Foundation of a general theory of socio-economic coordination

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**Abstract**

The methodological foundation for building a general theory of socio-economic coordination, the need for which is caused by the ongoing digitalization, including coordination processes, are considered. An adequate theoretical toolkit is required to analyze the possible socio-economic consequences of changes in coordination mechanisms. Due to the special place in the economy, which is occupied by the processes of coordination, their improvement can become a new source of significant socio-economic development. In the proposed study, the ideas of the shared mental model of the participants in joint activities developed in the cognitive sciences are used as the initial basis for creating the required theory. In this context, the fundamental process of coordination of socio-economic activities is considered, based on the ability of agents to coordinate activities in direct and indirect communications between them. A description of the general scheme of the coordinating activity of agents is proposed, the various configurations of which, fixed by the institutional structures, form the coordination mechanisms. Market, hierarchical and network coordination mechanisms are presented as special cases of the general scheme. The general conditions for the performance and success of various configurations of coordinating activities, including in the form of an optimization problem, have been analyzed. For economic activity, the specificity of its coordination is considered, which consists in the formation of a hybrid form of coordination. The principles of systematization and classification of the processes of coordination of both economic activity and non-economic activity are proposed. The features and possibilities of improving coordination mechanisms through digitalization of the coordinating activities of agents are considered.

**JEL**: P0, O1, O3