

The Socioeconomic Development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation State Programme: An Overview

The state programme Socioeconomic Development of the Russian Arctic Zone was approved by Government Resolution No. 366 of April 21, 2014. While it is based on an earlier version of the eponymous programme, its goal remains unchanged: raising socioeconomic development levels of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation.

The Government Resolution No. 366 updates a list of sub-programmes and all the main tasks, indicators and targets, names the Ministry of Industry and Trade as its executor and also expands the list of participants.

The state programme now includes the following three sub-programmes: Creation of Core Development Zones, Maintaining their Operation and Creating Favourable Conditions for the Rapid Socioeconomic Development of the Russian Arctic Zone; Development of the Northern Sea Route and Maintaining Arctic Navigation; and Developing Equipment and Technologies for the Oil and Gas and Industrial Engineering Sectors needed to Develop Mineral Deposits of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation. (The state programme's previous version had another sub-programme titled Coordination of Activities of State Agencies as regards the Socioeconomic Development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation).

The state programme sets the following tasks:

- improving the quality of life and boosting people's safety in the Arctic zone
- creating favourable conditions for the development of the Northern Sea Route as a national transportation artery in the Russian Arctic and expanding the hydro-meteorological support system for local shipping
- developing science and technology and boosting the efficiency of using the Arctic zone's resources and those of the Russian Arctic continental shelf
- boosting the efficiency of state management of the Arctic zone's socioeconomic development.

During the second stage (2018–2020), there are plans to implement pilot projects for the establishment of core development zones and commissioning the North Pole ice-resistant self-propelled platform, to establish a modern high-tech shipyard in the Sakha Yakutia Republic. The programme's second-stage funding totals 12 billion roubles.

During the third stage (2021–2025), there are plans to establish and finance core development zones; to create advanced scientific and technical capability to develop technology for manufacturing hi-tech equipment and developing the electronic component industry for accomplishing tasks in the area of the Arctic zone's socioeconomic development and national security; to provide technological support

using specialised vessels of the state marine environmental oversight agency; to decide on the long-term management of the most dangerous nuclear and radioactive objects and radioactive waste that have been dumped on the seabed; to develop radio-electronic equipment for accomplishing tasks in the area of the Arctic zone's socioeconomic development; to update and launch the Sever ice information system; to launch production of competitive high-tech goods for geological prospecting operations, minerals' production and processing in the Arctic zone.

The state programme's implementation will make it possible to create favourable conditions for the rapid socioeconomic development of the Arctic zone, for ensuring Russia's strategic interests and national security in the Arctic.

Further details are obtainable at: <http://government.ru/en/docs/29164/>

The relevant Government Resolution is available in Russian in full at: <http://government.ru/docs/all/133682/>