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# The transition of monotowns from the Soviet legacy to a market economy



During Soviet times towns were:

- closed to visitors and developed in isolation from surrounding regions;
- supplemented with dwellers from outside as a result of Soviet forced resettlement policy;
- called monotowns because of their economic dependence on the operation of a single industry;

# The transition of monotowns from the Soviet legacy to a market economy



Source: https://tengrinews.kz/fotoarchive/ne-strashno-jivut-lyudinepodaleku-semipalatinskogo-poligona-1199/

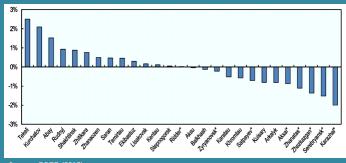
- The dependence on a single mining industry made them vulnerable to industry decline when the country transited to a market-oriented economy.
- The privatisation of the municipal infrastructure of mining towns has negatively impacted the maintenance of municipal utility networks and led to fast degradation of housing.
- The decline of local industries and the deterioration of the living conditions in the late 1990s led to active resident outflows from mining towns.

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# **Development problems of monotowns**

Yearly net migration, 2010-2015: Share of resident population



Source: OECD (2017)

In 2018, the average monthly salary in monotowns amounted to **KZT 159.7 thousand (USD 490)**, which is

**KZT 159.7 thousand (USD 490)**, which is slightly below the national average of **KZT 162.3 thousand (USD 506)**.

In Saran and Shakhtinsk was below **USD 300.** 

In Aksai was
KZT 448.8 thousand (USD 1,402) and in
Zhanaozen
KZT 435.4 thousand (USD 1,361).

- Outmigration of young people and qualified specialists
- The self-employment rate is higher than in all other urban areas
- Unreadiness of towns to accept newcomers

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#### From industrial policy to monotown policy



27 monotowns with at least one or a few enterprises belonging to the same industry being responsible for employment of 20% of the population and overall industrial output

Temirtau, Rudny, Ridder, Aksu, and Ekibastuz were identified as having high economic potential.

Only Zhanatas and Arkalyk were categorised as having low economic potential.

- Strategy of Industrial and Innovative Development 2015 in 2003
- Fast Industrial and Innovative Development 2010-2014 in 2010
- Industrialisation Map

- Monotown policy
- Regional Development Program 2020

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# Delegation of planning to town authorities

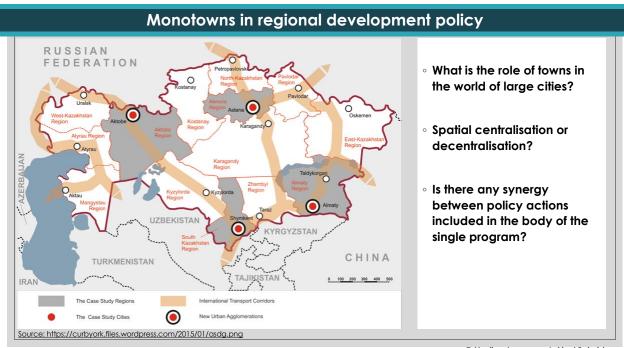
- (i) increasing the efficiency of the main operating industry
- (ii) supporting economic diversification and small and medium entrepreneurship (SME)
- (iii) stimulating labour mobility
- (iv) developing social and engineering infrastructure.



- What if they are not ready to plan because if current dependency from upper level decisionmakers?
- How to plan without the budget?
- How to plan without expert knowledge?

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# Local implementation challenges of national instructions

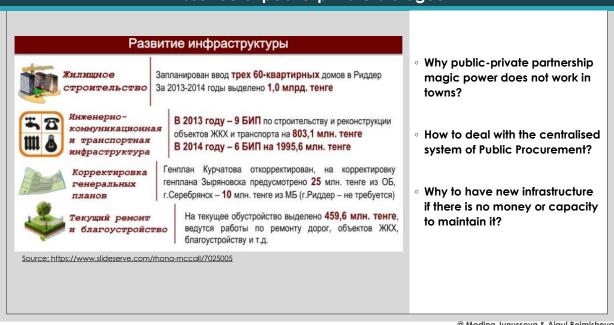
пичение объема промыш	иленного производства моногор	одов не менее чем на 20 %, млн	. тенге
Моногород	На 1.08.2014 года	На 1.08.2013 года	ИФО / темп роста
Риддер	51 378,0	45 901,0	88,4%
Курчатов	1 322,3	1 169,4	105,4%
Зыряновск	8021,0	6724,0	119,3%
Серебрянск	1304,2	981,2	132%
пичение количества акти	вно действующих малых предпр	риятий в моногородах в 2 раза	
Риддер	183	185	98,9%
Курчатов	34	33	103,0%
Зыряновск	123	120	102,5%
Серебрянск	20	19	105,2%
жение уровня безработи	цы в моногородах до уровня не	более 5,5%	
Риддер	4,8%	5,0%	-0,2
Курчатов	4,4%	4,4%	0
Зыряновск	5,4%	5,4%	0
Серебрянск	5.5%	5.8%	-0.3

- What about environmental indicators?
- What about business environment?
- Don't we really know about people's satisfaction with quality of life?
- Are we doing it for people or to gain the planned numbers?

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# Absence of public-private dialogue



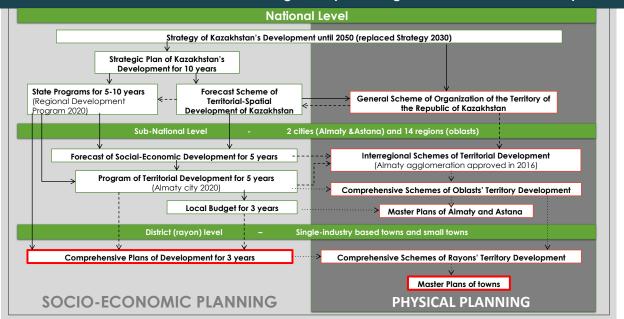
# Subsidised development constrained by centralised decision-making



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# Better access to local resources and funding for responsible governance of town development



Source: Developed by Junussova based on the IMPP: Planning Practice in Kazakhstan, IsoCarp, 2015

# Strengthening the capabilities of town authorities to mobilise locational advantages

T ow E co.

own for

co-friendly,

nowledge-based,

conomically sustainable,

ocal community based,

nnovative development







Tekeli 65 years September 2017 Interactive Conference

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#### A national association of towns



We are the national voice for Canada's local governments

Source: https://fcm.ca/en



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