



Competition as a Tool for Resource Allocation

La competencia como herramienta para la asignación de recursos

Milyausha Ildarovna Zakirova¹, Elena Alexandrovna Rybkina¹, Denis Sergeevich Balzamorov²

¹Kazan Federal University

²Kazan State Power Engineering University

Corresponding author email: Rnd-project@mail.ru

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ABSTRACT

The article explores the definition of «competition» through an analysis of existing interpretations in the scientific literature. The authors reviewed and creatively revised more than 15 existing author's interpretations of this concept. The current approaches to the classification of competitions are systematized and creatively revised. On the example of a comparative table of classification approaches, the main classification features of competitions are revealed. The appropriateness of applying the concept of «competition» in children's, school and student competitions, as well as the concept of «open competition» used in the procurement of goods, works, services to meet state and municipal needs, is considered. As a result, the revealed signs of the competition allow us to conclude the appropriateness of using this concept as a tool for the distribution of material goods. In this case, they differ only in the scale of this distribution. The article also explores the list of olympiads and other intellectual and (or) creative contests, events aimed at developing intellectual and creative abilities, abilities to engage in physical education and sports, interest in scientific (research), engineering, inventive, creative, physical culture and sports activities, as well as the promotion of scientific knowledge, creative and sports achievements, recommended by the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation. As a result, the target audience of participants for whom contests are initiated has been identified.

Keywords: competition, distribution of finance, competitive financing, classification of competitions, interdisciplinary competitions, educational and creative activity

RESUMEN

El artículo explora la definición de «competencia» a través de un análisis de las interpretaciones existentes en la literatura científica. Los autores revisaron y revisaron creativamente más de 15 interpretaciones de autores existentes de este concepto. Los enfoques actuales para la clasificación de las competiciones se sistematizan y revisan creativamente. En el ejemplo de una tabla comparativa de enfoques de clasificación, se revelan las principales características de

clasificación de las competiciones. Se considera la conveniencia de aplicar el concepto de «competencia» en concursos infantiles, escolares y estudiantiles, así como el concepto de «competencia abierta» utilizado en la adquisición de bienes, obras, servicios para satisfacer las necesidades estatales y municipales. Como resultado, los signos revelados de la competencia nos permiten concluir la conveniencia de utilizar este concepto como herramienta para la distribución de bienes materiales. En este caso, difieren solo en la escala de esta distribución. El artículo también explora la lista de olimpiadas y otros concursos intelectuales y (o) creativos, eventos dirigidos al desarrollo de habilidades intelectuales y creativas, habilidades para participar en la educación física y el deporte, interés en la ciencia (investigación), ingeniería, inventiva, creativa, física. actividades culturales y deportivas, así como la promoción del conocimiento científico, los logros creativos y deportivos, recomendados por el Ministerio de Educación de la Federación de Rusia. Como resultado, se ha identificado el público objetivo de los participantes para los que se inician los concursos.

Palabras clave: competencia, distribución de financiamiento, financiamiento competitivo, clasificación de concursos, concursos interdisciplinarios, actividad educativa y creativa

1. INTRODUCTION

If earlier the word competition was more of a cultural and entertainment nature and was applied mainly to creative competitions, then in the last decade, competitions have tightly entered the financial distribution system.

So, the distribution of finances in the field of procurement of goods, work, services to meet state and municipal needs occurs through public competition (tender) and auctions. At the same time, public competition (tender) means a competition, in which the information on the purchase is communicated by the customer to an general public by posting in a single information system a notification about the holding of such a competition, tender documentation and uniform requirements are made to the participants in the purchase (Federal Law dated 05.04.2013 N 44-Φ3).

In the education system, financing of state educational institutions takes place according to the normative per capita principle, taking into account the increasing coefficients that are assigned to each organization depending on the rank in the general list. This is a kind of competition among educational organizations during the academic year for the right to increased state financing. At the same time, personnel motivation systems of the same educational organizations are also being built on a competitive basis. The implementation of certain works allows you to take a place in the ranking and get the appropriate reward. Grants and subsidies for the implementation of youth, social, scientific, high-tech projects are distributed on a competitive basis through grant-forming organizations (funds). Competitions are also traditionally held for students in schools and universities in the following areas: culture and art, social activities, education and science, and sports. It turns out that the topic of competitive activity covers a lot of areas and target audiences. Therefore, the study of the concept of «competition» is of interest, and even more so the study of approaches to the classification of competitions.

2. METHODS

The basis of the study of the essence of the concept of “competition” is used such theoretical research methods as the search and subsequent analysis of existing interpretations in the scientific literature and the creative processing of the information received.

The study of the competition classification system is based on a comparative analysis of the following approaches:

- a. Popova V.I. and Kelsina A.S., set forth in the scientific work «Olympics in the system of search and development of gifted children» (Popova & Kel'sina, 2011);
- b. Belchusova AA, described in the work «Concept and typology of distance contests» (Bel'chusov, 2011);
- c. Competitive selection of shift participants at the Artek International Children's Center (<https://artek.org>), the All-Russian Ocean Center for Children (<https://ocean.org>), the Orlenok All-Russian Children's Center (<https://center-orlyonok.ru>);
- d. Open tenders in the field of procurement of goods, works, services to meet state and municipal needs (Federal Law dated 05.04.2013 N 44-ФЗ) by the example of T. Yusupova's approach in the work «Tendering: management audit issues» (Yusupova, 2010);
- e. Competitive selection of the best projects in the field of -fundamental, exploratory and applied research carried out by the Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (Yusupova, 2010), the Presidential Grants Development Fund for the Development of Civil Society (The official website of the Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises), and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (<https://президентскиегранты.рф>), The Russian Science Foundation (<https://www.rfbr.ru>).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To clarify the interpretation of the term «competition», it is proposed to turn to explanatory dictionaries. At the same time, it can be noted that most of the authors of the interpretations define this concept as a kind of competition:

- a. with the goal of highlighting the best participants, the best work (The official website of The Russian Science Foundation);
- b. to identify the best of the participants of the submitted works (Ozhegov, 1949);
- c. in order to identify from the list of the most worthy participants or the best works (Bol'shoj enciklopedicheskij slovar', 2003);
- d. giving the opportunity to identify the most worthy of its participants (Efremova, 2006);
- e. on which the strongest participants are determined and awarded (Evgen'eva, 1999);
- f. the competition of several persons in the field of art, sciences, sports in order to highlight the most prominent (Dmitriev, 2003). Note that D. N. Ushakov supplemented his definition with specific areas of activity where competitions can be held.

The concept of «competition» in the Big Dictionary of the Russian Language is interpreted as a review of someone, something that makes it possible to identify the most worthy of its participants (Ushakov, 1935-1940). In other words, this is a public display, familiarization with the material provided, on the basis of which the best can be determined.

The Explanatory Dictionary of the Living Great Russian Language by V. Dal' (Kuznecov, 1998) interprets the competition as a competition for an award, a place, a title; competition lawsuit, competition. Those. in this definition, the emphasis is on the fact that competition is a way to receive remuneration for the work performed. It reflects the motive for participating in competitions.

The term «competition» is more fully disclosed as a form of organization of an activity or process:

- a. the form of organization of extracurricular activities of students (Dal', 1863-1866);

- b. a special form of organization of such educational activities, which is aimed at identifying the best participants and which can be carried out both during the lesson and in extracurricular activities (any competitions, games, tournaments, competitions, conferences, festivals, etc.) (Kirilova & Volik);
- c. a form of organization of the pedagogical process, stimulating the activity of the individual, where the creative abilities of schoolchildren, cognitive activities are updated, the abilities and interests of students are realized (Kuznecova & Melekesova, 2012);
- d. a form of organization of the educational process, during which the identification and development of creative abilities, self-determination, and the implementation in the competitive activity of their desire for socially significant achievements are carried out (Ksenofontova & Tabakova, 2006).

Also, the competition is considered as a tender, that is, a competitive form for the selection of proposals for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the performance of work according to conditions previously announced in the documentation, on time, on the principles of competitiveness, fairness and effectiveness (Gilyadov, 2015; Fridlyanov, 2010; Smirnov & Ershova, 2014; Laryea, 2011).

Having considered the presented interpretations, we highlight the main features of the competition:

- a. vigorous activity and social activity;
- b. competitiveness;
- c. fairness;
- d. effectiveness and efficiency.

Analyzing the interpretation of the term «competition» (Federal Law dated 05.04.2013 N 44-ФЗ; Popova & Kel'sina, 2011; Bel'chusov, 2011; The official website of The Russian Science Foundation; Ozhegov, 1949; Bol'shoj enciklopedicheskij slovar', 2003; Efremova, 2006; Evgen'eva, 1999; Dmitriev, 2003; Ushakov, 1935-1940; Kuznecov, 1998; Dal', 1863-1866; Kirilova & Volik; Kuznecova & Melekesova, 2012; Ksenofontova & Tabakova, 2006; Gilyadov, 2015; Fridlyanov, 2010; Smirnov & Ershova, 2014; Laryea, 2011; Zagvyazinskij, 2008), we can conclude:

- a. a competition is such a form of organization of an activity or a process as competition, competition for an award that provides an opportunity to determine the best of the participants and realize their desires and skills;
- b. there is a need for classification of competitions.

After analyzing the literature, it was not possible to find a complete classification system for competitions. However, several basic approaches to the classification of competitions were identified (see «Methods»). It should be noted that a small number of works (Dal', 1863-1866; Kirilova & Volik; Kuznecova & Melekesova, 2012), in which there are attempts to classify competitions, are also identified. However, the classification presented in these works is not complete. Based on this, an attempt is made to summarize the accumulated material in the format of comparative table 1, including: the approach of Popova V.I. and Kelsina A.S.; Belchusova A.A.; the approach used to select shift participants at the International Children's Center «Artek», the Russian Children's Center «Okean» and Russian Children's Center the «Orlenok»; and approach to evaluating tenders as tenders O.A. Yusupova.

Table 1: Comparison table of approaches to the classification of competitions

Classification feature	Popova V.I., Kelsina A.S. [2]	Belchusova A.A. [3]	«Artek» [4]	«Okean» [5]	«Orlenok» [6]	Yusupova O.A. [7]
Level						
School	✓					
urban	✓		✓			
district	✓		✓		✓	
regional	✓		✓		✓	
zonal	✓		✓			
All-Russian	✓		✓		✓	
interregional			✓			
international	✓		✓		✓	
Form						
absentee	✓		✓			
full-time	✓		✓			
extramural	✓					
network	✓					
Number of participants						
team	✓					
personal (individual)	✓					
Admissibility of Competition Requirements						
one-stage			✓		✓	✓
two-stage			✓		✓	✓
list of participants						
open						✓
closed						✓
Subject of organization						
depends on the organizer: school, college, university	✓					
Content						
sport		✓		✓	✓	

education and science		✓		✓	✓	
culture and art				✓	✓	
social work				✓	✓	
tourist and regional studies					✓	

Based on the data in Table 1, it can be concluded that tenders can be classified according to the following main criteria:

- a. level of conduct;
- b. form of carrying out;
- c. number of participants;
- d. on the subject of the organization;
- e. in content.

At the same time, some approaches to classification provide for splitting the sign «content of the competition» (table 2).

Table 2: Detailing of the classification attribute «Content»

Classification feature	Belchusova A.A. [3]	«Okean» [5]	«Orlenok» [6]
Sport			
martial Arts		✓	✓
applied		✓	
military applied		✓	
complicated		✓	
cyclic		✓	
gaming	✓	✓	
marathon	✓		
match	✓		
championship	✓		
sports day	✓		
tournament	✓		
champion	✓		
relay race	✓		
Education and science			
research		✓	✓
project work		✓	

subject Olympiads	✓	✓	✓
inventive work		✓	
other festivals / competitions	✓	✓	✓
Culture and art			
arts and crafts		✓	
literary		✓	
folk art		✓	
technical		✓	✓
performing arts		✓	
artistic		✓	✓
Social work			
ecology, healthy lifestyle		✓	
diplomacy / Language Olympiads		✓	
volunteering		✓	
leadership		✓	
search, military-patriotic		✓	
media		✓	
Tourist and regional studies			✓

4. SUMMARY

Therefore, it is recommended that competitions be classified by:

- a. Level of conduct at: school, district, regional, all-Russian, international;
- b. The form of conducting: absentee, full-time.

The most important criterion for the classification of competitions that attracts the attention of potential participants is the direction of the competition, that is, determining the type of competition in content (table 2). It is recommended to highlight the following areas:

- a. Sport;
- b. Education and science;
- c. culture and art;
- d. Social work.

The proposed classification has been tested on the example of competitions included in the list of olympiads and other intellectual and (or) creative competitions recommended by the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation, events aimed at developing intellectual and creative abilities, abilities for physical education and sports, interest in scientific (scientific and research), engineering, inventive, creative, physical-sports activities, as well as the promotion of scientific knowledge, creative and sports achievements (Order of the Ministry of Education of Russia). We

have reviewed 222 provisions for contests and events from this list. Table 3 shows the distribution by direction.

Table 3: Competition structure by directions

Name of direction	Quantity, pcs.
Sport	8
Education and science	160
Culture and art	47
Social work	7
Total	222

*Source: compiled by the authors on the basis of the article (Order of the Ministry of Education of Russia).

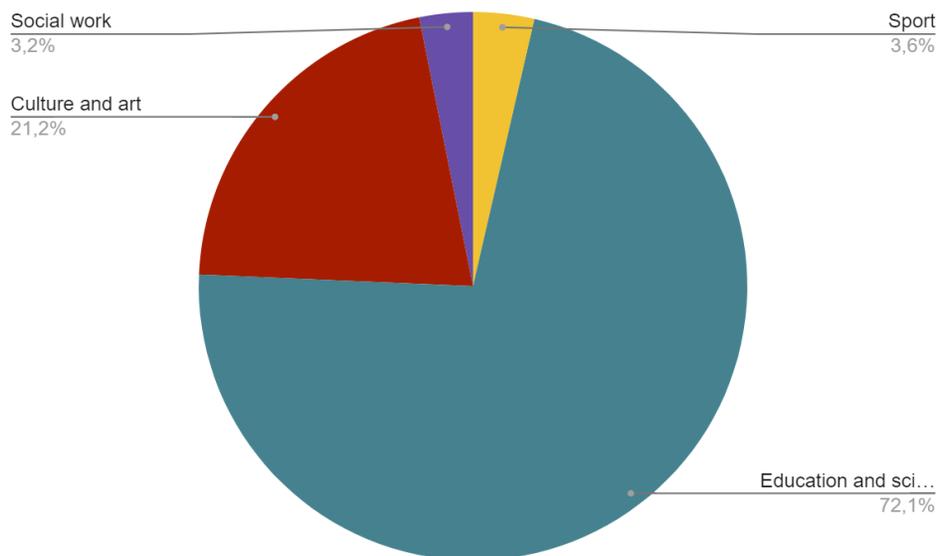


Figure 1: Distribution of competitions, %

Thus, as a result of the study, it became clear that most (72%) of competitions and events recommended by the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation are held in the direction of «Education and Science»; the smallest percentage (3%) - in the direction of «Social activity».

In our approaches to the classification of competitions, there was no such classification criterion as «age of participants». However, using the example of the list of competitions recommended by the Ministry of Education and Education of the Russian Federation, the age limit of potential participants in the competitions is studied. Summary results are presented in table 3.

Table 3: Data Pivot Table

Category (Vozrast, 1991)	Age, years	Quantity, people (Vozrast, 1991)
Primary school age	6-12	75

Teenage years	12-17	200
Youthful period	17-21	83
Mature age, 1 period	21-35	28
Mature age, 2 period	35-60	4

* Source: compiled by the authors on the basis of the article (Order of the Ministry of Education of Russia).

In the formation of table 3, age-related periodization was used, based on anatomical, physiological, and socio-psychological characteristics (Vostrast, 1991-1996; Rodin, 2018; Andreeva, 2019).

The distribution of contestants by age is graphically presented in the form of a diagram in Figure 2.

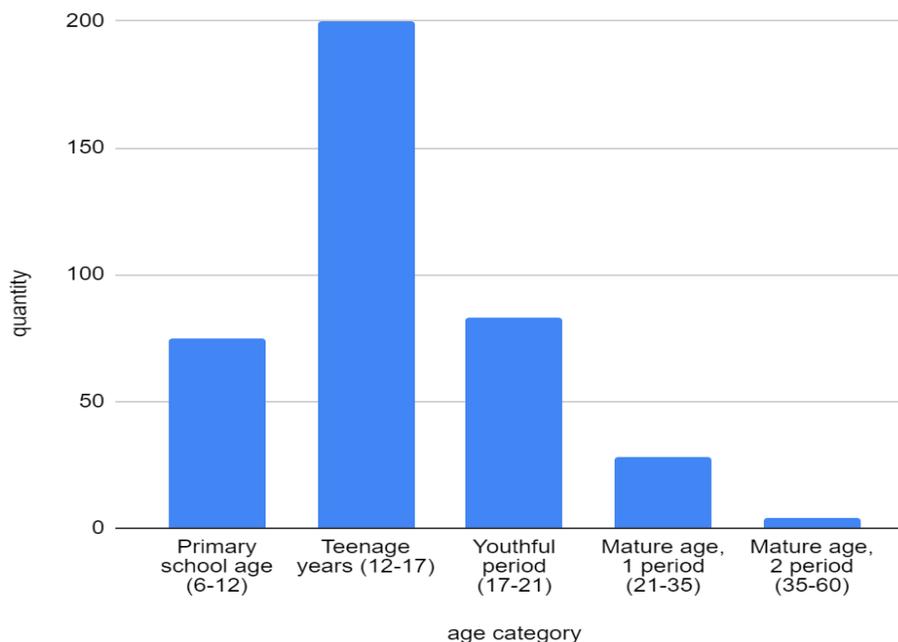


Figure 2: Distribution of contestants by age

Figure 2 clearly demonstrates that activities to a large extent (90%) are designed for adolescent students. In matters of participation in grant competitions from individuals, the issue of age restrictions is also important.

However, in matters of holding open tenders as tenders (state and municipal procurements), the age limit does not matter. It becomes important organizational and legal form of organization - a bidder.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Competitions cover almost all areas of knowledge and capture participants in all sectors of the economy. The main features of competitions are:

- a. vigorous activity and social activity. This involves proactive participation.
- b. competitiveness, competitiveness, which is aimed at improving the quality of the material / proposal submitted to the competition.
- c. justice. This characteristic expands the boundaries and equalizes the chances of all potential participants.
- d. effectiveness and efficiency directly determine the motive for the active activity of potential participants.

As classification signs, it is recommended to allocate to the level of conduct; according to the form of holding; content (direction); type of participant (individual, legal entity). At the same time, it is proposed to divide the directions into: sports, education and science, culture and art, social activities.

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- Zakirova M. I., born October 13, 1998. Student 3th year of Institute of Physics of Kazan (Volga region) Federal University. A native of the city of Shemordan. Studying in the direction of «Innovation».
- Rybkina E.A. is a practitioner in the field of project management. She was the author and supervisor of the master's program "Project Management" at Kazan State Energy University. He has been involved in project financing for more than 15 years.
- Balzamov D.S. is an Associate Professor Department of Energy supply of enterprises and energy-saving technologies, Kazan State Power Engineering University. The scientific direction is the field of high-tech projects in the energy industry.