

## FROM EDITORIAL BOARD

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The first issue of 2012 is devoted to several major topics.

The section ‘Trans-border Cooperation’ gives an overview of common perceptions of the notion of a state frontier as a vital tool of trans-border cooperation development in Russian and European political cultures (Yu. V. Kosov, A. V. Vovenda), examines mutual flows of foreign direct investment in the Baltic Sea region (A. V. Kuznetsov) and investigates a complex phenomenon of ‘twin cities’ as a model of crossborder cooperation in the Baltic Sea region (A. G. Anischenko, A. A. Sergunin).

The section ‘International Relations’ explores the issues related to the US anti-missile system deployment in Eastern Europe (I. M. Lyovkin, V. I. Shat-skaya), restrictions on a flow of migrants and asylum seekers as a viable part of the external dimension of an area of freedom, security and justice (A. Yu. Ryabov), and the development of interregional cooperation in St. Petersburg, the Leningrad region and the Republic of Karelia (Yu. N. Bazhenov, O. V. Podshuvejt).

The section ‘Territorial Systems’ provides a comprehensive analysis of a territorial political system and a regional geopolitical system, as well as their correlation, within the so-called activity-based geospatial approach (A. B. Yelatskov), and a study of the territorial transport system in the Baltic Sea region (I. S. Gumenyuk, D. A. Melnik).

The section ‘Regional Development’ addresses a range of issues concerning regional development, such as an indicator system for assessing potential of coastal areas, and seaport and industrial complexes in the Baltic Sea region (G. G. Gogoberidze, M. A. Mamaeva), the changes in the economy of the Russian North-West in the first decade of the 21st century (V. L. Martynov, I. Ye. Sazonova), the research and technological potential in the framework of the innovative development model of regional economy (A. M. Kolosovsky, K. Yu. Voloshenko, A. A. Tikhonova), and the problems and challenges facing East German rural areas (H. Klüter, A. V. Levchenkov).

The final section ‘Research of Young Scholars’ features the works by Russian historians in 1850—1870 dedicated to Lithuania in the 11th—14th centuries (M. Ye. Megem, M. Wakar).