to 2013. Nevertheless, the overall specialization of the region in Transportation and Logistics activities remained at a medium level, since two localization measures out of three fulfilled the threshold requirements.

Yamalo-Nenets AO had a low specialization in Maritime. However, the critical mass of this cluster decreased by 15.19% during the analyzed period. The region still has a certain margin of safety in relative terms, since the overall employment in Maritime activities decreased by 22.55% over eight years. However, in terms of absolute values, the region was continuously losing its specialization in this type of activity.

Yamalo-Nenets AO had a high specialization level in Oil and Gas, and the critical mass of this cluster was growing significantly during the analyzed period. The overall increase of the cluster's critical mass was 29.89% over eight years. This resulted in a stronger specialization of the cluster and its stabilization at a high level, since three localization measures out of three fulfilled the threshold requirements.

Yamalo-Nenets AO was strengthening its specialization in Business Services, since the cluster's critical mass in Yamalo-Nenets AO increased by 54.07% over eight years, while the cluster's overall critical mass increased by 7.41%. The breakpoint was in 2011, when one localization measure fulfilled the threshold requirements.

Yamalo-Nenets AO had a medium specialization level in Construction and the critical mass of this cluster was unstable during the analyzed period. There was a 3.28% decrease in the cluster’s employment in 2010, and a 7.18% decrease in 2011. After that, there was a significant growth of the cluster’s critical mass, from 44,634 in 2011 up to 55,937 people; that is, by 25.32% in 2016. It resulted in a stronger specialization of the cluster and its stabilization at a high level, since two localization measures out of three fulfilled the threshold requirements.

Yamalo-Nenets AO was strongly specialized in only one cluster, showing a steady growth of the critical mass—the Oil and Gas cluster. In addition, the region had a medium specialization in the Transportation and Logistics and Construction clusters, which had unstable growth rates. The Maritime cluster was decreasing considerably, which resulted in Yamalo-Nenets AO losing specialization in this type of activity. The Business Services cluster demonstrated an intensive growth, which resulted in a stronger specialization of the cluster, since one localization measure out of three fulfilled the threshold requirements.

Republic of Karelia cluster specialization analysis

The overall employment dynamic in the Republic of Karelia was negative. The total number of people employed decreased by 17.42%, or by 40,822 people over eight years. Analyzing employment statistics of the Republic of Karelia during the period of 2009–2016, we detected four clusters: Transportation and Logistics, Maritime, Paper Products, and Furniture, which received at least one star. Detailed results are presented in Table 7.

The Republic of Karelia had a low specialization level in Transportation and Logistics, and the critical mass of this cluster was steadily decreasing during the analyzed period. After an 8.15% decrease of the cluster’s employment in 2010–2011, there was a slight growth of the cluster’s critical mass from 23,972 up to 24,285 people employed; that is, by 1.31% in 2013 compared to 2012. After that, there was a stable decrease in the Transportation and Logistics cluster’s critical mass: 18.04% in 2016 compared to 2012. Therefore, the long-term decrease of the cluster’s critical mass in the Republic of Karelia was 23.74% over eight years. It resulted in the Republic of Karelia losing one star of cluster specialization in 2013, since two of the three localization measures did not fulfill the threshold requirements.

The Republic of Karelia had a low specialization in Maritime. However, the critical mass of this cluster was unstable. The region still has a certain margin of safety in relative terms, since the overall employment in Maritime activities decreased by 22.55% over eight years. However, in terms of absolute values, the region demonstrated a cyclic growth and a decrease of the critical mass by 9.01% over eight years. Nevertheless, the region gained one additional star in 2016, which can be attributed to the overall decrease of the Maritime critical mass.

Table 7. Employment based parameters of significant clusters in the Republic of Karelia

Parameter \ Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
General employment parameters								
E (people)	47427502	46719007	45872388	45898382	45815640	45486400	45106533	44446352
E_q (people)	234310	228336	226165	225442	220074	211446	205299	193488
Transportation and Logistics cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	3489740	3370683	3371228	3400956	3360962	3377649	3352174	3308218
E_{iq} (people)	26100	24582	23972	24285	23232	21923	21375	19903
GR_t (%)		-5.82	-2.48	1.31	-4.34	-5.63	-2.50	-6.89
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-5.82	-8.15	-6.95	-10.99	-16.00	-18.10	-23.74
Number of stars	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
LQ	1.51	1.49	1.44	1.45	1.44	1.40	1.40	1.38
Size (%)	0.75	0.73	0.71	0.71	0.69	0.65	0.64	0.60
Focus (%)	11.14	10.77	10.60	10.77	10.56	10.37	10.41	10.29
Maritime cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	148225	152423	136905	129442	126963	116437	116557	114799

E_{ig} (people)	1731	1590	1628	1755	1811	1734	1623	1575
GR_t (%)		-8.15	2.39	7.80	3.19	-4.25	-6.40	-2.96
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-8.15	-5.95	1.39	4.62	0.17	-6.24	-9.01
Number of stars	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
LQ	2.36	2.13	2.41	2.76	2.97	3.20	3.06	3.15
Size (%)	1.17	1.04	1.19	1.36	1.43	1.49	1.39	1.37
Focus (%)	0.74	0.70	0.72	0.78	0.82	0.82	0.79	0.81
Paper Products cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	137015	136152	137499	136273	132216	128119	125839	130471
E_{ig} (people)	7794	7279	7156	7067	6501	5910	5604	5583
GR_t (%)		-6.61	-1.69	-1.24	-8.01	-9.09	-5.18	-0.37
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-6.61	-8.19	-9.33	-16.59	-24.17	-28.10	-28.37
Number of stars	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
LQ	11.51	10.94	10.56	10.56	10.24	9.92	9.78	9.83
Size (%)	5.69	5.35	5.20	5.19	4.92	4.61	4.45	4.28
Focus (%)	3.33	3.19	3.16	3.13	2.95	2.80	2.73	2.89
Furniture cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	314686	316139	294371	298059	294375	278843	267375	259033
E_{ig} (people)	2439	2329	1991	1809	1603	1418	1426	1431
GR_t (%)		-4.51	-14.51	-9.14	-11.39	-11.54	0.56	0.35
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-4.51	-18.37	-25.83	-34.28	-41.86	-41.53	-41.33
Number of stars	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
LQ	1.57	1.51	1.37	1.24	1.13	1.09	1.17	1.27
Size (%)	0.78	0.74	0.68	0.61	0.54	0.51	0.53	0.55
Focus (%)	1.04	1.02	0.88	0.80	0.73	0.67	0.69	0.74
<i>Source: Employment statistics were obtained from: (HSE, 2018), (Federal State Statistics Service, 2019), (MinComSvyaz, 2019)</i>								
<i>Calculations were performed by authors.</i>								

The Republic of Karelia had a high specialization level in Paper Products and the critical mass of its cluster was strongly decreasing during the period of 2009–2016. The overall decrease of the cluster’s critical mass was 28.37% over eight years. In addition, the decrease of the Paper Products cluster’s critical mass in the Republic of Karelia was significantly higher than the overall decrease of the Paper Products cluster’s critical mass, being 27.61% compared to 4.78%. It led to a decrease in the cluster localization parameters, but it did not result in losing the specialization, since three localization measures out of three fulfilled the threshold requirements.

The Republic of Karelia lost specialization in Furniture Production in 2012, since the cluster’s critical mass decreased by 41.33% over eight years, while the cluster’s overall critical mass went down by only 17.69%. The breakpoint was in 2011–2012, when LQ did not fulfill the threshold requirements, along with Focus and Size.

Therefore, the Republic of Karelia was highly specialized only in one type of activity—Paper Products. However, the critical mass of this cluster greatly decreased during the analyzed period. In addition, the region had a low specialization in two other types of activities: Transportation and Logistics, which showed a decrease of the critical mass, and Maritime, the critical mass of which was unstable. In one type of activity, the region showed lack of specialization due to the continuously steady decrease in its critical mass.

Krasnoyarsk Krai cluster specialization analysis

The overall employment dynamic in Krasnoyarsk Krai was negative. The total number of employed people decreased by 6.15%, or by 64,833 people over eight years. Analyzing the employment statistics in Krasnoyarsk Krai during the period of 2009–2016, we detected four clusters: Transportation and Logistics, Business Services, and Entertainment and Production Technology, which received at least one star. Detailed results are presented in Table 8.

Table 8. Employment-based parameters of significant clusters in Krasnoyarsk Krai

Parameter \ Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
General employment parameters								
E (people)	47427502	46719007	45872388	45898382	45815640	45486400	45106533	44446352
E_g (people)	1054055	1056537	1049084	1056420	1042109	1046767	1021040	989222
Transportation and Logistics cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	3489740	3370683	3371228	3400956	3360962	3377649	3352174	3308218
E_{ig} (people)	89985	88687	89832	91984	91829	92266	91374	90767
GR_t (%)		-1.44	1.29	2.40	-0.17	0.48	-0.97	-0.66
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-1.44	-0.17	2.22	2.05	2.53	1.54	0.87
Number of stars	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
LQ	1.16	1.16	1.17	1.18	1.20	1.19	1.20	1.23
Size (%)	2.58	2.63	2.66	2.70	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.74
Focus (%)	8.54	8.39	8.56	8.71	8.81	8.81	8.95	9.18
Business Services cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	2969478	2921201	2880799	3146203.9	3237312	3272631.1	3257275.3	3189467
E_{ig} (people)	74557	73045	75263	83302	83352	86755	81563	74253
GR_t (%)		-2.03	3.04	10.68	0.06	4.08	-5.98	-8.96
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-2.03	0.95	11.73	11.80	16.36	9.40	-0.41
Number of stars	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
LQ	1.13	1.11	1.14	1.15	1.13	1.15	1.11	1.05
Size (%)	2.51	2.50	2.61	2.65	2.57	2.65	2.50	2.33
Focus (%)	7.07	6.91	7.17	7.89	8.00	8.29	7.99	7.51
Entertainment cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	1134931	1096820	1076443	1087827.8	1067113.6	1027259	1014388	1010873
E_{ig} (people)	28162	28338	29061	29185	29604	29723	29290	28870
GR_t (%)		0.62	2.55	0.43	1.44	0.40	-1.46	-1.43
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		0.62	3.19	3.63	5.12	5.54	4.01	2.51
Number of stars	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
LQ	1.12	1.14	1.18	1.17	1.22	1.26	1.28	1.28
Size (%)	2.48	2.58	2.70	2.68	2.77	2.89	2.89	2.86
Focus (%)	2.67	2.68	2.77	2.76	2.84	2.84	2.87	2.92
Production Technology cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	630556	608180	619596	614537	602202	587375.7	571254	545333
E_{ig} (people)	20539	20599	19981	20140	19771	19170	19031	19658
GR_t (%)		0.29	-3.00	0.80	-1.83	-3.04	-0.73	3.29
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		0.29	-2.72	-1.94	-3.74	-6.67	-7.34	-4.29
Number of stars	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2
LQ	1.47	1.50	1.41	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.47	1.62
Size (%)	3.26	3.39	3.22	3.28	3.28	3.26	3.33	3.60
Focus (%)	1.95	1.95	1.90	1.91	1.90	1.83	1.86	1.99
<i>Source: Employment statistics were obtained from: (HSE, 2018), (Federal State Statistics Service, 2019), (MinComSvyaz, 2019) Calculations were performed by authors.</i>								

Krasnoyarsk Krai had a low specialization level in Transportation and Logistics. However, the critical mass of this cluster was stable during the analyzed period. In the long-term, the critical mass of the cluster increased by 0.87%; that is, by 782 people employed. In addition, the overall employment in the Transportation and Logistics cluster decreased by 5.2%. In total, it resulted in a slight increase of the relative localization measures of this cluster. However, it was not enough for significant strengthening of the regional specialization in this type of activity.

The specialization of Krasnoyarsk Krai in Business Services was detected in 2012 and 2014, when a sudden increase in employment levels resulted in a growth of the Business Services cluster localization. However, it was

a short-term increase which did not allow the region to strengthen its specialization over a long-term period. Therefore, the long-term decrease of the cluster's critical mass in Krasnoyarsk Krai was 0.41%.

Krasnoyarsk Krai had low specialization in Entertainment activities, which demonstrated a stable critical mass. In the long term, the critical mass of the Entertainment cluster grew by 2.51%; that is, 708 people. However, during the analyzed period there was a growth stage—from 2009 to 2014, the critical mass increased by 5.54%—and a decrease stage—from 2014 to 2016, it decreased by 2.87%. In addition, the overall employment in the Entertainment cluster decreased by 10.93%; that is, by 124,058 people employed. Due to this situation, the relative specialization of the region in Entertainment increased during 2015–2016 from one to two stars, since two of the three localization measures fulfilled the threshold requirements.

Krasnoyarsk Krai had low specialization in Production Technology, which was demonstrated by the stable state of its critical mass. In the long term, the critical mass of the Production Technology cluster decreased by 4.29%; that is, by 881 people employed. Nevertheless, with the overall employment of the Production Technology cluster decreasing by 13.52% (i.e. by 85,223 people employed), the relative specialization of the region in this type of activity grew in 2015, since two of three localization parameters fulfilled the threshold values.

Therefore, Krasnoyarsk Krai did not have high specialization in any type of activity. However, there are three groups of activities in which this region had low specialization: Transportation and Logistics, Entertainment, and Production Technology. All three clusters demonstrated a stable condition of their critical mass. In Business Services, the region had no specialization, since the critical mass of this cluster was too low.

Arkhangelsk Oblast (including Nenets AO) cluster specialization analysis

The overall employment dynamic in Arkhangelsk Oblast was negative. The total number of people employed decreased by 11.44%, or by 50,660 people over eight years. Analyzing Arkhangelsk Oblast employment statistics during the period of 2009–2016, we detected four clusters: Transportation and Logistics, Maritime, Paper Products, and Furniture, which received at least one star. Detailed results are presented in Table 9.

Arkhangelsk Oblast had a medium specialization level in Transportation and Logistics, and the critical mass of this cluster was unstable during the analyzed period. The long-term decrease of the cluster's critical mass over eight years was 5.94%; that is, 4,392 people employed. However, the overall specialization of the region in this type of activity increased, since the employment of the whole cluster also decreased by 5.2%, or by 181,522 people employed.

Arkhangelsk Oblast had low specialization in Maritime. However, the critical mass of this cluster decreased by 31.68%, or by 1,195 people during the analyzed period. The decline of this cluster was faster at the regional level than at the country level, meaning that the region was losing both its relative and absolute specialization in this type of activity.

Arkhangelsk Oblast had a high specialization level in Paper Products, and the critical mass of its cluster was strongly decreasing during the period of 2009–2016. The overall decrease of the cluster's critical mass was 24.81%; that is, by 2,268 people employed over eight years. In addition, the decrease of the critical mass of the Paper Products cluster in Arkhangelsk Oblast was significantly higher than the overall decrease of the critical mass of the Paper Products cluster, being 24.81% compared to 4.78%. It resulted in Arkhangelsk Oblast losing specialization in this type of activity. However, it still had a certain margin of safety, since all three localization parameters fulfilled the threshold conditions.

Table 9. Employment-based parameters of significant clusters in Arkhangelsk Oblast (including Nenets AO)

Parameter \ Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
General employment parameters								
E (people)	47427502	46719007	45872388	45898382	45815640	45486400	45106533	44446352
E_g (people)	442903	433931	436355	418786.1	409795	405572.6	399017	392243.2
Transportation and Logistics cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	3489740	3370683	3371228	3400956	3360962	3377649	3352174	3308218
E_{ig} (people)	73878	71412	72084	68609	67490	67275	68010	69486
GR_t (%)		-3.34	0.94	-4.82	-1.63	-0.32	1.09	2.17
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-3.34	-2.43	-7.13	-8.65	-8.94	-7.94	-5.94
Number of stars	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
LQ	2.27	2.28	2.25	2.21	2.25	2.23	2.29	2.38
Size (%)	2.12	2.12	2.14	2.02	2.01	1.99	2.03	2.10
Focus (%)	16.68	16.46	16.52	16.38	16.47	16.59	17.04	17.72
Maritime cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	148225	152423	136905	129441.6	126963	116436.8	116557	114799
E_{ig} (people)	3772	3802	3949	3701	3192	2568	2554	2577
GR_t (%)		0.80	3.87	-6.28	-13.75	-19.55	-0.55	0.90
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		0.80	4.69	-1.88	-15.38	-31.92	-32.29	-31.68
Number of stars	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
LQ	2.73	2.69	3.03	3.13	2.81	2.47	2.48	2.54
Size (%)	2.54	2.49	2.88	2.86	2.51	2.21	2.19	2.24
Focus (%)	0.85	0.88	0.90	0.88	0.78	0.63	0.64	0.66
Paper Products cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	137015	136152	137499	136273	132216	128119	125839	130471
E_{ig} (people)	9141	8578	8548	8308	7778	7448	7012	6873
GR_t (%)		-6.16	-0.35	-2.81	-6.38	-4.24	-5.85	-1.98
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-6.16	-6.49	-9.11	-14.91	-18.52	-23.29	-24.81
Number of stars	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
LQ	7.14	6.78	6.54	6.68	6.58	6.52	6.30	5.97
Size (%)	6.67	6.30	6.22	6.10	5.88	5.81	5.57	5.27
Focus (%)	2.06	1.98	1.96	1.98	1.90	1.84	1.76	1.75
Furniture cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	314686	316139	294371	298059	294375	278843	267375	259033
E_{ig} (people)	5145	4776	4429	4122	3566	3450	3492	2935
GR_t (%)		-7.17	-7.27	-6.93	-13.49	-3.25	1.22	-15.95
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-7.17	-13.92	-19.88	-30.69	-32.94	-32.13	-42.95
Number of stars	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
LQ	1.75	1.63	1.58	1.52	1.35	1.39	1.48	1.28
Size (%)	1.63	1.51	1.50	1.38	1.21	1.24	1.31	1.13
Focus (%)	1.16	1.10	1.01	0.98	0.87	0.85	0.88	0.75
<i>Source: Employment statistics were obtained from: (HSE, 2018), (Federal State Statistics Service, 2019), (MinComSvyaz, 2019) Calculations were performed by authors.</i>								

Therefore, Arkhangelsk Oblast, in total, had clusters with decreasing critical mass, which resulted, in some cases, in a rise in relative specializations, but a decrease in absolute values.

Arkhangelsk Oblast lost specialization in Furniture Production in 2012, since the critical mass of the cluster in Arkhangelsk Oblast decreased by 42.95%; that is, by 2,210 people over eight years. Meanwhile, the overall critical mass of the cluster decreased by only 17.69%. The breakpoint was in 2011–2012, when LQ fulfilled neither of the threshold requirements, nor did Focus or Size.

Khanty-Mansi AO cluster specialization analysis

The overall employment dynamic in Khanty-Mansi AO was negative. The total number of people employed decreased by 2.18%, or by 16,772 people over eight years. Analyzing employment statistics in Khanty-Mansi AO during the period of 2009–2016, we detected three clusters: Transportation and Logistics, Oil and Gas, and Construction, which received at least one star. Detailed results are presented in Table 10.

Khanty-Mansi AO lost specialization in Furniture Production in 2010, since the cluster’s critical mass decreased by 13.93%; that is, by 9617 people over eight years. Meanwhile, the cluster’s overall critical mass decreased by only 5.2%. Therefore, the region was steadily losing its specialization in this type of activity due to the decrease of the cluster’s critical mass.

Table 10. Employment-based parameters of significant clusters in Khanty-Mansi AO

Parameter \ Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
General employment parameters								
E (people)	47427502	46719007	45872388	45898382	45815640	45486400	45106533	44446352
E_g (people)	770656	770048	771193	774807	771928	769370	761089	753884
Transportation and Logistics cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	3489740	3370683	3371228	3400956	3360962	3377649	3352174	3308218
E_{ig} (people)	69030	68126	65137	64990	64567	61782	59825	59413
GR_t (%)		-1.31	-4.39	-0.23	-0.65	-4.31	-3.17	-0.69
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-1.31	-5.64	-5.85	-6.47	-10.50	-13.33	-13.93
Number of stars	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
LQ	1.22	1.23	1.15	1.13	1.14	1.08	1.06	1.06
Size (%)	1.98	2.02	1.93	1.91	1.92	1.83	1.78	1.80
Focus (%)	8.96	8.85	8.45	8.39	8.36	8.03	7.86	7.88
Oil and Gas cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	504955	504478	517301	536739	556754	578881	594546	606641
E_{ig} (people)	119572	121334	124170	129379	134175	139619	146402	150665
GR_t (%)		1.47	2.34	4.20	3.71	4.06	4.86	2.91
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		1.47	3.85	8.20	12.21	16.77	22.44	26.00
Number of stars	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
LQ	14.57	14.59	14.28	14.28	14.30	14.26	14.59	14.64
Size (%)	23.68	24.05	24.00	24.10	24.10	24.12	24.62	24.84
Focus (%)	15.52	15.76	16.10	16.70	17.38	18.15	19.24	19.99
Construction cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	3425797	3430749	3163493	3254308	3225983	3123938	2983398	2800194
E_{ig} (people)	93202	93124	87788	87179	80821	77105	72677	68966
GR_t (%)		-0.08	-5.73	-0.69	-7.29	-4.60	-5.74	-5.11
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-0.08	-5.81	-6.46	-13.28	-17.27	-22.02	-26.00
Number of stars	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
LQ	1.67	1.65	1.65	1.59	1.49	1.46	1.44	1.45
Size (%)	2.72	2.71	2.78	2.68	2.51	2.47	2.44	2.46
Focus (%)	12.09	12.09	11.38	11.25	10.47	10.02	9.55	9.15
<i>Source: Employment statistics were obtained from: (HSE, 2018), (Federal State Statistics Service, 2019), (MinComSvyaz, 2019) Calculations were performed by authors.</i>								

Khanty-Mansi AO had a high specialization level in Oil and Gas, and the critical mass of this cluster was growing significantly during the analyzed period. The overall increase of the cluster’s critical mass was 26% over eight years. This resulted in the strengthening of the cluster’s specialization and its stabilization at a high level, since three localization measures out of three fulfilled the threshold requirements.

Khanty-Mansi AO had a medium specialization level in Construction and the critical mass of this cluster was greatly decreasing during the analyzed period. The long-term decrease of the cluster’s critical mass was 26%, or 24,236 people employed. Nevertheless, the specialization of Khanty-Mansi AO in Construction remains at a high level, despite the fact that it is constantly decreasing.

We identified three clusters in Khanty-Mansi AO: Transportation and Logistics, Oil and Gas, and Construction. Only the Oil and Gas cluster showed strong growth of its critical mass, while the other two clusters were decreasing in terms of the number of people employed.

Murmansk Oblast cluster specialization analysis

The overall employment dynamic in Murmansk Oblast was negative. The total number of people employed decreased by 11.11%, or by 34,409 people employed over eight years. Analyzing employment statistics in Murmansk Oblast during the period of 2009–2016, we detected two clusters: Transportation and Logistics and Maritime, which have received at least one star. Detailed results are presented in Table 11.

Table 11. Employment-based parameters of significant clusters in Murmansk Oblast

Parameter \ Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
General employment parameters								
E_i (people)	47427502	46719007	45872388	45898382	45815640	45486400	45106533	44446352
E_g (people)	309727	301079	300264	300209	296615	288905	281950	275318
Transportation and logistics cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	3489740	3370683	3371228	3400956	3360962	3377649	3352174	3308218
E_{ig} (people)	47243	44929	42501	41274	40302	38585	37209	36936
GR_i (%)		-4.90	-5.40	-2.89	-2.35	-4.26	-3.57	-0.73
GR_{i-g} (%)		-4.90	-10.04	-12.63	-14.69	-18.33	-21.24	-21.82
Number of stars	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
LQ	2.07	2.07	1.93	1.86	1.85	1.80	1.78	1.80
Size (%)	1.35	1.33	1.26	1.21	1.20	1.14	1.11	1.12
Focus (%)	15.25	14.92	14.15	13.75	13.59	13.36	13.20	13.42
Maritime cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	148225	152423	136905	129441.6	126963	116436.8	116557	114799
E_{ig} (people)	8734	8016	7464	7834	7466	7170	6832	6321
GR_i (%)		-8.22	-6.89	4.96	-4.70	-3.96	-4.71	-7.48
GR_{i-g} (%)		-8.22	-14.54	-10.30	-14.52	-17.91	-21.78	-27.63
Number of stars	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
LQ	9.02	8.16	8.33	9.25	9.08	9.70	9.38	8.89
Size (%)	5.89	5.26	5.45	6.05	5.88	6.16	5.86	5.51
Focus (%)	2.82	2.66	2.49	2.61	2.52	2.48	2.42	2.30
<i>Source: Employment statistics were obtained from: (HSE, 2018), (Federal State Statistics Service, 2019), (MinComSvyaz, 2019) Calculations were performed by authors.</i>								

Murmansk Oblast had a medium specialization level in Transportation and Logistics, and the critical mass of this cluster was steadily decreasing during the analyzed period. The overall decrease of the critical mass of the Transportation and Logistics cluster located in Murmansk Oblast was 21.82%; that is, 10,307 people employed over eight years. Therefore, all three localization parameters of the cluster decreased. Nevertheless, its specialization remains at the level of two stars.

Murmansk Oblast had a high specialization level in Maritime, and the critical mass of its cluster was steadily decreasing during the period of 2009–2016. The overall decrease of the cluster’s critical mass was 27.63% over eight years. In addition, the decrease of the Maritime cluster’s critical mass in Murmansk Oblast was higher than the overall decrease of the Maritime cluster’s critical mass, being 27.63% compared to 22.55%. It resulted in Murmansk Oblast decreasing in overall specialization in this type of activity in the long run.

Therefore, there are only two significant clusters in the Murmansk region: Transportation and Logistics and Maritime. The critical masses of both clusters were steadily decreasing during the analyzed period. Consequently, the region lost its specialization and should promote new core activities, which can be part of its long-term development.

Sakha Republic cluster specialization analysis

The overall employment dynamic in Sakha Republic was negative. The total number of people employed decreased by 6.22%, or by 22,722 people employed over eight years. Analyzing the employment statistics in Sakha Republic during the period of 2009–2016, we detected two clusters: Entertainment and Oil and Gas, which have received at least one star. Detailed results are presented in Table 12.

Sakha Republic had not had a specialization level in Oil and Gas until 2011. Due to a significant growth of the cluster’s critical mass over a long-term period of 3,535 people employed, or 83.65%, one of the localization parameters fulfilled the threshold requirement and the region received one star in this type of activity. Therefore, the region has a potential for strengthening its specialization if the critical mass continues to grow.

Sakha Republic had a low specialization in Entertainment; the critical mass of this cluster was at a stable level. The long-term change of the critical mass was negative. It declined by 3.49%, or 432 people over eight years.

Table 12. Employment-based parameters of significant clusters in Sakha Republic

Year Parameter	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
General employment parameters								
E (people)	47427502	46719007	45872388	45898382	45815640	45486400	45106533	44446352
E_g (people)	365340	353047	355669	354493	351108	348962	344686	342618
Oil and Gas cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	504955	504478	517301	536739	556754	578881	594546	606641
E_{ig} (people)	4226	3836	6529	7120	7043	7209	7313	7761
GR_t (%)		-9.23	70.20	9.05	-1.08	2.36	1.44	6.13
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-9.23	54.50	68.48	66.66	70.59	73.05	83.65
Number of stars	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
LQ	1.09	1.01	1.63	1.72	1.65	1.62	1.61	1.66
Size (%)	0.84	0.76	1.26	1.33	1.27	1.25	1.23	1.28
Focus (%)	1.16	1.09	1.84	2.01	2.01	2.07	2.12	2.27
Entertainment cluster parameters								
E_i (people)	1134931	1096820	1076443	1087827.8	1067113.6	1027259	1014388	1010873
E_{ig} (people)	12374	12200	12150	12571.8	12340.6	12059	11995	11942
GR_t (%)		-1.41	-0.41	3.47	-1.84	-2.28	-0.53	-0.44
$GR_{t=0}$ (%)		-1.41	-1.81	1.60	-0.27	-2.55	-3.06	-3.49
Number of stars	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
LQ	1.42	1.47	1.46	1.50	1.51	1.53	1.55	1.53
Size (%)	1.09	1.11	1.13	1.16	1.16	1.17	1.18	1.18
Focus (%)	3.39	3.46	3.42	3.55	3.51	3.46	3.48	3.49
<i>Source: Employment statistics were obtained from: (HSE, 2018), (Federal State Statistics Service, 2019), (MinComSvyaz, 2019)</i>								
<i>Calculations were performed by authors.</i>								

Therefore, Sakha Republic has a potential for strengthening its specialization in Oil and Gas and Entertainment activities.

Chukotka AO cluster specialization analysis

The overall employment dynamics in Chukotka AO was negative. The total number of people employed decreased by 9.72%, or by 2,946 people employed over eight years. Analyzing the employment statistics in Chukotka AO during the period of 2009–2016, we did not detected any clusters which could receive at least one star. The general results of the employment dynamics are presented in Table 13.

Table 13. Employment-based parameters of significant clusters in Chukotka AO

Parameter \ Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Genera employment parameters								
<i>E</i> (people)	47427502	46719007	45872388	45898382	45815640	45486400	45106533	44446352
<i>E_z</i> (people)	30300	30055	29914	29494	28983	27902	27758	27354
<i>Employment statistics were obtained from: (HSE, 2018), (Federal State Statistics Service, 2019), (MinComSvyaz, 2019)</i>								

Source: Combined results of the Russian regions cluster parameters analysis

Table 14 gives an analytical interpretation of the computational results presented earlier. The table includes only those clusters which were significant in at least in one Arctic region. Therefore, nine clusters out of 37 are presented. Boxes with the symbol «-» in Table 14 refer to the unidentified (insignificant) clusters. We did not mark them in order to make it clearer for analysis. Other boxes include the characteristic of the cluster in a specific region in accordance with the classification, presented in Section 2.1.

Tables 14 and 15 provide some valuable insights concerning the overall situation in the Russian Arctic regions. The first insight is that the overall state of the most typical significant clusters for these regions is not satisfactory, since there is only one significant cluster which achieved a steady growth. We can see that, in general, employment in such clusters as «Transportation and Logistics», «Maritime», «Paper Products», «Construction», «Entertainment», and «Furniture» was mostly either decreasing or unstable, which means that these clusters were steadily declining in a long term perspective during the analyzed period. On the other hand, the only significant cluster which achieved a steady growth in all regions where it was present was the «Oil and Gas» cluster. The second insight refers to the overall cluster structure of the Russian Arctic region. A majority of clusters in Russian Arctic regions are not significant, meaning that there are relatively too few employees. Therefore, the localization of these clusters is slightly above average, which is not enough for generating positive spillovers or organizing export activities. These two insights can potentially become a basis for elaborating a policy which will slow down the decrease of the discussed clusters and, consequently, support diversification and specialization of the economy, since it is associated with positive spillover effects.

Table 14. State of development of identified clusters in Russian arctic regions for 2009–2016

Region Cluster	Komi Republic	Yamalo-Nenets AO	Republic of Karelia	Krasnoyarsk Krai	Arkhangelsk Oblast including Nenets AO	Khanty-Mansi AO	Murmansk Oblast	Sakha Republic	Chukotka AO
Transportation and Logistics	Medium spec. Unstable	Medium spec. Unstable	Low spec. Strong decrease	Low spec. Stable	Medium spec. Unstable	No spec. Strong decrease	Medium spec. Strong decrease	-	-
Maritime		Low spec. Strong decrease	Low spec. Unstable	-	Low spec. Strong decrease	-	High spec. Strong decrease	-	-

Oil and Gas	High spec. Strong growth	High spec. Strong growth	-	-	-	High spec. Strong growth	-	No spec. Strong growth	-
Paper products	High spec. Strong decrease	-	High spec. Strong decrease	-	High spec. Strong decrease	-	-	-	-
Business services	No spec. Strong decrease	No spec. Strong growth	-	No spec. Unstable	-	-	-	-	-
Construction	No spec. Unstable	Medium spec. Unstable	-	-	-	Medium spec. Strong decrease	-	-	-
Entertainment		-	-	Low spec. Stable	-	-	-	Low spec. Stable	-
Furniture		-	No spec. Strong decrease	-	No spec. Strong decrease	-	-	-	-
Information Technologies		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tourism		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Production Technology		-	-	Low spec. Stable	-	-	-	-	-

Source: The table is constructed based on the results presented in section 2 methodology implementation. Detailed results are presented in Section 3. Abbreviation «Spec.» refers to the term «Specialization. Symbol «-» refers to the situation, when a cluster's critical mass is too low, i.e. it is now identified in the region. The first line each box presents the evaluation result of region specialization in types of activities performed by a cluster *i* in the region *g*. (see Table 2 for more details). The second line refers to the type of dynamic state of employment of cluster *i* in region *g*. (see Table 3 for more details).

Table 15. Cross-matrix of the state of development of the clusters in Russian Regions for 2009–2016

Level of region specialization \ Dynamic state of employment	Level of region specialization			
	High specialization	Medium specialization	Low specialization	No specialization
Strong employment growth	Oil and Gas (3)	-	-	Oil and Gas (1) Business Services (1)
Moderate employment growth	-	-	-	-
Stable employment level	-	-	Transportation and Logistics (1) Entertainment (2) Production technology (1)	-
Unstable employment growth	-	Transportation and Logistics (3) Construction (1)	Maritime (1)	Business Services (1) Construction (1)
Moderate decrease in employment	-	-	-	-
Strong decrease in employment	Paper products (3) Maritime (1)	Transportation and Logistics (1) Construction (1)	Transportation and Logistics (1) Maritime (2)	Transportation and Logistics (1) Business Services (1) Furniture (2)

Numbers in brackets reflect the number of regions where the cluster is present.

Source: Compiled by Authors

Discussion and conclusion

This research study provides several results, which contribute both to practical and theoretical fields.

First, we present the architecture of the database for automated identification of clusters in the Russian regions. This architecture can be used for creating any other database to calculate cluster localization parameters in any other country or region.

Secondly, we, in brief, present methodology for cluster identification and discuss how clusters can be identified from the perspective of the European Cluster Observatory. We complement this methodology through presenting two additional dimensions, which can be used for better interpretation and systematization of results. The dimension «Level of region specialization» depends on the average number of stars obtained by a certain cluster in a certain region. The dimension «Dynamic state of employment» represents the pattern of employment change during the analyzed period.

Thirdly, we present the main results for cluster identification using the example of the Russian Arctic regions. It is stated that most of the significant clusters are decreasing, while the only cluster which achieved steady growth in terms of localization parameters was «Oil and Gas». The obtained results allowed us to conclude that the cluster structure of the Russian Arctic regions is poor in the sense that there are few significant clusters and that most of them are weak and decreasing. This result can be used as a basis for elaborating regional economic policy to support regional diversification and specialization.

There are also several opportunities for further research. Firstly, the presented database can be modified in order to provide results, which are more valuable. Currently it calculates only four parameters, which reflect localization parameters and regional specialization. It can be expanded in order to calculate more metrics, which are based not only on employment data, but also on salary and sales data of the clusters. In addition, functions can be included to compose indexes based on several parameters. In addition, it could be interesting to tackle the technical issues connected with data input. At the moment, before data are input to the database, a big job has to be done, which is connected to acquiring and formatting data. If it were possible to connect the database directly to the State Statistical Service systems, the time spent waiting to receive a result would significantly decrease.

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Author Contributions

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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