

Methodological discussion “Systems Approach as a Way of Humanity in the Complex World”

The world has become increasingly Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA). This is reflected in, for example, the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, rapid digital transformation, and the “networkization” of the economy and society. The world is also becoming more and more conflicted. Recursiveness is inherent not only in complex systems, but also in conflicts. Often the recursion goes “from the bottom up”: local conflicts can “escalate” to higher systems levels, affecting regions and countries and even giving rise to the threat of a global conflict.

The complexity and conflictness of the world gives rise to "multidimensional" problem situations, the various dimensions (aspects) of which themselves become problems of different types. To solve these problems, different system methodologies have already been developed, but in general, their integration is required to solve the problem situation. All of the above is a challenge to a systematic approach that requires an answer to two groups of questions.

The first group of questions concerns the complexity and conflictness of the modern world as a whole:

- **Are existing systems methodologies and cybernetic approaches capable of helping us cope with the complexity and conflictness of the world?**
- **And if so, what does “improvement” of the situation mean from a systems perspective?**
- **How can systems methodologies and cybernetic approaches help us to restructure international relations, society, and systems of global and social governance?**

The second group of questions is devoted to the integration of systems methodologies and the coordination of the systems community:

- **How to make sure that we understand the problem situation and act systematically?**
- **How can different systems methodologies and cybernetic approaches be combined to resolve “multidimensional” problems and conflicts?**
- **Can a “general systems” framework be established for integrating systems methodologies?**
- **Is it possible to create a common communication space for systems thinkers and practitioners working in different systems/cybernetic traditions?**