

Brief information about the project

Name of the project	AP26198345 “Reducing Socio-Economic Inequality in the Regions of Kazakhstan through Investments in Health and Improvement of Healthcare System Organization.”
Relevance	The project is focused on studying the issue of health capital, which has always been a significant component of human capital. The relevance of this research is linked to evaluating the effectiveness of the healthcare system’s functioning. Reducing health inequality is a fundamental basis of social justice. The scientific significance of the project lies in the need to develop tools for assessing health indicators, related inequalities, and population quality of life, which will help establish priorities in the allocation of public resources in the healthcare sector. The project is interdisciplinary, representing a synthesis of health economics, demography, epidemiology, economic sociology, and labor economics for comprehensive analysis and the development of recommendations aimed at reducing social inequality and improving health-related quality of life.
Purpose	Development of a methodology and toolkit for assessing population health and related inequalities and quality of life across different levels of data (dis)aggregation.
Objectives	To achieve the stated goal and to conceptualize and understand the key factors shaping the specifics of Kazakhstan’s socio-economic development, as well as to identify and address the fundamental causes of health-related social inequality, the following set of research objectives is proposed: Objective 1. To examine the economic approach to assessing health and related inequalities and quality of life of the population; Objective 2. To develop methodological approaches for improving targeted programs for the poor, which should become a priority within the social protection system; Objective 3. To conduct an economic analysis and evaluate the returns on medical insurance and investments in the health capital of Kazakhstan’s population in 2019–2024; Objective 4. To substantiate recommendations for reducing social tension within a support model based on categorical principles rather than means-testing; Objective 5. To develop a methodology for assessing the impact of medical insurance and investments in health capital on poverty reduction and inequality mitigation in modern Kazakhstan; Objective 6. To assess the impact of medical insurance on infant and maternal mortality rates; Objective 7. To formulate recommendations on the

	priorities of public policy regarding inequality in access to healthcare services.
Expected and achieved results	The expected outcomes of the project include the development of scientifically grounded methods for assessing population health and the level of socio-economic inequality across the regions of Kazakhstan, as well as the formulation of effective recommendations for public policy in healthcare and social support. The implementation of the project will enhance the accessibility and quality of medical services, reduce regional, gender, and income disparities, and improve the overall level and quality of life, particularly for vulnerable groups. It is anticipated that the project will strengthen interdisciplinary research, advance health economics and related scientific fields, and introduce new analytical tools for planning and forecasting. In the long term, the project's results are expected to contribute to sustainable socio-economic development, increased population well-being, and the establishment of a more equitable and efficient system for allocating public resources.
Research team members with their identifiers (Scopus Author ID, Researcher ID, ORCID, if available) and links to relevant profiles	1. Spankulova Lazat Seitkazyevna, Doctor of Economics, Professor, with a Scopus h-index of 6, Google Scholar h-index of 7, WoS h-index of 1, ResearcherID S-8098-2016, ORCID 0000-0002-1865-4681, and Scopus Author ID 55985135800; 2. Isupova Olga Genrikhovna, PhD in Sociology, SPIN-RSCI 3370-6257, ResearcherID I-4179-2015, ORCID 0000-0002-4189-2063, and Scopus Author ID 55622966000; 3. Kerimbaev Azamat Rashidovich, PhD, with a WoS h-index of 1, Scopus h-index of 1, Google Scholar h-index of 3, ResearcherID FDC-1762-2022, ORCID 0000-0001-6125-2728, and Scopus Author ID 56646411700; 4. Bukatov Erik Berikovich, PhD, with a WoS h-index of 0, Scopus h-index of 0, HKT-7304-2023, ORCID 0000-0003-0513-406X, and Scopus Author ID 58042223800; and 5. Qongyrbai Adilet Rashiduly, with a Scopus h-index of 2, ORCID 0000-0003-1326-0410, and Scopus Author ID 57195993817.
Usage	The results can be actively utilized in scientific research, as well as by governmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in social policy, economics, and human capital development. Target users include the Administration of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, ministries of the Republic of Kazakhstan-namely, the Ministry of National Economy; the Ministry of Science and Higher Education; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population; the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation, and

	Aerospace Industry-regional governing bodies, universities, and colleges.
Priority compared to real-world alternatives	The priority of the project lies in its interdisciplinary approach, integrating health economics, demography, and sociology for a comprehensive assessment of socio-economic inequality, in contrast to existing studies that address the issue in a fragmented manner. An additional advantage is the development of practical, application-oriented tools and recommendations tailored to the regional characteristics of Kazakhstan, aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of public policy.
List of publications with links to them	1. Оценка туризма и регионального экономического неравенства в городах Китая: пространственный анализ на основе POI-больших данных и методов машинного обучения. <i>Journal of Geography and Environmental Management</i>, 79(4). https://doi.org/10.26577/JGEM202579410 2. Анализ развития телемедицины в Казахстане: экономические барьеры и потенциал роста. Вестник Торайгыров университета, (3)2025. стр. 301-315. DOI: https://doi.org/10.48081/YCXP5954 ISSN: ISSN 2710-3552 3. Эконометрический анализ детерминантов развития туристского сектора в регионах Казахстана. Научный журнал «Вестник университета Туран». – 2025. – № 4 (108). – С. 319-332. https://doi.org/10.46914/1562-2959-2025-1-4-319-332 4. Demographic development of Kazakhstan's regions: current trends and future prospects. <i>Central Asian Economic Review</i>. – 2025. – № 5. – С. 30-46. ISSN 2789-4398; E-ISSN 2789-4401. https://doi.org/10.52821/2789-4401-2025-5-30-46 5. Digital transformation in insurance: case study of Kazakhstan's DTP.kz auto insurance service. Вестник Национальной инженерной академии Республики Казахстан. – 2025. – № 3 (97). – С. 81-90. ISSN 2709-4707. https://doi.org/10.47533/2025.1606-146X.3-08 6. The Human Dimension of Urbanization and Economic Development in Kazakhstan: Demographic Trends. <i>Eurasian Journal of Economic and Business Studies</i>, 69(4), С. 46-69. –Online ISSN: 2789-8261. Print ISSN: 2789-8253 DOI: https://doi.org/10.47703/ejeb.v69i4.528 7. Интеграция ESG-принципов в стратегическое планирование предприятий Казахстана: регрессионный анализ влияния. Л.Н. Гумилев атындағы Еуразия ұлттық университетінің ХАБАРИШЫСЫ, (4)2025. стр. 189-202. ISSN (Print)

	2789-4320. ISSN (Online) 2789-4339 https://doi.org/10.32523/2789-4320-2025-4-189-202 8. The impact of tourism services development on income inequality in Kazakhstan's regions <i>Problems and Perspectives in Management</i>, 2026, 24(1) http://dx.doi.org/10.21511/ppm.24(1).2026.22 SJR=0.291; Social Sciences (miscellaneous)–Q2; Social Sciences (miscellaneous)– 76-й; Social Sciences; Law– 86-й 9. Regional Income Inequality in Kazakhstan: Assessments of the Impact of Healthcare and Macroeconomic Instability <i>Engineered Science Volume 39, 2026</i> ISSN:2576-988XE-ISSN:2576-9898 http://dx.doi.org/10.30919/es2071 SJR=0.726–Q1; Mathematics (Applied Mathematics) 97-й; Engineering (General Engineering) –96-й; Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence)–88-й 10. Analysis of the Dynamics of Key Socio-Economic Indicators of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2001–2024) <i>Engineered Science</i> ISSN:2576-988XE-ISSN:2576-9898 http://dx.doi.org/10.30919/es2070 SJR=0.726–Q1; Mathematics (Applied Mathematics) 97-й; Engineering (General Engineering) –96-й; Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence)–88-й 11. A Criterion for Tameness and Wildness via Algebraicity and Jacobian Trace <i>Engineered Science</i> ISSN:2576-988XE-ISSN:2576-9898 http://dx.doi.org/10.30919/es2072 SJR=0.726 –Q1 Mathematics (Applied Mathematics) 97-й Engineering (General Engineering) –96-й Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence)–88-й
Patents	-