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**R.A. Abramov, S.G. Strelchenko, E.Yu. Khalatenkova**

**TRANSREGIONAL COOPERATION AS A FACTOR  
TO STRENGTHEN INTERSTATE RELATIONS  
IN THE UNION STATE**

*The article deals with the development of transregional interaction between the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation. Basing on the analysis of Russian and Belarusian regions' experience, we reveal the main*

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*problems of such a cooperation. It is shown that, within the context of the Union State, the major obstacle to making contacts between regions and creating transregional connections in economy, culture, science, and education is the complications resulting from of the countries' federative and unitary structures. We discover that current contacts are geographically diversified. We give our recommendations for the development of foundations for cooperation in innovative sectors of the economy.*

**Keywords:** spatial contacts; regional economy; social sphere; regions' development gap; the Union State

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### **Information about the authors**

*Abramov, Ruslan Agarunovich* (Moscow, Russia) – Doctor of Sciences (Economics), Professor, Head of Chair at Plekhanov Russian University of Economics (36, Stremyanny la., Moscow, 117997, Russia, e-mail: oef08@mail.ru).

*Strelchenko, Sergey Georgievich* (Moscow, Russia) – Executive Secretary for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia (47, Myasnitskaya st., Moscow, 101000, Russia, e-mail: rea.gov@gmail.com).

*Khalatenkova, Elena Yurievna* (Moscow, Russia) – Specialist at Moscow State-Financed Institution «Analytical Center» (15, New Arbat st., Moscow, 119019, Russia, e-mail: realelen1@mail.ru).

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