Editorial

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INTRODUCTION

This thematic issue of *Herald of the Russian Academy of Sciences* is devoted to the study of demographic processes in Russia. Its idea belongs to RAS Corresponding Member S.V. Ryazantsev, Director of the Institute for Demographic Research, Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences (IDR FCTAS RAS); T.K. Ros-tovskaya, Dr. Sci. (Soc.), IDR FCTAS RAS Deputy Director for Research; and G.A. Zaikina, Cand. Sci. (Philos.), Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Herald of the Russian Academy of Sciences*.

Features of demographic development and migration processes in Russia have remained a relevant research topic over the past few decades. However, the emphasis in approach to them changes over time. In the 1980s the main attention was paid to the issues of increasing the birth rate, while at the end of the 1990s, which had a fatal impact on the dynamics of the Russian population, the problem of excess mortality among able-bodied cohorts arose against the background of a sharply reduced birth rate. This dramatic collision was named The Russian Cross due to the apt definition of RAS Corresponding Member N.M. Rimashevskaya (now deceased). Since 2016, Russia has entered the second wave of depopulation, which many rightly consider to be a demographic crisis or even a demographic catastrophe.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the study of migration processes in the post-Soviet space became relevant in the 1990s. Active migrations in the 1990s were mostly forced in nature and were associated with flows of refugees and internally displaced persons after ethnic conflicts and civil wars. In the 2000s, labor migration came to the fore, becoming the migration mainstream in the exchange of population between post-Soviet countries. The scientific agenda includes issues of adaptation and integration of migrants into host societies, especially the formation of migration policy. Now the scientific literature widely discusses trends in migration behavior, their causes and consequences for the socioeconomic and demographic development of Russia, including population resettlement, labor supply, structural features of the labor force, outflow of qualified personnel abroad, and opportunities for managing migration processes for development. The opinions of demographers about the consequences of demographic and migration processes in Russia differ significantly, which is reflected in the approaches to sociodemographic and migration policies.

This thematic issue covers a number of crucial topics in Russian demographic research, reflects to a certain extent the level of its development, and, we hope, will be of interest to our readers.