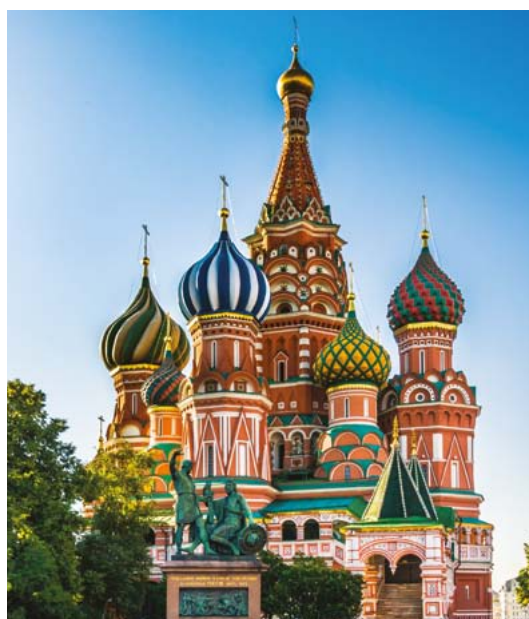




Общественная палата
Российской Федерации

REPORT

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: CIVIL SOCIETY REPORT 2018





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MOSCOW 2018

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INTRODUCTION

This Report has been prepared in compliance with Article 22 of the FZ-32 Law dated 4 April 2005 “On the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation”.

The Report presents the results of the Civic Chamber activities throughout the year: working with the petitions of citizens, holding public undertakings, managing monitoring programs and hotlines with a focus on various urgent issues. Of special importance is synergizing the materials pertinent to the “Community” Forums of active citizens annually convened by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in the federal districts with the final venue in Moscow.

Although it is not a research center, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation discusses all of the most significant problems facing the country. **Attracting a wide range of experts and civil activists, including those from the regions, interacting with people at the local level, “on the ground” is the Chamber’s basic method helping to formulate its position, acquire new knowledge and, simultaneously, promote the culture of social interaction.**

The first Chapter of the Report deals with the engagement of civil society in decision-making on matters that have priority status for the development of the nation: social consolidation, implementation of national projects endorsed



ATTRACTING A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERTS AND CIVIL ACTIVISTS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM THE REGIONS, INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, “ON THE GROUND” IS THE CHAMBER’S BASIC METHOD HELPING TO FORMULATE ITS POSITION, ACQUIRE NEW KNOWLEDGE AND, SIMULTANEOUSLY, PROMOTE THE CULTURE OF SOCIAL INTERACTION.

on the basis of the May Decree of the Russian President¹, spatial development, environmental issues and measures to control oncological diseases.

The second Chapter focuses on the activities pursued by major civil interaction institutes and structures – civic chambers, social councils under the authorities exercising executive power. It also provides an assessment of the efficiency of public control mechanisms, including public monitoring committees (PMC), as well as mass media and media content in civil society.

The third Chapter is dedicated to the dynamics of the non-profit sector, socially-oriented NPOs, charity and ultraneous (voluntary) services.



Special attention is paid to the matters related to the regulatory control and financial **support** of the Third Sector from the government.

The status of civil society is defined not only and not entirely on the basis of statistical data and social survey findings, notwithstanding their relevance. **Of primary importance to the evaluation of the status of civil society is its current agenda: the existing problems and conflicts in the public limelight, all that various public associations, non-profit organizations and politically conscious citizens intend to deal with, those tasks that they set for themselves, those questions that they pose to the executive authorities.** These subjects are examined in the fourth Chapter.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is made up of 168 members comprising 19 commissions. The Chamber holds over 1,300 public undertakings on an annual basis, processes tens of thousands of petitions filed by the citizens, sends thousands of letters, hundreds of recommendations and proposals to the executive authorities and local government administrations. As the entire volume cannot be fully accommodated within the present Report, many issues are outlined very briefly in the text, without any detailed and profound exploration, whereas the details can be found at the Website of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation – oprf.ru.



CIVIL SOCIETY IN RUSSIA AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES



#CIVIL ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE



Today, our nation and society are confronted with large-scale challenges, both on the international and domestic arena. Russia is rich not only in natural resources, but also in talents, we possess a unique cultural heritage, an immense science and technical potential. We can do everything, inter alia something that no one else can do, except us: we can build spacecraft, nuclear power plants and hypersonic missiles. We can carry out grandiose projects that have geostrategic significance, for

instance, such as the Crimean bridge or the FIFA World Cup – the best throughout its history.

Being in possession of such wealth, we ought to secure decent living standards for all citizens of our great country.

Public opinion polls indicate that Russian citizens are currently concerned with social injustice, inequality and poverty most of all. Our country is

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ranked to be the third among 82 nations in terms of regional inequality and it is one of the three leaders in terms of inequality of the constituent regions within the country among the European and Central Asian states, Russia also holds one of the top places in the world in terms of inequality in wealth distribution. More than half of all Russian citizens have no savings at all². Most certainly, it cannot be denied that inequality is a global problem.

On the other hand, **the primary criterion for the assessment of the performance of the government authorities at all levels has acquired a moral dimension.** It is related to the fact that Russian civil society has become stronger. A series of recent scandals – similar to the offensive remarks made by the government functionaries followed by their discharge from the office – show that noticeable changes have taken place in society: the standards of tolerance toward injustice and boorish behavior have been considerably lowered. The basis for such change in the social atmosphere has been provided by growing trust among citizens toward each other, their readiness to protect the common interests.

An important prerequisite for such a change in the public atmosphere was social consolidation, a patriotic upsurge – the very “post-Crimean consensus” that has not disappeared anywhere today. The fundamental values of social consolidation remain the traditional values of Russians: Motherland, Freedom, Justice. It is the adherence to these values, with all the diversity and inconsistency of their current interpretations and understanding, that significantly increases the moral and ethical sensitivity of Russian society.

The task of civil society structures in the framework of a “mutually responsible partnership”

is to prevent and, if necessary, oppose the power of bureaucracy. The appropriate expertise is needed as part of public scrutiny. It is intended to become a necessary part of the regulatory impact assessment of regulatory acts, the practice of actions of the authorities at all levels.

It is impossible to radically improve the living standards in our country without the engagement of active representatives of civil society and just ordinary people at the local level. It can be often heard that citizens are not sufficiently competent to participate in the discussion and in the control of management decisions. Some sociologists have asserted that the public discussion of the injustice and inequality issue is fraught with risks, as it may give rise to the explosion of populism, which will impede the introduction of reforms. As if only the elite knew which reforms should be carried out, and the citizens were totally unaware of it.

However, such an approach is profoundly wicked. As a matter of fact, the ultimate goal of the transformations is a dignified life of a person. **People experience the fallout over the decision-making – whether positive or negative – not in theory, they find out the hard way.**

One of the priority projects pursued by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation – the Community Forums in the Russian regions – is designed to promote a broad discussion of the urgent agenda facing civil society, including individual complaints and also concrete proposals and projects. In 2018, over 200 thematic discussions were held within the framework of eight forums, they were attended by almost 15,000 people.

During one of the field trips, the members of the Civic Chamber inspected the new building of a regional Civic Chamber after a thorough refurbishment. Indeed, it looked neat and attractive on the outside. However, the representatives of local public organizations noticed that the new entrance ramp that was put in place as a result of refurbishment was absolutely unfit for the needs of disabled persons, in contrast to the old one, and the people in wheelchairs would have great difficulty to enter the building. **One could explain for hours on end that the most “innovative” and “breakthrough” technologies were used in the construction, but if the people say that the situation was now worse than before, then their opinion cannot be ignored anyway.** Of course, the citizens have to deal with more serious problems. For example, when new residential compounds are built, but the development plan does not envisage the construction of a kindergarten, school, outpatient clinic, or when the social infrastructure facilities envisaged under the plan are not built at all – this eventually leads to social conflicts.

It is vital to perform the checking “on the ground” of large-scale strategic projects which have an impact on the living standards of thousands of our citizens. At the “Community” Forum in the Far Eastern federal region, the social activists paid attention to the condition of the port of Nakhodka. The city gained the status of a free port and was soon transformed into a coal haulage hub. In its turn, this resulted in the closure of traditional production plants, disruption of the existing technological chains, emergence of environmental problems – even the actual loss of the main local sight, the sand beach. This was followed by a migration drain of the population, as the people were made redundant and deprived of their traditional living environment. Yes, the free port status affords certain economic profitability, but the final objective of all changes should be the improvement of the quality of life for the people. Yet, in this case, the developments have taken an opposite area.

In this respect, people are very competent to make a judgment, and **often it is not even appropriate to implement massive projects without such “popular” review.** Moreover, this idea was explicitly articulated by Russian President Vladimir Putin: “Ultimately, the most important thing is the real positive changes in the life of each person, each Russian family. And for us, this is precisely that matters, what we need is the result, and we want people to see that the cities, for example, and the villages are becoming more comfortable and convenient, the new roads are built, we want to make sure that the operation of kindergartens, schools, hospitals, social sector, overall, is changing for the better, the social and municipal services can be made available easily, without standing in a queue – this is a matter of importance. Let me repeat, it is extremely important to establish a feedback mechanism, to coordinate our steps with the interests of the people, to do everything possible to get them directly involved in our development projects”³.



The task for the elite is to embrace the real values and strivings of the people and, proceeding from that, to formulate pragmatic operational goals and objectives so that the entire society could understand and accept those goals and objectives. Thus, a consolidation of efforts occurs in the context of development objectives, and the community becomes united, and the state is robust. According to the Russian President, we need “efforts intended to unite people, to consolidate the work of civil society and the state – what our predecessors called “common wisdom”, “**common experience**”⁴.

The trust is formed primarily through the engagement of citizens in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of decisions that directly affect the quality of life and the future of children. In this regard, we have serious achievements, but there are many examples of a purely bureaucratic approach, attempts to impose the so-called unpopular decisions on society.

A bad example was the model of pension reform, which was traditionally bureaucratic and presented to the population as a fait accompli. It is not surprising that people reacted negatively: judging by opinion polls, citizens do not believe in an increase in pensions after the reform and see the

meaning of all the changes that the state wants to make older people work longer and withdraw their well-earned pensions. It is clear that such a public atmosphere, in its turn, promotes the growth of mistrust. In this situation, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation saw its main mission in bringing the concerns of citizens to the attention of the executive branch. Following the special meeting at the site of the Chamber, 27 questions were posed to the Government⁵ concerning labor discrimination, problems of regional labor markets, advanced training and vocational guidance for people of middle and old age, labor migrants, the situation of families with children, youth unemployment, etc.⁶. The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection substantiated the Government’s position on the need to raise the retirement age, provided calculations showing how the economy and citizens would benefit from new parameters of the pension system, presented a plan of measures to protect the labor rights of citizens of pre-retirement age. In August 2018, the President of Russia made a direct appeal to citizens, in which he proposed to correct the initial norms of the draft law. These proposals and the final version of the bill reflected many proposals of the community.





Another large – scale project is public monitoring of the presidential election in Russia – showed a huge constructive potential of public-state partnership and civil self-organization. In accordance with the Federal law No. 374-FZ as of December 5, 2017 on amendments to the Federal Law on the election of the President of the Russian Federation, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the civic chambers of the regions have been granted the right to send observers independent from political parties to monitor the electoral process at the polling stations. At the request of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and public chambers in the regions, the election was monitored by 1866 federal, regional and municipal public organizations from all regions of Russia and about 150 thousand observers. In fact, in a few months a new significant public institution was created, initiated by civil society and supported by a new legislative framework. It was the efforts of citizens, rather than impersonal means of control, that significantly increased the legitimacy of the election and put a barrier to manipulation.

The potential of civil society is clearly revealed in the engagement of socially oriented non-profit organizations in the provision of social services to the population. The engagement of NPOs in the provision of social services to the public sector is a way to increase contest and improve the quality of social services. The NPOs have obvious advantages: creative attitude to business, for many it is a labor of love, and sometimes an innovative laboratory that develops new approaches to the provision of services.

Visible results have been achieved in this area that we lacked even a few years ago. But there are also gaps mentioned by representatives of socially oriented NPOs (SO NPOs) at the "Community" Forums in the regions. In the first place, no billing system was developed for new types of services provided by the NPO to the population. In some regions the transfer of services to SO NPO was done via re-registration of the state (municipal) organizations to non-profit ones, which is contrary to the very idea underlying the project. This issue was discussed at the "Community" Forums in

all federal districts. A number of proposals and recommendations were developed for the executive authorities aimed at facilitating access to the social services market and improving competitive conditions.

The growth of public activity has manifested itself in the development of volunteerism. 2018 was declared the Year of Volunteer in Russia. Thanks to their activity, the World Cup was held at the highest level in our country. The guests left home

after it feeling love for Russia. On the other hand, in addition to event volunteering, there were a lot of important volunteer initiatives in the country, where people help to search for missing children or transport food to elderly people in remote villages on a regular basis. Yet, such volunteers rarely participate in official events and discussions, they are often not even registered, and therefore they are hardly taken into account by statistical observation.

My Project for My Country 2018!

The aim of the contest is identification and dissemination of best practices, support and involvement of their authors in the development of constructive civil activity in Russia

In 2018, applications for participation in the contest came from almost all the regions. The total number of applications amounted to **1310**.

The final stage of the project involved **42** projects with three participants in each of the 14 nominations.



The ceremony took place at the final "Community" Forum in November 2018.

Nominations and winners:

Social Care. Social Services and Social Support

Lyudmila Nikonova,

"Golden Hour" (training senior people of the older generation in first aid skills), Saransk

Support Sports and Healthy Lifestyles.

Health Protection and Healthy Lifestyle Promotion

David Martirosyan,

"Match of equal opportunities", Krasnoyarsk

Family, Motherhood and Childhood Support. Family, Motherhood and Childhood Support and Traditional Family Values Protection

Sophia Efanova,

"Small Houses from a Large Family", Lipetsk Region, Krutye Khutora village.

Youth Policy. Youth Initiatives Support

Ekaterina Antonova,

"Love Surprise", Rostov-on-Don

Science and Education. Science, Education and Awareness Development

Valeria Asafova,

"Street of Childhood", Perm

Culture. Projects in the Area of Culture, Art and Cultural Heritage Preservation

Larisa Abasheva,

"Theatre-Studio" ORA (Life), Yekaterinburg

Basic Rights and Freedoms. Human and Civil Rights and Freedom Protection

Alexander Ternovtsov

"Pravomobil", Kursk

Ecology. Ecology and Environmental Protection

Alexey Sitnin,

"Where the garbage goes" - a system of public monitoring of removal and disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW), Moscow

Interethnic Relations. Strengthening Interethnic and Interfaith Accord

Yana Belova,

"Cultural, educational and integration center "Migrant School", Khanty-Mansiysk

People's Diplomacy. Public Diplomacy Development and Compatriots Support

Victor Golubev,

international educational project "Skazkoteka" (Tales of Russia to children of Russia and Germany), Kaliningrad

Civic Duty. Patriotic Education and Historical Memory Preservation

Alina Atamanenko,

"Regional Award" People's Hero", Omsk

Volunteering and Charity. Charity and Volunteering Initiatives

Alla Osipova,

Social charitable program "Helping Hand", Kaliningrad

NPOs Infrastructure, Promotion of Non-Profit Sector and Socially Focused NPOs Development

Anastasia Maskayeva,

"Prevention of emotional burnout - Second Breath", St. Petersburg

Public Control. Public Control over Governmental and Local Administration Activities

Alexey Poleshchuk,

"Kaluga regional portal of civil initiatives" KALUGA-GOLOS", Kaluga Region, Kuibyshevsky District, village Lopatino ⁷



#NATIONAL PROJECTS: FOUNDATION FOR A BREAKTHROUGH



The main task for the coming years is the implementation of national projects identified in the May Decree of the President of Russia. Ambitious goals have been set. Their achievement will enable our country to make an economic breakthrough and a noticeable improvement in living standards. It is necessary to clearly understand: national priorities are not just a matter of public administration technology, but a social and political issue that concerns all citizens of Russia.

Therefore, while carrying out national projects, it is impossible to focus only on formal numbers and schedules, the main thing is to take into account the interests and values of people. This is what the President of Russia said in his address to citizens after winning the March elections: "All the upcoming decisions, even the most difficult ones, will be dictated by only one thing – the need to overcome the backlog that still exists in some areas, to ensure the dynamic development of the country and a new quality of life of people, to

respond to the historical challenges that we face. And most importantly, any of these decisions will ultimately be made solely in the interests of our country, our citizens, for the sake of our children and future generations"⁸.

Therefore, the role of civil society in carrying out national projects today is more crucial than ever. Only society can push the bureaucracy to those decisions that take into account the interests of people at the local level, and then to implement public control over the adopted decisions. This was directly said by the President of Russia: "We need substantial control, essential control. It is impossible to replace real business by bureaucratic reports, and nominal performance of orders, as it sometimes still happens"⁹.

The engagement of civil society is not limited to control, it comes with its own initiatives, projects that should be seamlessly taken into account in managerial decisions. It is obvious

that the departmental programs often lack a living thought and breakthroughs, while negative scenarios are often not considered, and a real public expertise, sociological surveys are not carried out.

A breakthrough can be achieved only in the context of public consolidation around development goals, which is possible in an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding between civil society and the state. This consolidation means not only the creation broad public support for the goals and objectives of the “Russian breakthrough”, resisting the “fear traders” and populists who spread discord and mistrust instead of constructive criticism. Consolidation is a condition for strengthening the All-Russian unity. The norms, values and ideas that consolidate the majority of our society are practically necessary to increase the efficiency of the entire system of institutions that need public support to this end; integration of public interests that can overcome departmental, corporate and regional lobbyism. The discussion of these issues, as well as the development of the foundations of a broad public consensus and substantive platform of public consolidation will be promoted by the project the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation “All-Russian Unity. What unites us”¹⁰.

Within the framework of solving the “Russian breakthrough” issues, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation sees its role in the following:

- forming a broad public alliance with civil associations, religious organizations, national and international associations for stepping up the All-Russian unity, the moral and ethical foundation of social and state development;

- creating a system of monitoring and public control over the development and implementation of national projects based on an agreement between the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the All-Russian Popular Front, trade unions and business associations, the relevant councils under the President of the Russian Federation;

- organizing competitions of all-Russian, regional and local projects aimed at the implementing the spatial development objectives and goals, unleashing the creative potential of local civic activists;

- carrying out a number of regional pilot projects aimed at integrating the reputable civic activists into civil communities, at encouraging vertical mobility of these activists, promoting active, professional and responsible civic activists in civic chambers, municipal and regional meetings.

The Civic Chamber sees its mission in contributing to constructive dialogue with state authorities, in helping civil society to articulate its interests, arranging them into

specific realizable projects. Our goal is to form a public demand for development policy, to strengthen not the formal bureaucratic, but the informative technology of civic engagement in this policy. Thus, it is not only about monitoring the implementation of managerial decisions already taken, but also about moving towards creating various elements of public administration at the local, regional and federal levels.

This experience gradually accumulates and there are successful examples of engagement of civil society in shaping the concept of national projects.

In the regions, the main sites of the public-state dialogue are the civic chambers. In the conditions, when the public demand for upholding their interests is growing significantly, civic chambers and councils in the regions get a chance for more active development – as discussion platforms, in which positions of the parties on controversial issues are discussed and agreed. Civic Chamber exists, primarily, to ensure the interaction of individuals and their associations with the authorities. To this end, a number of regional civic chambers have created special platforms for such interaction. Here are just a few examples. The Civic Chamber of Leningrad Region launched the People’s Expertise¹¹ portal so that the residents of the region could report on various problems, promptly receive answers and track the progress of feedback consideration. The role of the people’s overseers in solving the problems is entrusted to the municipal civic chambers of the region. The Civic Chamber of Kaluga Region runs a portal of civil initiatives KALUGA-GOLOS¹², where you can not only report problems for their further addressed by the portal to specialized authorities, but also tell about the good deeds of ordinary people, about efficient practices of NPO and civil society activists.

Today, these institutions are also involved in the examination of bills, carry out public scrutiny, are involved in the formation of regional public councils. In some subject regions of the Federation, Civic chambers are vested with the right of legislative initiative.

Civic chambers in the regions have a serious potential that showed the system of public

supervision at the election. Today, the main task of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and civic chambers in the regions is to set the content technology of civic engagement in the discussion and implementation of national projects. Here is the data of a fresh public opinion poll. Should the civic chambers participate in monitoring the implementation of the most important presidential decrees, for example, the May Decree? 49.4% of respondents say: yes, they should participate, and only 7% think that they should not. People expect that the civic chambers will take an active part in the implementation of national projects – both in the form of public control and through the promotion of fresh ideas and decisions that always appear among active citizens.¹³.

In this regard, the Council of Civic Chambers of the Regions decided to create ad hoc working groups whose task would be to monitor the implementation of national projects. The engagement in the implementation of the May Decree is a priority in the activities of civic chambers for the coming years. At the meeting of the council, the chairmen of regional civic chambers described their experience of participating in the discussion of national projects. So, the Chairman of the Civic Chamber of Vologda Region Olga Danilova has informed colleagues that all members of the chamber are included in the working groups on various aspects of national projects and participate in harmonization of national projects passports. The Chairperson of the Civic Chamber of Novosibirsk Region Galina Gridneva reported on the active engagement of public figures in the discussion of national projects: an inter-commission working group on the May Decree of the President works in the region, which analyzes the situation and reports the results at the expanded sessions.

The “Community” Forum of active citizens in the federal districts showed that in the regions there are many civil activists and not just indifferent citizens ready for a constructive dialogue with the authorities. It is important to more actively involve such people in the work of civic chambers, public councils under the executive authorities in the regions, public monitoring committees.





#SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT



Urbanist and former member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Vyacheslav Glazychev used to say “How can a territory develop? This is a person that can develop through his/her activity and life in the territory”¹⁴. **The main thing is to create modern comfortable living conditions regardless of the place of residence.** The Civic Chamber believes this approach to development to be the only right one. Meanwhile, in departmental programs, the basic factors are often ignored.

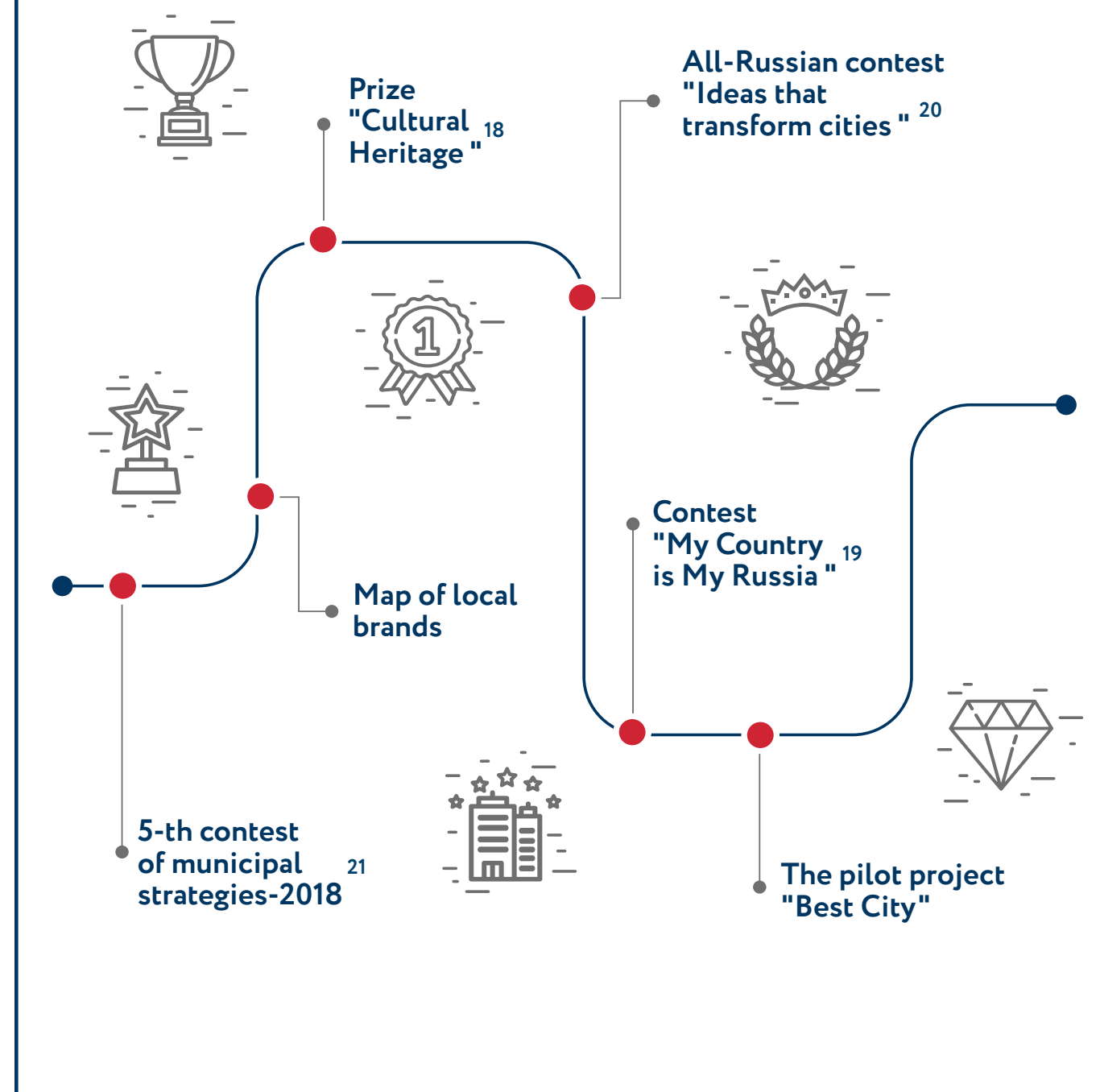
Spatial Development Strategy is formally targeted at the solution of these problems¹⁵. **Public hearings on the document to the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation showed that the draft strategy is detached from the needs of people at the local level and is focused solely on growth points including large metropolitan areas, commodity or agricultural development zones. At the same time the project ignores middle and small towns, rural settlements.** The proposed draft of the territory strategy is evaluated only from retrospective positions and does not take into account their potential. The regions themselves do not agree with the specialization and division into 14 macro-regions imposed on them. Moreover, the draft strategy completely ignores

middle and small towns, rural settlements¹⁶. The document lacks clear goals and indicators of their achievement, does not describe the mechanisms for implementing the strategy, including financial ones, lacks data on the development prospects of some areas (for example, in the power section there is no information about the associated water infrastructure; in the agriculture section attention is paid only to grain, but there is nothing said about animal husbandry, etc.), there is no unifying idea for the subject regions of the Russian Federation.

It is obvious that without a broad public debate, such documents should not be accepted. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is ready to become an expert network platform, working with regional experts in Moscow and in the subject regions of the Federation to discuss region-specific development projects.

The development of the country is possible only through the development of the province. **The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation sees this development through the creation and maintenance of competitive advantages of the territories** – it is necessary to formulate mechanisms to support such projects throughout the country¹⁷.

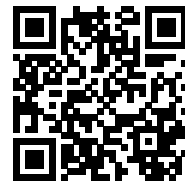
Projects of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on finding competitive



Different types of comfortable environment should be developed for different territories. Typical solutions are not applicable to territories of different size and type. In this regard, it is

necessary to develop a classification of territories and, depending on the type of territory, propose ITS development programs.

#SMALL CITIES AND VILLAGES



The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation pays special attention to the situation in small towns and rural areas. In recent years, our country can boast of record harvests and grain exports. But the quality of life in the village does not improve, people leave, the gaps in the level of well-being in cities, small towns and villages extend. According to the 2010 All-Russian Population Census, more than 10% of villages in Russia do not have permanent residents, and in most of the “living” rural settlements the number of inhabitants does not exceed 50 people, 36 thousand villages have less than ten people²². Over the years, the situation has aggravated.

People leave their residence for two reasons. First of all, it is, of course, lack of work. Secondly, the disorder of life and infrastructure degradation. Only 35% of the villages have a central water supply system and 5% have sewerage²³. Approximately 20 thousand rural schools have been closed in Russia since 2001²⁴. The situation with the availability of medical institutions in rural areas and libraries deteriorates. Obviously, it has not yet been possible to revitalize the territories with the help of the existing support systems, including grants to beginning farmers.

Endangered and abandoned village is a road to nowhere, and the potential of rural areas is great. **The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has argued for several years now it has been said that the causes of rural degradation are largely due to the fact that in the management culture all indicators** of rural development are linked to macroeconomic indicators and the development of large agricultural holdings. Meanwhile, those goals that could contribute to the consolidation of people in rural areas are completely absent. The main thing for this is the creation of modern comfortable living conditions regardless of the place of residence. We are talking about intuitive and simple things: basic infrastructure (water, electricity, gas, sewerage, roads, public transport), social sites (school, kindergarten, polyclinics), leisure space. **The village**

comes to life in places, where the state creates such conditions, and there are such successful examples in the country.

At the final “Community” Forum in Moscow, there was a presentation of villages of Belgorod Region, where they refer mainly to the quality of life in the country. Paved roads, manicured parks, public buildings, modern educational facilities, quality houses. In Krasnodar Territory, local activists with the support of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory and the Territory Civic Chamber for the Sustainable Development of Rural Areas have created a resource center “Development of rural (agrarian) tourism in the Krasnodar Territory”, where representatives of rural territories and local communities are taught how to attract tourists²⁵. Similar projects will provide for the growth of consumption and the growth of economy, including at the expense of interesting projects in the field of rural tourism. People, who have stable incomes and purchasing power, are the main customers of local small and medium-sized businesses.

We all need to work that there were many more such examples of the revival of rural life. It requires strategic management decisions that will improve the rural infrastructure. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation receives persistent complaints of citizens on the lack of ability to connect to gas networks. It is time to take decisions obliging the heads of the subject regions of the Federation, in case of availability of gas distribution stations, to ensure the construction of street gas networks in settlements so that owners had an opportunity to obtain technical conditions for joining the gas pipeline located at a distance of up to 200 meters.

It is important to review the priorities of the development of the road network. In recent years, a large amount of work on road construction has been performed, but it relates to the federal highway network, which stretches along 50 thousand km

“

THE CIVIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION HAS ARGUED FOR SEVERAL YEARS THAT THE CAUSES OF RURAL DEGRADATION ARE LARGELY DUE TO THE FACT THAT IN THE MANAGEMENT CULTURE ALL INDICATORS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT ARE LINKED TO MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS.

”



and for which 500 billion rubles has been allocated. Regional and municipal roads comprise 1.5 million sq km and the same amount was allocated for their maintenance. In order to bring the roads up to 50% of the normative state, it is necessary to increase the amount of funds allocated for the construction, maintenance and repair of the regional and local road network.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, jointly with the All-Russian Association of passengers, monitored the transport accessibility of small towns in several regions. Problems were identified in the bus service. In some cases, the regional governments are ready to buy buses and launch routes, but there is no quality roadway, in other regions there are no buses.

There are regions where there is no clear understanding of what areas need new bus routes. The problem should be solved point-by-point, taking into account the characteristics of each region. With the support of the Government of the Russian Federation, the commercial leasing program should be expanded.

Also in 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation jointly with the Russian Union of rural youth carried out monitoring and began to form a public standard for the accessibility of social and engineering infrastructure in rural settlements named “Standard of the Village”. The problem is not only that many villages do not have social sites, but on the basis of existing regulations, it is difficult to justify their necessity. The standard assumes the division of rural settlements into five categories-by the number of inhabitants: up to 100, up to 2000, up to 5 000, up to 10,000 people and more, and the requirements are set in such areas as Availability of social facilities”, “Availability of trade organizations, consumer services, leisure”, “Availability of engineering infrastructureThe problem is not only that many villages do not have social sites, but on the basis of existing regulations, it is difficult to justify their necessity“, “State of roads”, “Provision of housing and its condition”, “Availability of infrastructure for household waste disposal“. At the final “Community” Forum, it was proposed to fix the minimum requirements for the provision of infrastructure in developing rural areas in the normative act²⁶.

Major infrastructural problems in the villages:



40%

lack of centralized
Internet connection



37%

problems
with sewage



32%

no gas supply



29%

garbage disposal
issues



28%

lack of water supply



11%

a shortage
of power supply

Of course, it is impossible to conclude on the basis of these data that the Internet is more important than electricity. Simply, there is electricity in the vast majority of settlements)
27, 28

Among the social, trade, household and leisure infrastructure facilities within walking distance, the villagers lack:



49%

supplementary child
education centers



48%

sport facilities
(playgrounds,
gyms, etc.)

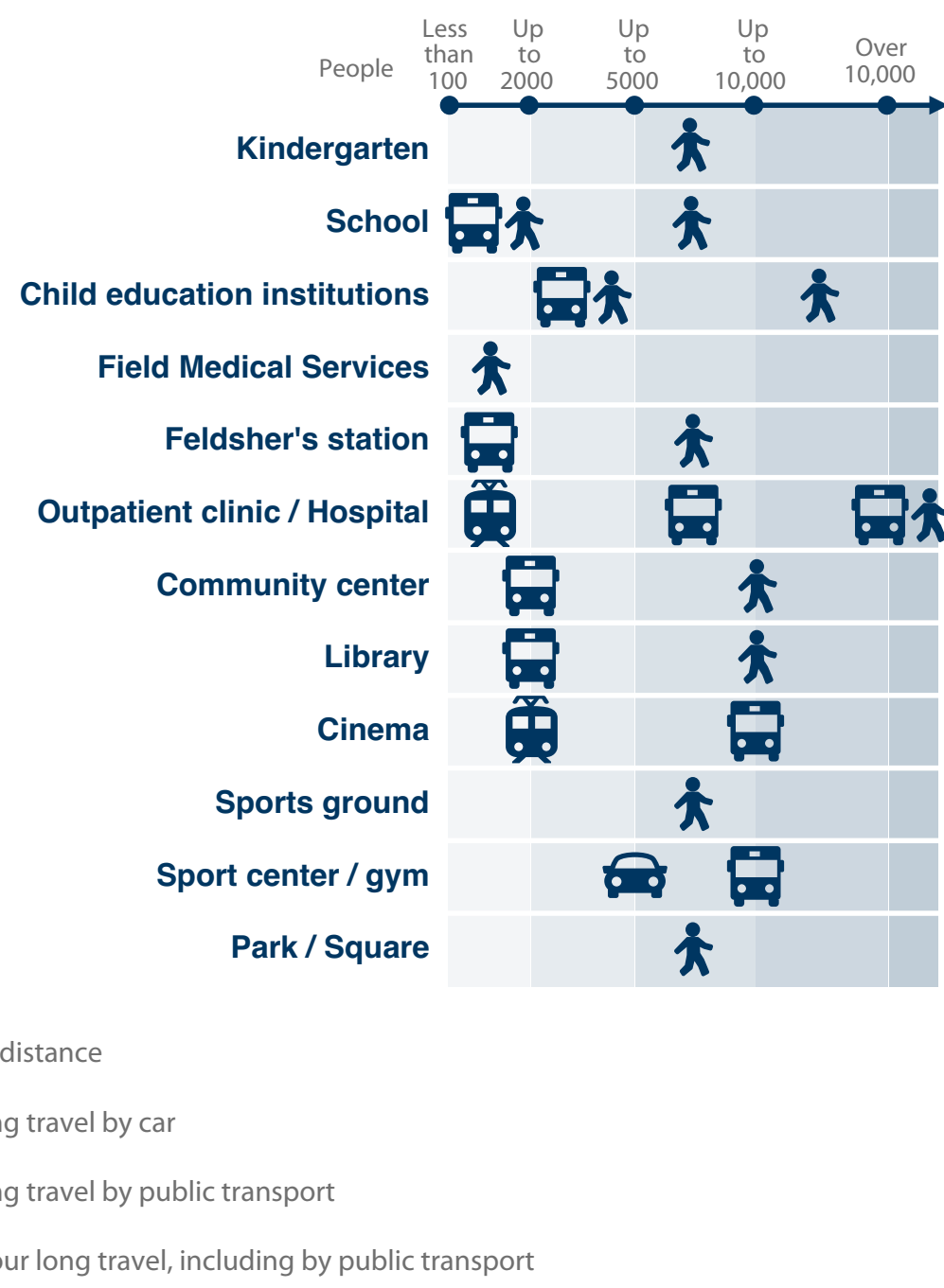


41%

cafes, bars
and canteen

Source: The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Russian Union of Rural Youth²⁹

The requirements of the standard for availability of social sites by categories of rural settlements



Source: The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Russian Union of Rural Youth³⁰

In addition to creating the infrastructure, it is equally important to create new jobs in the country. You will often hear that modern agricultural production involves far fewer people than the Soviet collective farms. But this approach

does not take into account different circumstances. Today in Russia, agricultural production chains have gaps, for example, breeding work is weak, seed farming is not well developed, there are not enough logistics centers, etc. A full-fledged

SELF-ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL RESIDENTS, PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFICIENT MECHANISMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TERRITORIES.



strategy for the development of the agricultural sector should consist in restoring the fullest possible chain of agricultural production with thousands of industries in small towns and in rural areas. It is important to create conditions for the development of local business through simplified or patent system of taxation. Within the framework of state support for rural areas, it should be possible to issue grants to students of agricultural universities to organize their own business in rural areas.

Of course, it is impossible to stop natural migration flows by a directive, but it is necessary to maintain the existing competitive advantages and new projects in small towns. New non-standard approaches are required. The Smart City³¹ project and programs on creation of production zones around the municipal centers, which are implemented in some regions of Russia, are of the utmost interest. Thanks to digital technology, people can work remotely, without leaving their cities in economic centers, for example, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation welcomes the initiatives for moving call centers of major companies to small towns. In many countries the largest university campuses are located in small towns.

Not only the economy, but also civil activity allows to revive the territory. **Self-organization of local residents, engagement in decision-making is**

one of the most efficient mechanisms for the development of territories. Famous, proactive budgeting, community foundations are important channels of positive developments in the territories. Thus, in 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation acted as an intermediary for the local community and municipal authorities of the city of Tutaev and for the first time in the country applied the practice of the territory co-management.

The municipal governments are the best familiar with local characteristics and realize the development problems of their territory. However, local government is faced with the problem of extremely low economic security. In this regard, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation proposes to consider the translation of all special taxes to the local level.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation sees the mainstream development of small territories through building and maintaining competitive advantages with groundbreaking projects. Today, it is important to formulate mechanisms to support such projects throughout the country³². The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation proposes to develop a state program to support enterprises in small cities and rural areas. Each of the twelve national projects to this end should identify specific indicators, as well as prepare the priority national project to support the competitiveness of small territories³³.



#ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



An example of using public competences is situation in the environmental sphere. 2017 was declared the Year of Environment by the President of Russia, but, unfortunately, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has to admit that some issues have not been resolved. There are still water discharges from settlements without cleaning or with unsatisfactory cleaning due to poorly operating sewage treatment plants. In fact, the system of penalties does not work, which should be applied both to owners having treatment facilities on their balance, and to the heads of municipalities and the regions.

The most acute problem in recent years is the disposal of household waste. The absence of a clear strategy of processing led to the uncontrolled expansion of the old and creating new landfills for waste disposal that affected the environment and human health. **Therefore, in recent years,**

the garbage issue has turned from a purely technological into an acute social and political one.

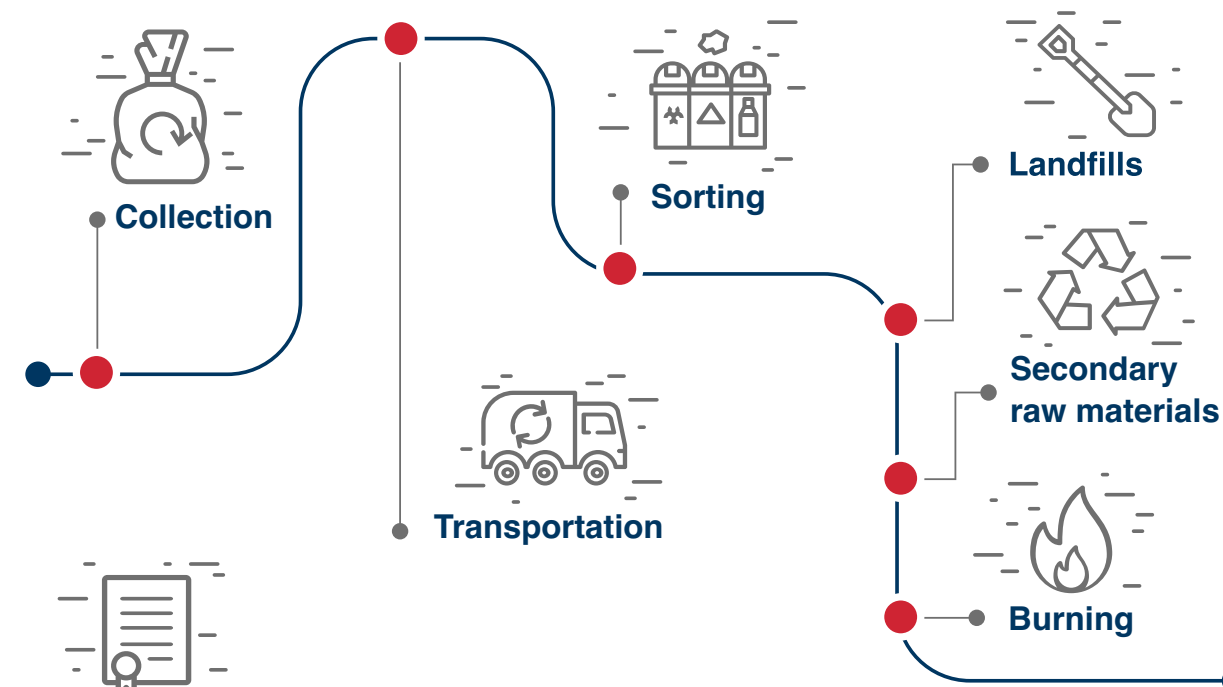
In some regions, people are literally piled with garbage, and their opinion is totally ignored, which leads to the justified discontent and protests. Garbage business is in private ownership and brings high profits to individual companies. It turns out that such business cannot ensure environmental security. **In this situation, the state must take responsibility.**

But the public outcry surrounding the situation exposed another side of the problem, the lack of adequate competencies and specialized professionals in the executive branch, which could offer a model for the reorganization of the system of collection and recycling of waste. In this regard, the public and expert circles joined the formation

of the national project "Environment": on behalf of the President of Russia, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation prepared a report in 2018 "Analysis of the efficiency of measures to ensure the processing of solid municipal waste and proposals to ensure the consideration of the opinion of citizens of the Russian Federation in the construction of facilities used for the processing

of the said waste"³⁴. **The report stated that in our country there is absolutely no waste recycling industry. In fact, it was proposed to create this industry under state control through the construction of high-tech waste processing facilities, the creation of a public law company in the field of waste management and nationalization of landfills.**

Organization of waste recycling industry



Objectives of public not-for-profit organization

- Organization of sorting plants construction (including conversion)
- Proceeds from sales - 150 billion rubles
- Search and stimulation of consumers
- Search and coordination of territories
- Organization of transportation
- Stimulating state-of-the-art technology
- Working with the public



Financing

- Soft-term financing of development institutions (VEB) at the stages of facilities design and construction
- Bond issue
- Refusal from direct financing of the regions

Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



The task of the public law company in the field of waste management is to organize the construction of waste sorting plants, stimulate the introduction of modern technologies and coordinate all work with the population at the local level.

Proposals of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation were reflected in the passport of the national project “Environment”. This is a great example of civil society engagement in the governance through enhanced expert competencies

of community members or public co-management. It is important that the ideas were implemented.

In 2018, with the support of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, a project was implemented to create an institute of public environmental inspectors³⁵. Anyone who cares about the state of the environment can become a public environmental inspector. You need to register on the site <http://publicmonitoring.ru/>.

#FAR EAST



One of the national priorities is the development of the Far East. As Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an article published by the 25th APEC Summit, “it is about creation of growth territories in the region, large-scale development of natural resources and support of advanced high-tech industries, investment in human capital, education and health, in setting up competitive research centers”³⁶.

Following the results of the Eastern Economic Forum, held on September 11 – 13, 2018, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed an order for the preparation of the national program for the development of the Far East, as well as the implementation of public control over its implementation. Today, however, only five State programs conform to the plans of the advanced development of the Far East, and 24 state programs that do not conform it³⁷. Many social problems remain unresolved. Here are some examples of problems that the residents of the Federal District said during “Community” Forum in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk on October 3–4, 2018: Lack of gas supply and hot water in the city, where there is a plant for the production of liquefied natural gas; high prices for flights from Sakhalin to the mainland, as flights to Sakhalin are subsidized, and flights back are not; shortage of branches of Sberbank and Russian Post in small towns of the Far East, etc.³⁸

Pursuant to the instructions of the President, the Council of Civic Chambers of the Subject Regions of the Russian Federation was created in the Far East Federal District³⁹. The council included heads of regional civic chambers of the Far East Federal District and members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation from the Far East District regions, the coordinator was Vladimir Ikonnikov, Chairman of the Civic Chamber of Sakhalin Region. **The main task of the council will be to discuss the relevant issues of the socio-economic development of the Far East**

region and develop proposals for their solution, engagement in the preparation of the National Program for the Development of the Far East and public control over its implementation. Thus, the sites of regional chambers become collection points of the relevant problems of the socio-economic development of the Far East region, they will adopt proposals for their solution, and also become platforms for ensuring the interaction of citizens, organizations and public associations with the government bodies in the Far East.

A section on the situation in the fishing industry was organized at the “Community” Forum in the Far East Federal District. **Our country has the largest fish resources, but the consumption of fish products is falling and no longer even meets Russian standards:** in 2017, fish consumption was 14.6 kg per person, which is 3.4 – 7.4 kg less than the consumption rate established by the Food Safety Doctrine of the Russian Federation⁴⁰. The main reason is that the prices on fish products in recent years rose more than twice fold due to more favorable conditions created for the export of fish products than for its supplies to Russia. For example, during the export of fish products VAT is returned, unlike when they are shipped to Russia, the price of fish products is pegged to dollar and is delivered to Russia at prices of international fish exchanges and auctions, therefore the people of Russia, for the most part, are not willing to buy fish products, and processing enterprises refuse to take them for recycling. Yes, you can refer to the laws of the free market, but the main thing is missing from the point of view, that is the quality of life of our citizens.

In 2018, the Civic Chamber became focused on this issue, specific proposals were developed, the most important of which was to give the tax rate for the extraction of aquatic biological resources the functions of economic incentives for businesses to supply fish to the Russian coast. For this purpose it

THUS, THE SITES OF REGIONAL CHAMBERS BECOME COLLECTION POINTS OF THE RELEVANT PROBLEMS OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE FAR EAST REGION, THEY WILL ADOPT PROPOSALS FOR THEIR SOLUTION, AND ALSO BECOME PLATFORMS FOR ENSURING THE INTERACTION OF CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT BODIES IN THE FAR EAST.

is necessary to increase the amount of basic salary up to 20% of the market price of fish products of low processing degree. It is also proposed to provide incentive discounts from the base rate for catching aquatic biological resources depending on the processing area – in case of export of fish products of low processing degree, not to provide any discounts from the base rate, and in case of delivery of low processing degree products to the Russian processing plants with subsequent sales of fish products in Russia, provide a discount of 85% of the base rate for the catch of aquatic biological resources.



#COMBATTING ONCOLOGICAL DISEASES



In recent years, the incidence of cancer in our country is constantly growing. About 300 thousand people in Russia die from cancer every year, the quality treatment is inaccessible for many patients. The issue of combating cancer is highlighted in the Decree of the President of Russia. But this issue also cannot be dealt with without engagement of civil society. The Website of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, as part of the All-Russian Congress of Oncological Patients, managed to bring together doctors, patients, and community activists. The main thing that was noted: if treatment has improved in recent years, things are much worse as far as the diagnostics and rehabilitation are concerned. It is clear that the earlier the disease is identified, the higher are the chances of recovery. Specific proposals were developed at the Website of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

First: the so-called cancer alertness. All the doctors, including specialists, should focus on identifying cancer risks. The whole country was shaken by a

sad case in Apatity. During a live TV call-in with the President, a young woman named Daria Starikova, who was sick with cancer, addressed for help. They tried to help her, but it was too late. Daria died. And why? She was treated from another disease. The consulting physician didn't even think about cancer.

Second: the promotion of regular examinations among the population, and the efforts of community activists should be supported – a number of NPOs throughout the country effectively advocate the necessity of such examinations.

Third: multidisciplinary approach. The efficiency of treatment increases, when the patient is attended by a team of doctors – specialists in various fields: chemotherapists, radiologists, surgeons.

This concept, created jointly by the medical community, patient organizations and governments, has a chance to become effective, precisely because it was adopted by joint efforts.

Combatting cancer



DIAGNOSIS



TREATMENT

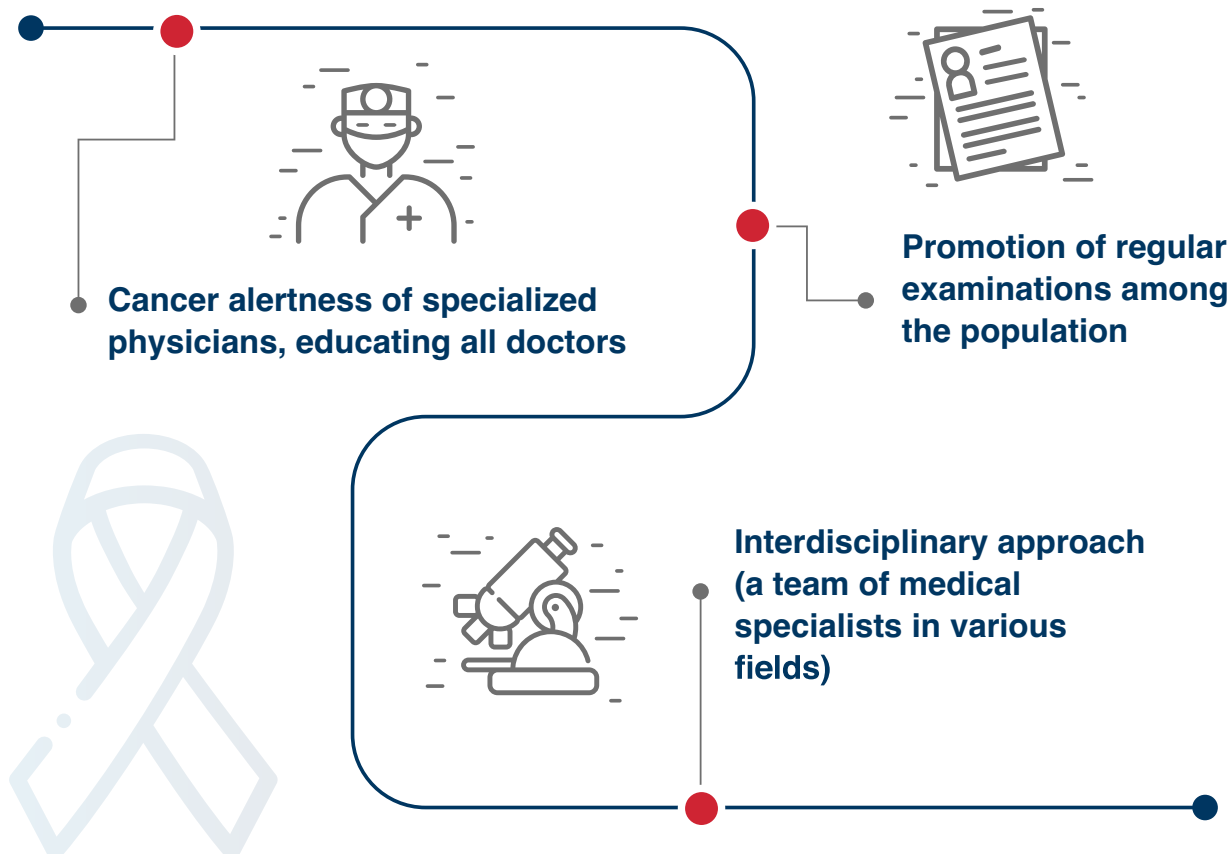


REHABILITATION

EARLY DIAGNOSIS MEANS LOWER MORTALITY.



Measures:



ONLY THROUGH DIALOGUE WITH CITIZENS ONE CAN BUILD CONFIDENCE IN THE WIDEST LAYERS AND GROUPS OF RUSSIAN SOCIETY THAT THE STATE HEARS, UNDERSTANDS THEIR REQUESTS AND IS READY TO RESPOND TO THEM.

While summing up the results, it should be noted that while ensuring the “Russian breakthrough” and further reforming the country, we should move to an “understanding state” model based on the idea that it is necessary to carry out a preliminary assessment of the impact of reforms, taking into account public interests. Only through dialogue with citizens one can build confidence in the

widest layers and groups of Russian society that the state hears, understands their requests and is ready to respond to them. Therefore, any large-scale reforms should be based primarily on the interests and values of citizens, it is on this basis that it is necessary to formulate the strategic goals and objectives of development and to consolidate society.

2 IN-BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CITIZEN: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INSTITUTIONS

IN-BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CITIZEN: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INSTITUTIONS



Interaction between civil society and the state is often a relevant area of tension. The conflict is usually associated with a high-profile event in a sensitive area for people (social obligations of the state, environment, culture, urban planning, political rights), when the balance of interests between society and the government is violated. Such conflicts are inevitable and constitute an important channel for feedback. But in order for the conflict to serve as a starting point of changes for the better and not to pass into the uncontrolled stage, the society and the governments need a working system of dialogue platforms to discuss substantive issues.

Today, the demand for upholding one's interests is obviously growing, over several years, new

civilian communities with an active lifestyle have emerged and strengthened. **Most public organizations are required to interact with government bodies in one form or another.**

Active citizens often have no experience of direct and constructive dialogue with the governments. **Under these conditions, the civic chambers and councils get a chance for more intensive development as discussion platforms at which positions of the parties on controversial issues are discussed and coordinated.** Ideally, such intermediary institutions should become a permanent interactive channel for escalating information to supreme authorities on what really worries citizens on the local level. In this way, they can ensure the continuous and efficient



engagement of citizens in the discussion of decisions, and contribute to the creation of co-management mechanisms.

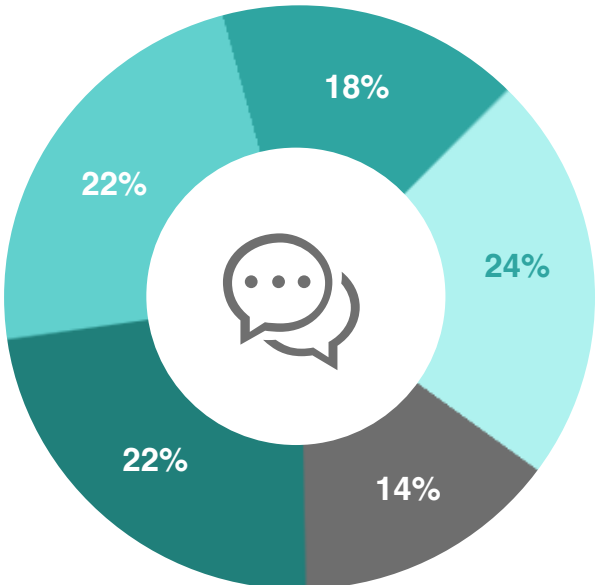
It is no less obvious that the “pocket” intermediary institutions dependent on local governments are not able to provide full dialogue and search for a compromise, and this leads to discontent and a new conflict.

An important form of interaction between citizens and the state are the petitions of

citizens. In 2018 (as of November 21, 2018), the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation received 29,411 petitions from citizens. They are mainly concerned with social sphere and housing and communal services, the work of judicial and law enforcement systems. Among the main problems are the disposal of garbage, the availability and quality of medical and social expertise services, the protection of voters' rights. The petitions come both through the Chamber's website and through hotlines on the most sensitive issues.

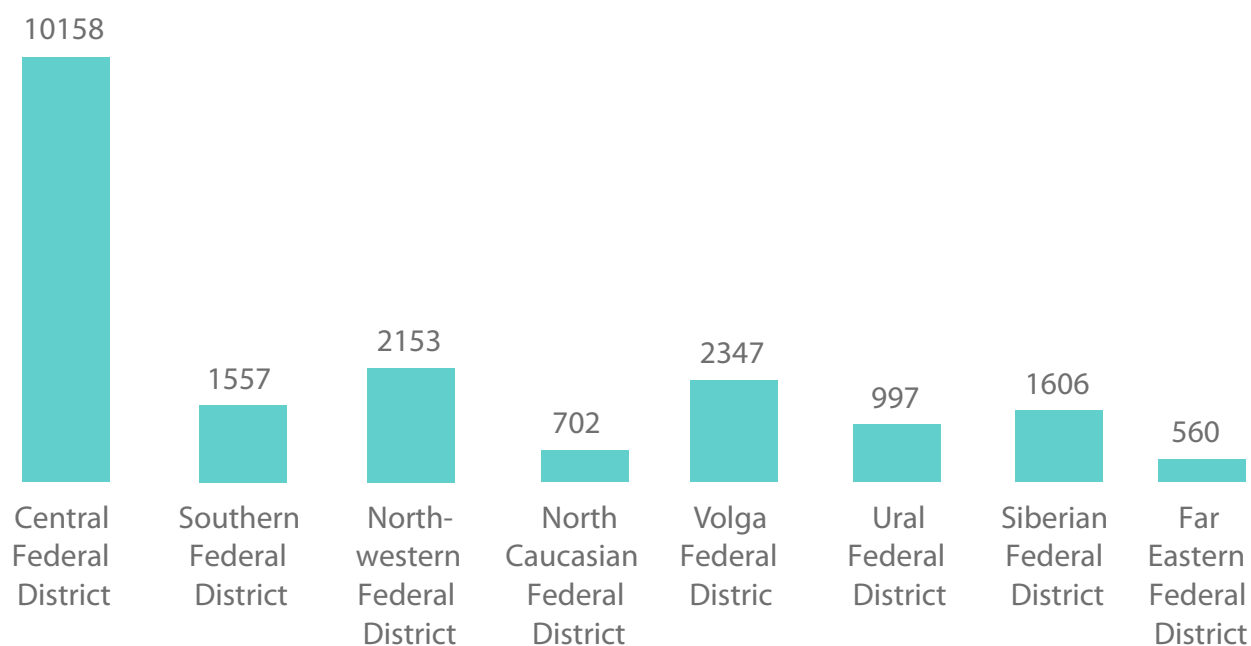
Subjects of appeals of citizens received in the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

- 4556 (22%) - State, society, politics
- 4545 (22%) - Social sphere
- 3543 (18%) - Economy
- 4826 (24%) - Defense, Security, Legality
- 2791 (14%) - Housing and communal services



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Number of addresses per capita



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Hot lines of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in 2018:

Hotline "Taking into account the views of citizens in the construction and operation of facilities for the treatment of waste"

Hotline "Accessibility and quality of medical and social expertise services"

Hotline for the protection of citizens' electoral rights

Hotline on issues of candidates for guardians and adoptive parents

Hotline for the protection of the rights of tourists

Hotline on availability of urban infrastructures for people with disabilities

Hotline for admission to the universities of persons with disabilities and health limitations.

Hotline to counter the recruiters of "Islamic State" in the Russian Federation



Hotline "Unified State Examination - 2018"

Hotline on unreasonable seizures of minor children from a family

Hotline for Russian farmers issues

Hot line "Combating the involvement of young people in destructive and extremist groups"

Hotline PCS Rotation

Hotline "How the Decrees of the President of the Russian Federation are implemented"

Hotline "Currency mortgages"

#CIVIC CHAMBERS



In the regions, civic chambers are becoming the leading platform for public-state dialogue.

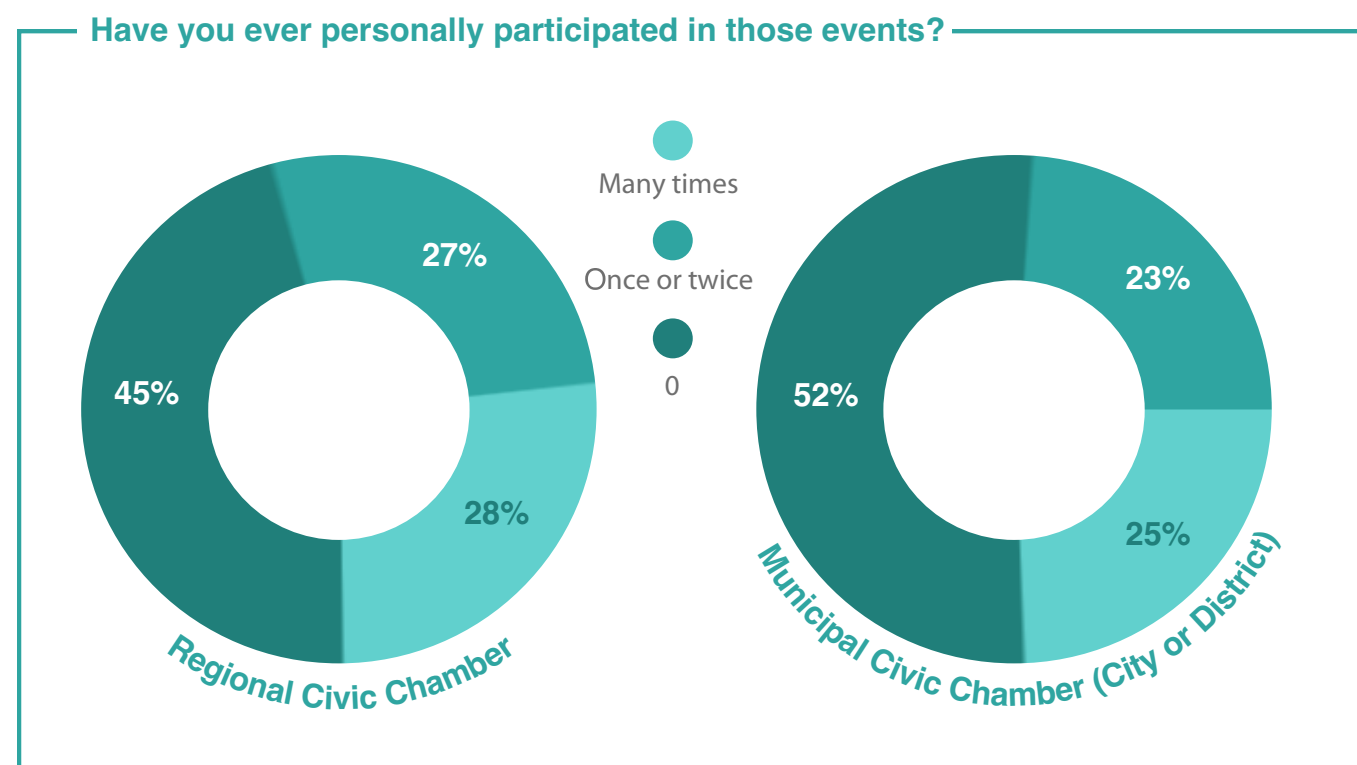
Civic chambers exist primarily to ensure the interaction of individual citizens and their associations with the authorities. Today, these institutions are also involved in the examination of bills, carry out public scrutiny, are involved in the formation of regional public councils. In some subject regions of the Federation, civic chambers are vested with the right of legislative initiative.

About ten years have passed since the system of civic chambers in the regions started to be formed. During that time most chambers have found their place in the public space of the regions. In early 2017, the Federal Law of the Russian Federation of June 23, 2016 No. 183-FZ "About the general principles of the organization and activities of civic chambers of subject regions of the Russian Federation" entered into force. They feared that as a result of its adoption the activities of civic chambers can assume a uniform and monotonous nature of "one size fits all". In fact, the expert examinations held by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in 2018 showed that the chambers in the regions differ markedly in the priorities of their activities. **In some regions, at the site of the chamber, it is possible to implement interesting initiatives, the experience of which is applicable in other regions.** For example, the Civic Chamber of Kirov Region is most active in the sphere of public control, a working group on control in the field of road construction is constantly working and includes representatives of the public and the supporting university. Another example is the Website of the Civic Chamber of Ulyanovsk Region, specific problems of local life are examined at weekly meetings featuring public figures, experts, representatives of municipal and regional governments. In Vologda Region, the local Chamber oversees the activities of municipal chambers. But, in some regions, survey

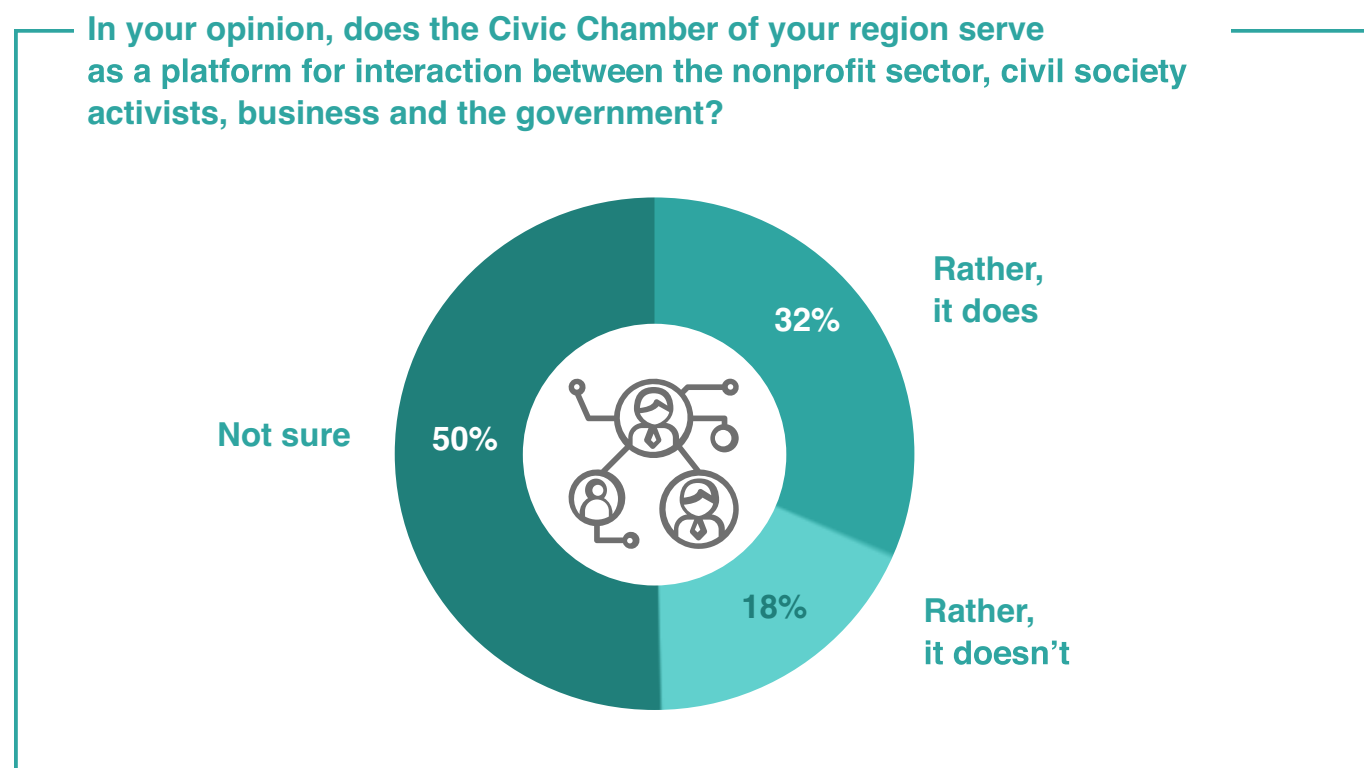


participants could not name a single significant initiative and project of a regional chamber; not all chambers managed to secure the status of sites, where active citizens have the opportunity to reach out to power⁴¹.

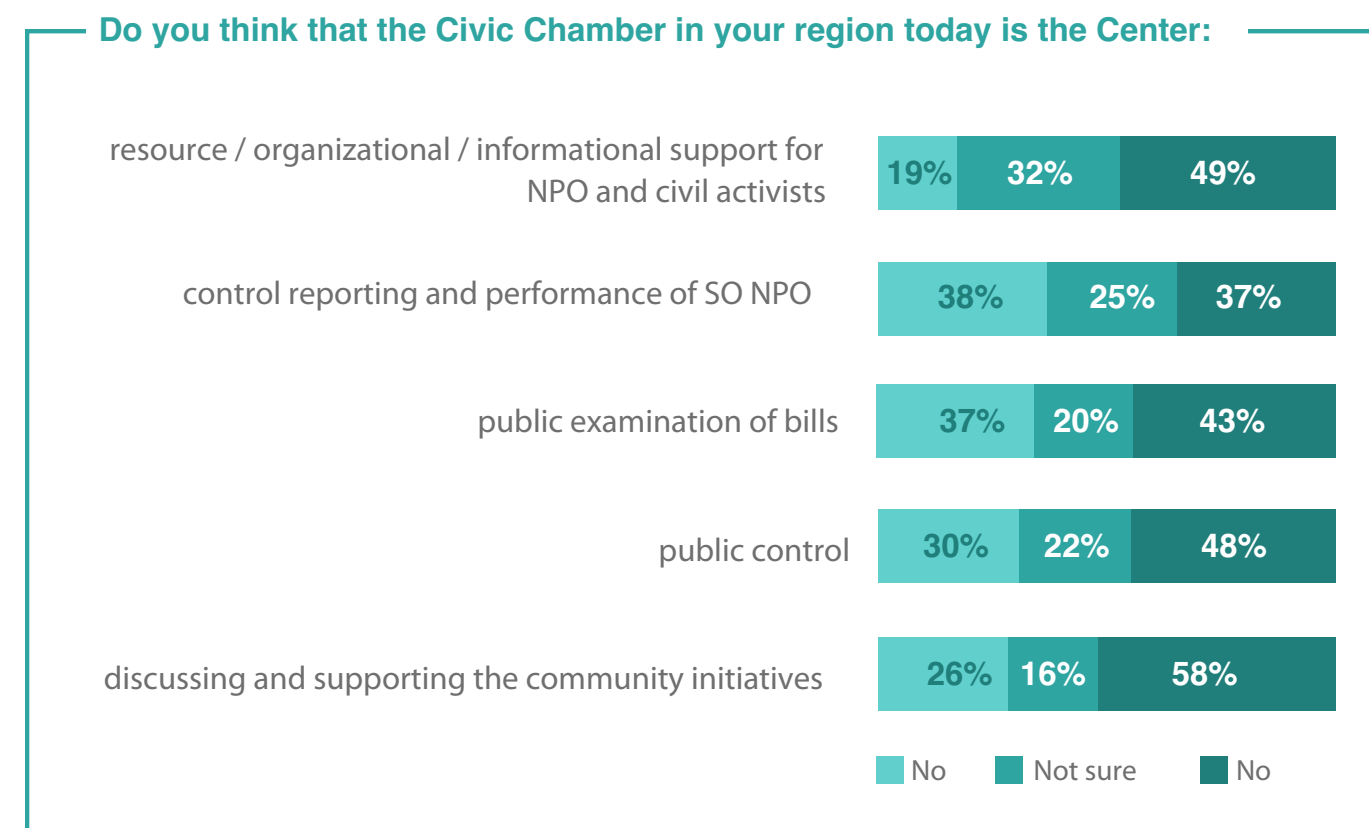
According to the annual survey held by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at the "Community" Forum, the number of NPOs employees and public activists who in in this or that way participate in regional civil chambers is gradually increasing, but most of the third sector representatives do not interact with chambers in the regions. The participants of the forums, which already have experience of interaction with civic chambers, are mostly positive.



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation⁴²



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation⁴³



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation⁴⁴

In 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held a survey “Information support for the activities of civic chambers of the subject regions of the Russian Federation”, which was attended by members of regional civil chambers⁴⁵. The respondents named official websites the main source of information about the activities of regional chambers, social media were mentioned much less frequently, only 21.3% of respondents believe that they know the chamber in the region well. Regional Civic Chamber are not always active.

Since 2015, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held separate monitoring of the openness and transparency of the websites of regional civic chambers. In general, the capability of sites is on a rise, and you can directly send a message to 58 of them. At the same time, many sites do not have section “Announcements”, only 27 sites have a special section dedicated to the examination of bills (on the websites of the three Chambers the section is not filled at all), and the draft conclusions submitted to the authorities are available on 15 sites. The sites of civic chambers of the Republic of Tatarstan, Kirov Region, Krasnodar Territory, Yaroslavl Region

and Chelyabinsk Region became the leaders of monitoring in 2018⁴⁶.

The credibility and authority of the Civic Chamber largely depends on the position of the regional leadership – without engagement of authorities, the dialogue has no sense. Regional governments sometimes lack the culture of a dialogue leading to dangerous rupture with civil society activists. On the one hand, officials are afraid of activists, on the other hand, activists are suspicious of the authorities. In order to speed up the dialogue of active citizens and the governments at the regional chambers site, to reduce the distance between the bureaucracy and public activists, one can say to force officials to interact with public figures, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation initiated #What is wrong? project in 2017⁴⁷. The project organizes discussion platforms featuring activists, governments, media and entrepreneurs. #What is wrong? street polls are held in order to identify the “people’s agenda” of cities and present this agenda to the officials and activists. In 2018 the project embraced 11 regions (15 regions in total in 2017-2018).

The credibility of the Civic Chamber is built on specific projects, coverage of the Chamber's activity in the media, clear position on resonant issues of local agenda, and most importantly, on the Chamber members and leaders of public opinion. Many chambers are attended by people who come rather for status not related to the third sector (mainly entrepreneurs, directors of large enterprises, former civil servants). At the same time, public activists are simply out of sight of the regional Civic Chamber, they implement their projects without any involvement of the chamber. Almost every region has at least a few people, whose activities are well visible.

Such activists can play a positive role and bring something new to the activities of civic chambers. As it was noted in the Report of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for 2017, one of the ways to strengthen the independence of public chambers in the regions can be the engagement of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in their formation through legislative consolidation of the quota of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in the formation of each regional chamber. If the Civic Chamber gets an opportunity to recommend two or three people to become part of the regional Civic Chamber, it will be useful both for the regions and for civil society as a whole⁴⁸.

In addition, the activity of the Chamber depends on funding. Even for the organization of meetings, especially public control events, not to mention larger-scale projects, a certain material base is needed. As far as public expertise is concerned, it is necessary to attract qualified experts. These are small tools required for the workflow. At the moment there are no legal provisions on budget financing of civic chambers of the subject regions of the Russian Federation. It will contribute to consolidating the independence and productivity of civic chambers.

The Council of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on interaction with civic chambers of the subject regions (Council of the Civic Chambers of Russia) continues its activities. The Council coordinates the engagement of regional chambers in monitoring the implementation of the Address of the President of the Russian Federation to the Federal Assembly and the May Decree of the President of

Russia dated May 7, 2018 No. 204 “On the national goals and strategic objectives of the development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2024”, as well as the formation of public councils on independent quality assessment of the conditions of services provision under the Federal Law No. FZ-392 dated December 5, 2017 “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation on Improving the Independent Evaluation of the Quality of Service Conditions by Organizations in the Sphere of Culture, Health, Education, Social Services and Federal Institutions of Medical And Social Expertise”. This is a direct objective of civic chambers. These projects enhance their credibility, let them consolidate the role of mediator between the governments and civil society.

In many regions, municipal civic chambers (councils) are actively developing. These dialogue platforms are very close to the population, they discuss issues directly related to the residents. Therefore, people are often more actively involved in this work. At the same time, the activities of such chambers are poorly regulated by the law, and the order of formation in regional laws, as a rule, is not specified. A special section was organized at the “Community” Forum in Kaliningrad for a substantive discussion of the development prospects of municipal civic chambers. The participants, most of whom were just municipal community members, appealed to members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation to initiate Federal normative legal act or model provisions on procedure formation and activities of the municipal public chambers and councils. In addition, they spoke in favor of developing a rating system for the activities of public councils at all levels, which will ensure correct goal-setting, replicate best practices, and increase attention to the activities of public councils.

In the lead-up to the “Community” Forum, the first contest of municipal civic chambers (councils) of the North-West Federal District was held. They managed to identify the noteworthy projects. For example, the council of the Yb rural settlement of the Syktyvdinsky District of the Komi Republic became the best municipal public council of the rural territory: the first stage of the Finno-Ugric Ethno-Cultural Park was put into operation with the engagement of members of Ybitsa public council. At

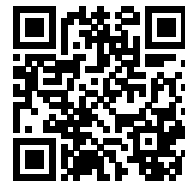


IN ORDER TO SPEED UP THE DIALOGUE OF ACTIVE CITIZENS AND AUTHORITIES AT THE REGIONAL CHAMBERS SITE, TO REDUCE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE BUREAUCRACY AND PUBLIC ACTIVISTS, ONE CAN SAY TO FORCE OFFICIALS TO INTERACT WITH PUBLIC FIGURES, THE CIVIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION INITIATED #WHAT IS WRONG? PROJECT IN 2017

the section, a proposal was made to hold a federal contest for municipal public chambers and councils. One cannot help but notice that often there is no interaction of regional and municipal civic chambers.

It is significant that on the websites of regional chambers there is often no information about chambers in municipalities.

#STEPPING UP PUBLIC CONTROL



The Federal Law of 21 July 2014, No. 212-FZ “On the Fundamentals of Public Control in the Russian Federation” states among the subject regions of public control the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, civic chambers (councils) of municipalities and public councils attached to federal executive bodies, public councils with legislative (representative) and executive bodies of state power of the subject regions of the Russian Federation.

So far it is impossible to say that an effective system of public control has developed in our country. Nevertheless, in some areas there are significant examples of public control that allow you to change the situation for the better.

In 2018, a major breakthrough in the development of public control and a system of civic chambers in the regions was the creation of a large-scale election observation system. In accordance with the Federal law No. 374-FZ as of December 5, 2017 on amendments to the Federal Law on the election of the President of the Russian Federation, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the civic chambers of the regions have been granted the right to send observers independent from political parties to monitor the electoral process at the polling stations. In four months, the system of public chambers held more than 750 events throughout the country: observer forums, round tables, meetings of representatives of NPOs, and observers training.

At the request of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and civic chambers in the regions, the election was monitored by 1866 federal, regional and municipal public organizations from all regions of Russia and about 150 thousand observers.

Observers from the civic chambers were present almost at every polling station. This ensured the

transparency of the elections, cases of fraud and irregularities were numerous.

The Situation Center for Public Monitoring of Presidential Elections worked within the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. During the day, from 23:00, March 17 to 23:00, March 18, the volunteers of the Situation Center were in touch with public observers. 300 volunteers were involved in the work of the center. 1723 reports of violations were received, of which about 80% violations were recorded.

Civic chambers became the backbone of the new system of public observation at the elections, the project largely changed their political weight in the regions. In fact, in a few months a new significant public institution was created, initiated by civil society and supported by a new legislative framework. It became apparent that the Civic Chamber in the regions have serious potential.

The next stage was the deployment of a regional system of the election public observation. Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the Federal Law of July 3, 2018 No. 184-FZ “**On amendments to the Federal Law “On basic guarantees of electoral rights and the right to participate in referendums of citizens of the Russian Federation”**”, which allowed the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and regional civic chambers send observers to election commissions at regional and local elections. **Now the constituent entities of public control, the federal and regional civic chambers, and through them any public organizations, volunteers and active, not indifferent citizens of Russia have the right to attend the polling stations and monitor the elections that are held in the country.** Regional civic chambers have the right to send observers to the election commissions of the relevant subject region of the Russian Federation.



IN 2018, A MAJOR
BREAKTHROUGH IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC
CONTROL AND A SYSTEM
OF CIVIC CHAMBERS IN THE
REGIONS WAS THE CREATION
OF A LARGE-SCALE ELECTION
OBSERVATION SYSTEM.

Observation of the elections with the engagement of the general public took place on a single voting day in the subject regions of the Federation, on September 9, as well as in the second round of voting of the governor election in several regions. In 22 regions, including Moscow and the Moscow region, direct elections of governors took place, in 4 subject regions of senior officials elected deputies of the legislative assemblies. In 16 regions, residents

chose deputies of regional assemblies. In addition, it's been about 6 thousand municipal elections⁴⁹.

Just as in the election of the President of the Russian Federation, the Situation Center for Public Observation of Elections worked within the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. The center's volunteers online kept in touch with public observers from different parts of the country. The incoming information was published on a special site общественныйнаблюдатель.рф.

Not all regions managed to adopt their own laws on public election observation by September 9. Thus, only the civic chambers in Moscow, Republic of Kalmykia, Primorsky Territory, Altai Territory, Amur, Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Rostov, Samara, Ulyanovsk, Kemerovo regions, as well as Chukotka Autonomous Region were able to send observers to polling stations in accordance with the adopted regional laws. In other regions, observers from civic chambers were sent to polling stations according to quotas provided by candidates and political parties.



AS A RESULT OF THE ACTIVE WORK OF SOCIAL ACTIVISTS IN THIS AREA, A KIND OF REVOLUTION TOOK PLACE: ON MARCH 29, 2018, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ISSUED DECREE NO. 339 ON AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES FOR RECOGNIZING A PERSON AS A DISABLED PERSON”, THANKS TO WHICH THE METHODS OF EXAMINATION AND RE-EXAMINATION OF DISABILITY WERE CONSIDERABLY SIMPLIFIED.

In total, 30,000 observers from civic chambers followed the elections on a single day of voting throughout the country. The elections on September 9 showed significant progress as compared to previous elections in the regions, including the elections to the State Duma in 2012: there were noticeably fewer complaints about the quality of the elections.

In the sphere of public control there are other significant results. In October 2017, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation opened a hotline on the activities of medical and social expertise. Over the period of the hotline work (from October 2017 to January 2018), it received about a thousand messages. The most frequent reason for address was the refusal to assign disability or its removal. It concerns tens of thousands of citizens who don't have now to pass the examination anew every year.

Interesting practices in the field of public control appear in some regions with the engagement of civic chambers.

In Vologda Region, a system of public control over the use and maintenance of roads has been created, an information field has been formed

indicating the ownership of roads and a base to which any person can send the information about a fault in one or another section of the road⁵⁰. The Commission on Social Infrastructure and Housing and Public Utilities of the Civic Chamber of the Novgorod Region conducts a rating of management organizations in the housing and utilities sector — HUK (the worst management company). In Arkhangelsk Region, people's inspectors in the housing and utilities sector worked for seven years⁵¹. Each institution is evaluated by patients, the criteria include openness, comfort, waiting time, friendliness of employees. Over the past year, six physicians-in-chief received disciplinary sanctions on the proposal of the public council⁵². In Orenburg region, due to the public control system, it was possible to noticeably improve the work of medical and social expertise, the situation in which was quite difficult⁵³.

The Civic Chamber of Stavropol Territory⁵⁴ conducts systematic work on public control over the preservation and rational use of the natural potential, the unique therapeutic and health properties of a specially protected ecological-resort region of federal importance Caucasian Mineral Waters, including in the context of the execution

of the instructions of the President of Russia on the development of a sanatorium development strategy resort complex of the Russian Federation⁵⁵. The results of this work were, in particular, taken into account by the Government of Russia in the development and adoption of the strategy, approved at the end of November 2018⁵⁶.

An interesting initiative is being implemented in Chelyabinsk Region, where a peculiar center of public control functions — an inter-commission working group that deals only with issues of public control. Volunteers who are trained and receive the status of public inspector are involved in conducting public inspections.

One of the areas of public control is the public examination of draft regulatory acts. Evaluation of legislative initiatives is one of the most important tasks of civil society institutions, which allows improving the quality of adopted laws not only from a legal point of view, but on the basis of their compliance with the expectations and needs of society. For this work, we need certain resources, first of all the expert ones. Therefore, public expertise is carried out, primarily, at the Website

of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, as well as a number of regional chambers. In 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held 30 public examinations, 26 of them in the zero reading format. Two bills were supported, taking into account the comments of 15 bills, and two bills were not supported (as of 1.18). From June 2017 to May 2018, following the resolutions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, four resolutions and 66 recommendations were sent to the governments.

Public councils under federal executive bodies are an important institution of public control. The councils is formed by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on a competitive basis; the right to nominate members to the public councils has been received by specialized non-profit organizations.

Since 2017, the reset of the system of public councils began. The main idea is that members of public councils should act as guides of the “people's agenda”, guided not only by professional knowledge and skills, but, first and foremost, by the requests that the population has. **Public councils are called upon not only to discuss the initiatives of the ministries, but to encourage them to deal with essential problems.** Moreover, public councils can influence the personnel policy of the department, participate in certification procedures, improve the skills of personnel, and work with citizens.

As part of this process, a number of technical innovations have been implemented in order to make the competitive selection procedure more transparent. A single portal of public councils <http://os.oprf.ru> was created at, electronic platform for the engagement in the contest of candidates for public councils was built (with electronic registration, personal account). All decisions, even on replacements of retired members, are taken during a full-fledged contest; in preparation for voting, in-person meetings of the leadership of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation with candidates for council members are held. In 2017, the Civic Chamber developed and adopted a regulation for evaluating the efficiency of public councils.



PUBLIC COUNCILS ARE URGED NOT ONLY TO DISCUSS THE INITIATIVES OF THE MINISTRIES, BUT TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO DEAL WITH ESSENTIAL PROBLEMS.

Most of the first organizational, meetings of public councils are held at the Website of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, work is underway to form a “popular agenda” of their meetings and to select resonant issues for the activities of the councils. In addition, the Civic Chamber initiates interagency cooperation: joint meetings of public councils were held at Federal Agency on Technical Regulating and Metrology and RusAccreditation, Federal Air Transport Agency and Federal Tourism Agency, a

forum of passengers was held with the involvement of interested parties (airlines, insurers, passenger representatives, the Federal Customs Service of Russia, Federal Transportation Inspection Service, community activists). In November 2018 the Website of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the Public Council under the Federal Forestry Agency Public Council launched the All-Russian forum “Forest: dialogue of society and the government for the sake of preserving the life environment.

During its first year the Civic Chamber of the VI convocation held 20 contests to elect the members of the public councils under a new standard. **The average contest was five people per vacancy, the highest contest was 21 people at in public Council under the Federal Anti-Monopoly Service.** As a result, five public councils are fully formed, five are at the final stage of formation, ten are going through the stage of analyzing and checking candidate profiles⁵⁷.

As practice has shown, many of the previously formed councils are either late with the discussion,



or do not even consider issues causing a great public outcry. In 2019, it is planned to early terminate the powers of several public councils that continue to work outside the civil society agenda⁵⁸.

In the near future, it is necessary to develop clear criteria for the selection of normative legal acts and projects for public control, as well as criteria for the division of expert work and the assessment of public importance. **The agenda of the work of councils automatically, according to the regulations, includes a large number of issues that are of no interest to civil society organizations, or those for which representatives of civil society are unable to have a professional position.** At the same time, there is often no time left for in-depth consideration of issues that are fundamentally important for civil society, including those that cause relevant social conflicts – for instance, the issue of recycling solid household waste has never been considered by the Ministry of Environment Council. At the same time, a certain formalization of the activities of the councils is also necessary: the results of the discussions should take a comprehensive form of specific proposals and initiatives addressed to the leadership of the department, with the possibility of further monitoring their implementation. In the course of

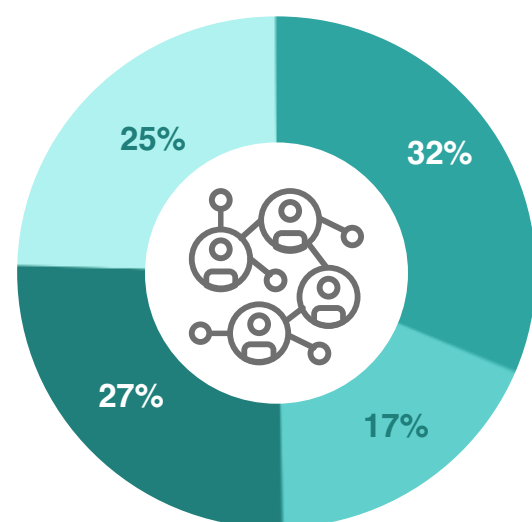
IN MANY CONSTITUENT ENTITIES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC COUNCILS HAS BEEN CREATED UNDER REGIONAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES.

discussions in the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, a suggestion was made that many of the shortcomings in the activities of public councils could be eliminated by recognizing the public councils at government bodies as working bodies of the Civic Chamber, which must meet and report on the work done at regular intervals.

In many regions of the Russian Federation, a system of public councils has been created under regional executive authorities. According to a survey conducted by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in 2018, the majority of participants in the “Community” Forums are aware of the activities of public councils in their regions, more than 30% have experience of interacting with them.

Are you aware of the activities of public councils under the executive authorities in your region:

- I am aware of the activities of public councils
- I am aware of interaction with public councils
- I heard something about these councils
- I haven't heard anything of it



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation⁵⁹

It is necessary to ensure interaction of civic chambers and public councils with regional governments. At the federal level, it exists because the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation participates in the formation of the public councils. However, at the level of the subject regions of the Federation, instead of constructive and well-coordinated work of activists, it is sometimes possible to observe the confrontation between civic chambers and public councils. The latter often stand up for the authorities in which they are formed. In addition, the status of other public structures under regional governments is not clear: councils for interaction with business entities, expert councils, etc. It's time to define more clearly the place of these bodies in the system of public control.

An important aspect of public **control is control over the detention of persons in places of deprivation of liberty**. As of November 1, 2018, there were 571,007 people in penitentiary institutions. The staff number of the Penal Enforcement System (PES), **funded from the federal budget is 295,967 people⁶⁰. That is, for two prisoners there is one full-time employee.**

In accordance with Federal law No. 76-FZ of 10 June 2008 "On public monitoring of human rights in places of detention and on assistance to detainees", the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is empowered to form **public monitoring committees** and to suspend and terminate the powers of their members. Thus, unlike other world analogues, such as the UK or France, where inspectors are appointed by the executive governments, **the members of the public monitoring committees in our country are approved by the public. At the same time, they fulfill their voluntary commitments on a voluntary basis in their spare time, often using their personal vehicles and means of communication.**

Today the country has 83 public monitoring committees⁶¹. During the year of work of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation of the current composition, the rotation of the PMC members took place in 13 regions. In 2018, members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held 62 events of various formats dedicated to the situation in this sphere.

The formation of the PMC in 2018

from December 2017 to February 2018, PMC were rotated in 6 subject regions of the Russian Federation (Altai Republic, Zabaikalsky Territory, Kamchatka Territory, Nenets Autonomous District, Chukotka Autonomous District, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District).

Within the framework of the said procedure, the PMC in Nenets Autonomous District, Chukotka Autonomous District, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District were not formed in the authorized composition. 16 members of the PMC were appointed.

from January to April 2018, PMC were rotated in 2 subject regions of the Russian Federation (the Republic of North Ossetia – Alania, Vologda Region).

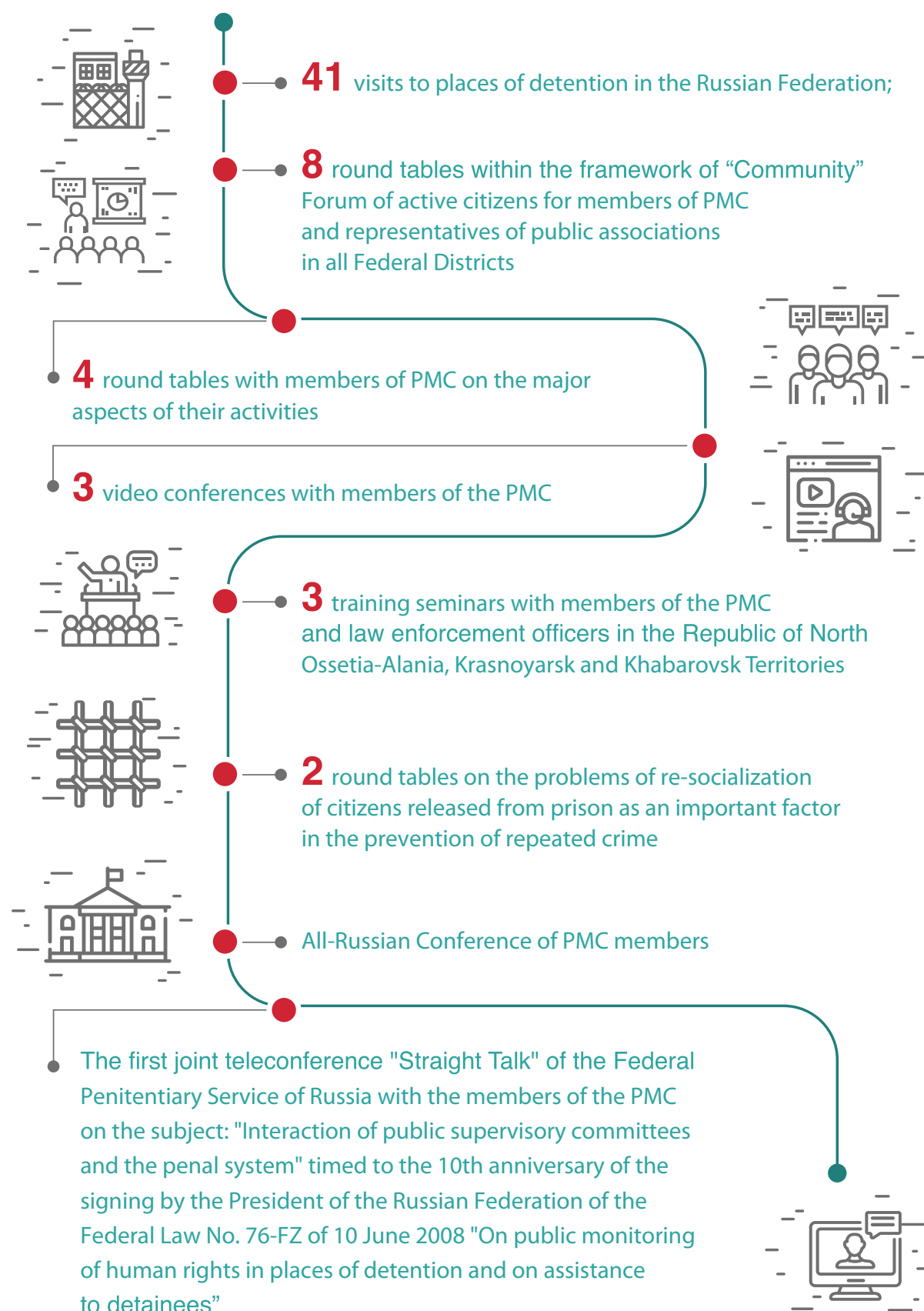
Under this procedure, 16 members of the PMC have been appointed.

from March to May 2018, the rotation of the PMC was held in 5 subject regions of the Russian Federation (Krasnoyarsk Territory, Jewish Autonomous Region, Nenets Autonomous District, Chukotka Autonomous District, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District).

Within the framework of this procedure, the PMC in Nenets and Chukotka Autonomous Districts were not formed in the authorized composition. 35 members of the PMC were appointed.

Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Events of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation within the framework of PMC in 2018



In particular, one of the most pressing is the issue of resocialization of convicts. There is no single legislative framework in this area. Proposals on the establishment of a coordinating council aimed at rehabilitation and adaptation of prisoners were

discussed at the Website of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. In this case, the regional PMC can extend their powers and join the work on re-socialization of persons released from prison, as provided in the Federal Law № 76-FZ⁶².



The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation pays special attention to projects of support to women released from prison settlements⁶³, working with the families of convicts, in the first place with their children. In February 2018, the social rehabilitation center for women "Vera" opened in FSU Correctional Colony No. 28 of the Federal Penal Service Department of Russia in Volgograd Region⁶⁴. In April 2018, the rehabilitation center for convicted women⁶⁵ was established in the Republic of Buryatia. On October 10, 2018, the World Mental Health Day, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation opened Aurora rehabilitation center in the FSU Treatment and Correctional Facility No. 7 of the Federal Penal Service Department of Russia in the Chuvash Republic in the town of Tsvil'sk within the framework of the Partnership Territory project. This is the only

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CONDITIONS FOR IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC CONTROL MEASURES IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLEAR RULES FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION – THE DEVELOPMENT OF METHODS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EACH OF THE FORMS OF PUBLIC CONTROL PROVIDED BY THE LAW, THE APPROVAL OF STANDARD FORMS OF FINAL DOCUMENTS DRAWN UP AS A RESULT OF THE ACTIVITIES, WITHOUT EXCESSIVE FORMALIZATION OF THIS WORK.



correctional institution in Russia for the custody, treatment and rehabilitation of convicted women with alcohol and drug addiction⁶⁶. The next step in the re-socialization of convicted persons should be a project to open such a center for convicted men. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation believes it necessary to pay special attention to the development of employment in prisons and after the release of citizens. For example, in the form of tax remissions for business organizations hiring former convicts⁶⁷.

Besides these social control regular activities in the field of carried out at the Website of the civic chambers, councils and PCS, new initiatives, which involved civil activists and just partial citizens. As a rule, they are situational and linked with emergencies or hot conflicts. So, after the tragic fire in the shopping and entertainment center “Winter Cherry” in Kemerovo on March 25-26, 2018, public activists have joined the mass inspection of shopping centers, schools and other public places across the country. **The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation encouraged public observers to participate in the control of fire safety in crowded places.** And people have responded to this appeal: for example, Ryazan

residents themselves organized testing of trading centers of the city for their safety. Moreover, to coordinate their actions, they created a special public “Check of Ryazan shopping centers after the tragedy in Kemerovo” in the social network “VKontakte”⁶⁸. And activists from St. Petersburg during the inspection in the shopping centers “Peak” and “Sennaya” at Sennaya Square found deficiencies that was removed after their feedback⁶⁹. According to Moscow activists, who also took part in such work in the capital, violations were found in 40% of shopping centers⁷⁰.

So far, we cannot say that Russia has developed a clear and operational system of public control. **The main drawbacks include poor awareness of citizens about the possibilities and subjects of public control, poor coordination of public inspectors with regional and local governments, restricted access to the inspected data (in particular, in the field of environmental control), finally, the lack of sufficient powers of public inspectors and effective norms of responsibility for ignoring the results of public control.**

One of the most important conditions for improving the efficiency of public control measures

is the establishment of clear rules for their implementation – the development of methods for the implementation of each of the forms of public control provided by the law, the approval of standard forms of final documents drawn up as a result of the activities, without excessive formalization of this work.

The lack of opportunities to draw high-quality professionals ensuring the efficient control is a relevant problem. The main objective is not the fixed status of public inspectors and experts, or their one-time involvement in assessing the situation in a socially significant sphere, but constant cooperation related to large amount of work. In the field of environmental protection under public pressure, the status of subjects of control was legally fixed, the procedure for the implementation of public environmental control and interaction of public inspectors with public councils of state forest and environmental supervision bodies was established. This kind of legal basis should be created for those involved in the protection of public order, voluntary fire services. The issue of empowering public inspectors to carry out inspections in places of mass stay of people, whether private, municipal

or public facilities, remains particularly urgent.

The issue of expansion of the sphere of public control remains open. In particular, civil activists have repeatedly advocated for the legislative consolidation of the possibility of public control not only for the activities of governments and other bodies and organizations vested with separate public powers, but also for economic entities: utilities, major banks, rail and air carriers, etc. However, the representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor General’s Office and the Investigative Committee, who took part in the discussion of this issue in the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, are totally against it, arguing that in this case there will be an intersection of the powers of state and municipal control bodies and and public control bodies⁷¹.

Certain legislative gaps remain. The development of the model bill “On public control in the subject region of the Russian Federation”, methodical recommendations on implementation of public control in the system of local government is extremely relevant.

#MASS MEDIA CONTENT IN CIVIL SOCIETY



An important institution of civil society is the media, meant to cover the problems the citizens are concerned about. Today the media gradually lose this social role. This can be attributed to a number of reasons, but one of the major reasons is general crisis of traditional media, which lose to social media in the fight for the audience. In this situation, the media are forced to adapt to the existing situation, to cover the so-called hot news, sensations, almost without paying attention to quality investigations and social issues – it is well known that the negative news is easier to sell, and the media today are put in such conditions that they are trying to earn literally from everything⁷². In the regions there are successful practices of media covering social issues, their presentation was held at the meeting of the expert Council “For social responsibility of media” of the national award “Media Manager of Russia – 2018” in the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation⁷³. The final “Community” Forum in Moscow presented a successful example of the Republic of Komi, where the public with the support of the regional Civic Chamber implemented a project of cooperation with regional media. In order to support socially responsible regional media, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation plans to launch an educational platform for them, where professionals of the federal mass media will share positive developments and tell how to become competitive in the conditions of digital development of the country⁷⁴.

In November 2017, the Regional Media Coordination Council was created at the Civic Chamber. It is noted that the situation of regional media deteriorates due to changes in the conditions of delivery of periodicals to readers. In early 2018, a number of regional media received a draft additional agreement from the Interregional Subscription Agency, under the terms of which the publisher is obliged to ensure the delivery of the circulation to

newspaper and magazine distribution points on its own and at its own expense, in other words, to assume the responsibility for the transportation within the subject region of the Russian Federation, taking into account that the cost of delivery has already been included in the subscription price in fact, it is proposed to pay for these services another time⁷⁵. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has already appealed to the FAS on the issue of double fees that the Russian Post sets in the regions.

Within the framework of activities of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation the issue of digital inequality has been repeatedly raised: **despite the almost 80% level of Internet penetration in the country⁷⁶, digital access in Moscow is much better than in small towns and villages in remote areas⁷⁷**. This issue is crucial from the point of view of the unity of our country, in 2019 the Civic Chamber plans to launch a hotline public control on the quality of communications and Internet in the regions. In addition, the issue of providing a legislative framework for fixed assignment of the “22nd button” in local cable networks to the leading local TV companies was raised the Website of the Civic Chamber. The point is that **within the basic package of TV channels there should be a local channel broadcasting local news**. On this account, there is a special order of the President of Russia “to consider the feasibility of determining the mandatory public TV channel for each municipality and broadcasting such TV channel on the 22nd position in the communication networks”⁷⁸, but the situation is not yet resolved.

The situation of the industry makes it difficult to balance legislation and administrative practices with respect to traditional media and bloggers. The media undergo endless inspections, while bloggers are not limited to such



IN 2019 THE CIVIC CHAMBER PLANS TO LAUNCH A HOTLINE PUBLIC CONTROL ON THE QUALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERNET IN THE REGIONS.

rigid framework of the law⁷⁹. Therefore, the need to legitimate the profession of a blogger is a long pending issue⁸⁰. Moreover, in the field of electronic media and social media there are ambiguous processes associated with the uncontrolled spread of unreliable content. Fake news is purposefully

launched to make them public in “x hour”⁸¹. The situation is all the more ambiguous, as most of the social media used by Russians are not in the Russian jurisdiction and block the accounts at their discretion.

3

NON-PROFIT SECTOR: DEVELOPMENT DYNAMICS

#QUANTITY INDICATORS FOR NON-PROFIT SECTOR DEVELOPMENT



The statistical monitoring of non-profit organizations in Russia is held by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, on the official portal of which you can find information about all registered non-profit organizations. Based on these data, **the number of NPOs in recent years has reduced: in 2016, the registry included 227 thousand non-profit organizations, in 2017 there were 223 thousand organizations, and in early October 2018, the registry includes 219.5 thousand organizations.** It is difficult to say to what extent this decline reveals the real situation in the third sector. It is largely caused by the termination of the activities of those organizations that existed only on paper, without even providing annual planned reports to the Ministry of Justice. So, for 2016, the report included 112,675 organizations⁸². In 2017, by the court decision, 4,753 **non-profit organizations** were excluded from the register, by the decision of the tax authority 7,857 NPOs were excluded as well with a total of more than 18 thousand organizations. During this period, 14,895 new non-profit organizations have been registered.

The main part of the NPOs are registered in the form of public organizations (62,766), autonomous non-profit organizations (26,029), non-profit foundations (18,933), institutions (14,366), non-profit partnerships (12,864) and associations of legal entities (10,853). Among the registered NPOs there are several separate groups determined by their organizational and legal form, namely: 30,832 religious organizations, 20,731 trade unions, 3,555 political parties (with regional representative offices), 2,744 bar associations, 2,718 Cossack societies, 1,526 communities of small peoples. In addition, the NPOs formally include state (municipal) institutions, state corporations (including Rostec, Roscosmos, Rosatom and Vnesheconombank).

NPO COMPRISES
6 STATE
CORPORATIONS,
INCLUDING ROSTEC,
ROSCOSMOS,
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VNESHECONOMBANK.

Thus, many organizations registered as NPO are not engaged in non-commercial activities. In order to identify the organizations that are created for the implementation of non – commercial projects, a new category of socially oriented NPO was introduced into the legislation since 2010. In particular, state-owned corporations cannot be included in the list of SO NPOs. At the same time, **the classification of NPO as socially oriented organization is carried out on a formal basis – it is enough to mention at least one activity recognized as socially oriented in the Charter of the organization.** Today, the vast majority of NPOs (about two-thirds of all registered ones) are socially oriented. They include, for example, religious organizations, i.e., a very special group of NPOs. In addition, the SO NPO include professional sports clubs and other organizations

that only nominally belong to the non-profit sector, but in fact are not non-profit organizations. As a result, the category of SO NPO today does not allow to identify organizations created for the implementation of non-profit projects, there is a mixture of the concepts of NPO and SO NPO.

Statistics on socially oriented NPOs is kept by Federal State Statistics Service. On the basis of the published numbers, the dynamics of the development of the sector has not undergone significant changes: in 2015 Russia had 140,031 SO NPOs, in 2016 – 143,436, and in 2017 – 142,641. The most numerous of them are the organizations engaged in activities in the field of physical training and sports (29,752), education, science (27,331), patriotic, spiritual and moral education of children and youth (18,069), charity (15,914)⁸³. 25,129 organizations are engaged

in the provision of social services to the population. **The number of SO NPO employees in 2016 amounted to 672 thousand people, in 2017 – to 630 thousand.** While in late 2015 Federal State Statistics Service counted about 2.5 million volunteers of SO NPO, at the end of 2016 they already amounted to 3.8 million, and in 2017 the average number of volunteers has fallen again to 2.7 million people⁸⁴. The reasons for such fluctuations remain unclear.

The total income of SO NPOs in 2015 amounted to 686 billion rubles, in 2016 to 831 billion rubles and in 2017 to 848 billion rubles, including revenues from sales of goods, works, services, property rights – 261 billion, revenues of Russian commercial organizations – 199 billion, revenues, grants from Russian individuals – 113 billion, receipts from the





federal budget – 43 billion, revenues of budgets of the subject regions of the Russian Federation – 38 billion. As it was noted in the Report of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for 2017, **such impressive figures are not consistent with the available data on the total volume of the economy of the real non-profit sector.** It is not clear what organizations provide for such indicators, which part of these funds goes through those NPO that are really created for the implementation of non-profit projects. After all, for example, the municipal institutions created in the form of NPOs can receive funding within the framework of state assignments, but it can not be attributed to the financial performance of the non-profit sector itself.

Such gaps in the statistical accounting of NPOs are largely due to the fact that the non-profit sector organizations are studied in bulk, without ranking into groups by the number of employees, real activities and financial indicators. Taking into account what different

organizations are included in the number of NPOs, the generalized data do not say much about the real situation and dynamics of the non-profit sector. Simply put, these figures can be compared with the “average temperature in the hospital”. As a result, it is impossible to understand how many non-profit organizations actually operate in Russia in the field of education, culture, health, charity, what human and financial resources they have. Meanwhile, according to expert estimates, only 15-25% of the registered NPOs continue to operate on a permanent basis. Thus, according to the Civic Chamber of Primorsky Territory, there are more than 3 thousand registered NPOs in the region, but the number of active NPOs, actually operating in the relevant areas does not exceed 250, although it is gradually growing due to various forms of state support⁸⁵.

In this regard, in 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation sent a request to the Federal State Statistics Service asking to provide information on the distribution of SO NPOs by the

average number of employees in the organization, on the receipts of funds and other property in the context of the average number of employees in the organization, on the sources of formation of funds and other property of the organization by the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, as well as on the number of SO NPOs, which were supported from the federal budget and the budget of the subject regions of the Russian Federation. It follows from the response of the Agency that “in order to obtain representative data on the proposed groups of socially oriented non-profit organizations, it is necessary to conduct a complete survey, however, in the conditions of limited funding, it is not possible to conduct a complete survey”⁸⁶.

The current situation with no reliable data of how many NPO in Russia really operate on a continuous basis, the areas where they work, the financial flows passing through different kinds of NPO cannot be considered acceptable. Indeed, **in the absence of a clear picture of the structure and resources of the non-profit sector, it is difficult to develop clear instruments of state support and a common strategy.**

This problem is raised by NPOs themselves. In 2018, the Association of grant organizations

“Forum of donors” proposed to introduce a number of changes in the reporting system submitted by NPOs to the Ministry of Justice. It is proposed to introduce the mandatory electronic order, to combine the existing forms into one, to provide data in a structured form available for statistical processing, to make the submission of reports mandatory for all organizations. In addition, it is proposed to distinguish three levels of data, depending on the level of financial income of the organization and whether it is eligible for public funding. The expanded report is expected to disclose information about the mission of the organization, the actual activities, the number of staff members and volunteers, the sources of formation of the organization’s property, as well as information about the expenditure of target funds⁸⁷.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation proposes to open discussion of reorganizing the system of statistical accounting of the non-profit sector, which should involve all stakeholders: NPO employees, experts, representatives of specialized agencies. The new system of statistical accounting should, first of all, allow to rank non-profit organizations, to show the real scale and aspects of their activities. This is a crucial step to setting up more subtle support system and regulation of the non-profit sector.



#GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE THIRD SECTOR



Among the most complicated problems and difficulties faced by NPOs in their work are financial difficulties (60%), imperfection of the legislative framework (52%), lack of interaction with the media (32%), lack of support from local governments (22%)⁸⁸.

Recent years have been marked by the growth of state support to the third sector.

The main form of state support to socially oriented NPOs are budget subsidies (grants). The total allocations from the Federal budget to the NPOs increased from 9.1 billion rubles in 2016 to 12.9 billion rubles in 2017.

In the beginning of 2017, a single Presidential Grants Fund was established, which distributes grants to non-profit organizations involved in the development of civil society institutions. In 2017, the Fund has distributed more than 6 billion rubles among 3,213 SO NPOs In 2018, the program of presidential grants provided 8 billion rubles. The contest featured NPO projects in 13 areas in the field of social protection, health, education and science, youth policy, and since 2018, a new field “Identification and support of young talents in the field of culture and art.”

In total, during 2017-2018, the Presidential Grants Fund organized four contests for grants of the President of the Russian Federation for the development of civil society, in which 16,814 non-profit organizations took part. They prepared and filed 35 184 socially significant projects. As a result, 6,786 projects were supported for a total of 14,490 million rubles, including 3 573 projects from all regions of the country for a total of 7.8 billion rubles including the total of two contests in 2018. 9,843 projects from all 85 regions of the country were submitted to the second contest in 2018, the list of winners included 2,022 non-profit non-governmental organizations from all regions of the country. More than half of the supported NPOs (1,049) received a presidential grant for the first time. Many (483) organizations participated in previous contests, but they managed to win only now, after the completion of applications. It is worth noting the steady growth in the number of regional projects (excluding Moscow and St. Petersburg), which become winners of the contests. For example, as compared to 2015, the number of supported regional projects increased fourfold. The number of winning projects from small towns and rural areas has increased, in 2018 1068 organizations received grants totaling more than 1.2 billion rubles (20% more than last year)⁹⁰. **The expansion of geography and the increase in the number of applications suggests that people believe in this system and that they can get financial support for their project.**

In 2018, amendments were made to the tax code exempting citizens from paying personal income tax (PIT) while receiving money from presidential grants. The amendments will remove

the burden from the payments that NPP make to volunteers or any beneficiaries. Volunteers will be exempted from paying personal income tax if they receive assistance in kind, for example, in the form of payment of a ticket to the place where they will carry out their volunteer activities, as well as accommodation, food and other needs.

One of the main issues of the grant program is the real social effect of the implemented projects. Currently, the presidential grants Fund is developing a system for assessing the efficiency of projects and measures of social impact. In some regions, the presentation of the results of grant projects is held at the sites of regional civic chambers.

Financial support to the NPOs is also provided by the executive authorities of the subject regions of the Russian Federation and local self-government bodies. **Government programs of the regions of the Russian Federation in support of the SO NPOs are currently adopted and implemented in 74 regions of the country.**

According to the Ministry of Economic Development, 6.6 thousand organizations received financial support from regional budgets in 2017 (5.7 thousand in 2016). The amount of state financial support provided to the NPOs from the budget of the Russian Federation amounted to almost 25 billion rubles (in 2016 – 19.5 billion)⁹¹. In the form of subsidies on a competitive basis in 2017, 8.7 billion rubles was distributed (in 2016 – 6.2 billion). Thus, in Moscow, 273 million rubles was allocated for the implementation of socially significant projects on a competitive basis in 2017: 687 NPOs participated in the contest, 181 projects were supported. In 2018 the contest budget amounted to 400 million rubles⁹². In Lipetsk Region, funds from the regional budget are allocated annually for the support and development of SO NPOs, in 2018 their size was 20.5 million rubles⁹³. In 2017, 7.5 million rubles was allocated from the budget of Penza Region to provide subsidies from the NPO of Penza Region, 46 SO NPOs were supported⁹⁴.

Not all regions publish detailed and accessible information about NPOs contests and their results. An example for the regions is the Presidential

Summary of SO NPO financing in 2016-2017 at the federal level						
Public authority of the Russian Federation, providing financial support to SO NPOs	The amount of State financial support, provided to SO NPOs (thousand rubl.)		Including on a competitive basis (thousand rubl.)		The number of funded SO NPOs	
	2016 r.	2017 r.	2016 r.	2017 r.	2016 r.	2017 r.
Office of the President of the Russian Federation (Presidential Grants Fund)	4,228,200	6,653,841	4,228,200	6,653,841	1,377	3 213
Ministry of Labor of Russia	1,140,778	1 319 184	-	-	25	25
Russian Emergency Ministry	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	19	6
Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation	718,292	1,430,274	34,192	30,896	30	34
Ministry of Culture of Russia	2,753,183	3,310,327	81,339	3,124,427	227	176
Federal Agency on Press and Mass Communications	-	107.2	-	-	-	138
Federal Agency on Youth Affairs	153,200	113,500	153,200	113,500	90	96
TOTAL	9,083,654	12,917,233	4,586,931	10,012,664	1,768	3,688

Source: The Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation⁸⁹



Grants Fund portal, where one can submit an application and all documents in the electronic form. In 2018, following this example, a single operator in Yugra was created, the document flow was transferred to an electronic form, you can apply electronically and get detailed information about the grant on the portal of civil society development «Югражданин.рф»⁹⁵.

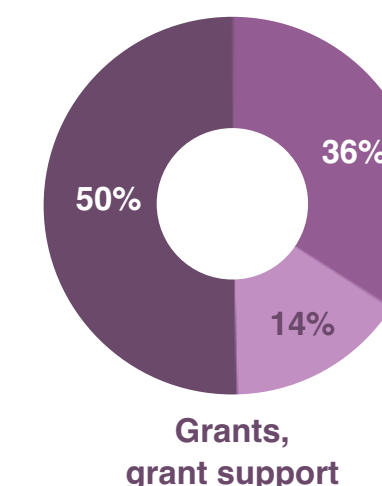
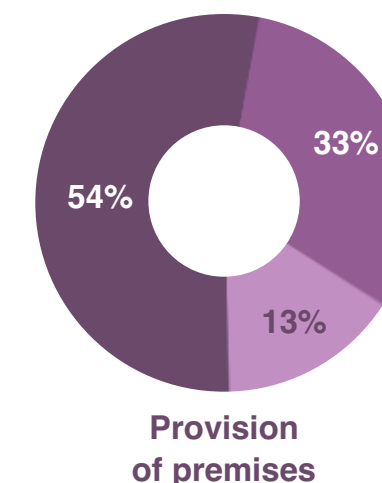
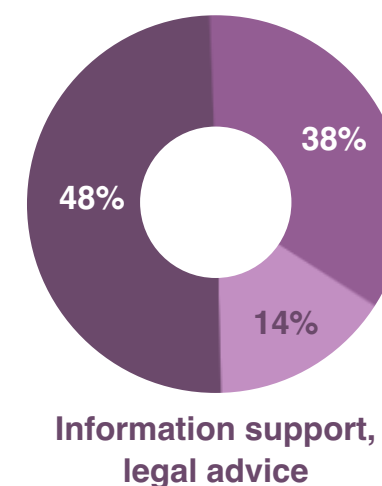
There is a trend of growing support to the SO-NPOs at the municipal level: the amount of subsidies provided to local budgets for the implementation of municipal support programs for the SO NPOs increased from 2.3 billion rubles in 2016 to 2.9 billion rubles in 2017. The share of the municipal districts and urban districts

that implement activities in support of the SO NPOs has grown over the year 2017 from 53% to 62%. At the same time, only 23% of municipal districts and urban districts have adopted programs to support NPOs⁹⁶.

According to the survey held by the Civic Chamber in 2018, about half of the participants of the “Community” Forums appealed to the regional and municipal governments for financial and property support, of which more than 30% in one form or another received this support. Similar data were presented by the Civic Chamber of Kemerovo Region⁹⁷.

Have you applied to the regional (municipal) governments for support?

- Received support
- Did not apply
- Did not receive support



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation⁹⁸

According to Federal State Statistics Service, in 2017, the total revenues to the SO NPOs from the federal budget amounted to 43 billion rubles (in 2016 – 28 billion rubles), from the budgets of the subject regions of the Russian Federation – 38 billion rubles (in 2016 – 49 billion), from municipal (local) budgets – 10 billion (in 2016 – 7 billion), from state extra – budgetary funds – 6 billion (remained at the level of 2016). However, as before, there are a number of questions to these figures. First, what can cause such abrupt changes in total revenues from the federal and regional budgets? Secondly, what forms of public support are taken into account? It

is obvious that in this case we are talking about obtaining state subsidies by autonomous non-profit organizations. Among the recipients of state support there are NPOs established at state social institutions, professional sports clubs.

In some countries, the focus is on public funding of the organization’s current activities, which provides for the implementation of long-term social projects. The participants of the “Community” Forums, while answering the question of what form of state support should be a priority for the NPOs, divided on this issue approximately equally.

In your opinion, what form of state support should be a priority for the NPOs sector?



49% Project (grant) support



42% Financing current activities



9% Not sure

Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation⁹⁹

In our country, the state provides property support to the third sector in the form of transfer of non-residential premises for ownership and use. According to Federal State Statistics Service, only 7,544 Russian SO NPOs have non-residential premises (building) in the property, about 32 thousand NPOs use non-residential premises free of charge, which are in state, municipal or private ownership, about 26 thousand organizations rent non-residential premises. The total number of the SO NPOs that received real estate for rent on preferential terms or for free use in 2017 amounted to 3.4 thousand organizations (in 2016 – 3.1 thousand), the amount of space provided in 2017 amounted to 969 thousand square meters (in 2016 – 667 thousand), which is an average of 284 square meters per organization (in 2016 – 215 square meters).

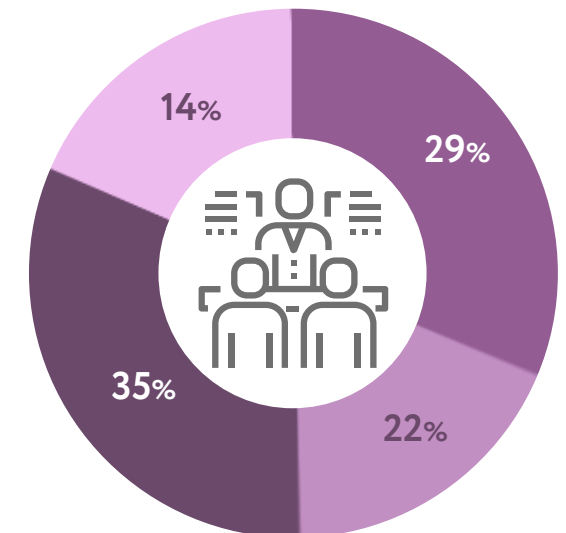
In addition, 29 subject regions of the Russian Federation are taking measures to provide the commercial space owned by the subject regions of the Russian Federation on preferential terms to the NPO and social entrepreneurs.

Legal, consulting, information and organizational support from NPOs in the regions is provided by resource centers, volunteer centers, centers of innovation in the social sphere. **The financial support at the regional level in 2017 was provided to 125 resource centers in 67 subject regions of the Russian Federation totaling 166.6 million rubles.** In addition, social innovation centers are being created in the regions, which, along with small businesses, can provide support to the SO NPOs. In 2017, the federal budget provided subsidies for the creation and development of 11 such centers (4 of which are new) in amounting to 31.5 million rubles.

According to a survey conducted by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the vast majority of participants in the "Community" Forums are aware of the resource centers in the regions, but only about 22% regularly use their services.

Do you know about the activities of resource centers for NPOs in your region?

- Yes, I know, we regularly use the services of the resource center.
- I know, we applied to this resource center 1-2 times
- I know, but I never addressed the resource center
- I have not heard anything about it



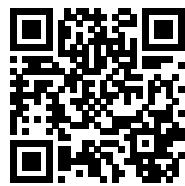
Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation¹⁰⁰

The examples of some regions deserve special attention and replication. An extensive and constantly functioning network of municipal resource centers has been established in Novosibirsk Region. The budget of organizations is about 200 to 600 thousand rubles, they receive these funds from both the regional and municipal budgets. Two persons work as volunteers, they are usually paid somewhere else. They are provided with material and resource base and premises by the municipality¹⁰¹. In 2018, the online resource center "NPO. Udmurtia" was created to provide non-profit¹⁰² organizations and active citizens with a single information resource. News site is updated

almost daily, here you can find previews of the actual events of the Udmurt Republic, information on grant contests and projects, useful links¹⁰³. In 2018, the Siberian Federal District created a single Siberian resource center of NPO¹⁰⁴.

According to the Ministry of Economic Development, the number of employees of SO NPOs who received training in the provision of services in the social sphere at the expense of funds of the subject regions of the Russian Federation increased from 3.6 thousand in 2016 to 7 thousand in 2017.

#NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE SOCIAL SERVICE MARKET



The engagement of NPOs in the provision of social services in the public sector is the main way to increase the share of the third sector in the economy and improve the quality of social services. NPOs have obvious advantages. This, of course, does not mean completely abandoning state institutions, but the goal has been set to use the potential and capabilities of NPOs in a way that has long been accepted in many countries. It is the social services of NPO that are most in demand by the population. In Kemerovo Region, the question “In which areas can the non-profit organizations bring maximum benefit?” was asked to residents, who responded as follows: to combat asocial phenomena (55%), charity (42%), social support and social services (41%). Among the representatives of NPOs themselves, two areas are leading – social support and the provision of social services (88%) and charity (72%)¹⁰⁵.

The state has embarked on the active involvement of NPOs in the provision of social services provided to the public at the expense of the budget. Speaking at the “Community” Forum in Moscow in November 2017, the President of Russia repeated that “we need thousands of such organizations throughout the country willing to take responsibility, to be a reliable partner of the state in the social sphere”¹⁰⁶. The goal was to send 10% of the budget funds allocated to the social sphere to the NPOs, with the corresponding regulatory framework established.

In accordance with the Federal Law of 28 December 2013, No. 442-FZ “On the Fundamentals of Social Services for Citizens in the Russian Federation”, registries of social service providers are formed in the regions and a program of step-by-step access of NPOs to budget funds for providing services to citizens in the social sphere is implemented.

The main document in this area is the Complex of measures aimed at ensuring the gradual access of socially oriented non-profit organizations operating in the social sphere to budget funds allocated for the provision of social services to the population for 2016-2020.

According to the Ministry of Economic Development, 72 subject regions of the Russian Federation provide funding to SO NPOs in the social sphere (2016 – 49) as part of the implementation of a set of measures aimed at ensuring the gradual access of socially oriented non-profit organizations operating in the social sphere to budget funds allocated for the provision of social services to the population, in five main areas: social protection and social services, education, culture, protection of public health, physical training sports. The total amount of funds allocated by the subject regions of the Russian Federation to the NPOs in these areas in 2017 amounted to more than 24 billion rubles. The funds were distributed among 4.1 thousand NPO, which received more than 6 million people. In particular, in the field of social protection and social services, the cumulative increase in funding for SO NPOs was 98% (from 2.94 billion rubles in 2016 to 5.82 billion in 2017).

In the form of compensation for services rendered to SO NKO under the Federal Law “On the Principles of Social Services for Citizens in the Russian Federation” in 2017, 777 million rubles was allocated (in 2016 – 544 million)¹⁰⁷. At the same time, 455 million went to the Republic of Bashkortostan, where the transfer of services to SO NPO is carried out through the mechanism of re-registration of state (municipal) organizations into non-commercial ones.

Summary information relevant for the implementation of a range of measures in the context of social services			
Social sectors	The number of CO NPOs, which received services provided by the budget (in all subject regions of the Russian Federation)	The total budget of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, actually passed to the NPOs for the provision of services, mln. rub.	Regions of Russian Federation-leaders on the transfer of services to the NPOs (in terms of budgets of the subject regions of the Russian Federation, actually passed to the NPO for the provision of services)
Social security and social services	874	5,823.2	Moscow Samara Region Republic of Bashkortostan Moscow Region St. Petersburg
Education	1,297	7,424.4	Moscow Samara Region The Republic of Tatarstan Republic Of Sakha (Yakutia) St. Petersburg
Culture	732	3,853.2	Moscow The Republic of Tatarstan St. Petersburg Samara Region Primorsky Kray
Health	95	644.7	Kursk Region Moscow Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District The Republic of Tatarstan The Republic of Karelia
Physical education and mass sports	784	6310.9	Krasnoyarsk Kray Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District The Chechen Republic Orenburg Region St. Petersburg
Youth policy	329	596.9	The Republic of Tatarstan Primorsky Kray Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District Chelyabinsk Region Tula Region

Source: The Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation¹⁰⁸

In November 2018, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation announced at the “Community” Forum the results of the rating of the subject regions of the Russian Federation based on the implementation of support mechanisms for socially oriented non-profit organizations and social entrepreneurship, ensuring access for non-governmental organizations to the provision of social services and introducing competitive methods of providing state (municipal) services in the social sphere. **The top five leaders of the rating consisted of Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District, Khabarovsk Territory, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Samara Region, Perm Territory¹⁰⁹.**

On January 1, 2017, the Federal Law No. 287-FZ on Amending Federal Law on NCOs in Terms of Establishing the Status of NPO–Provider of Public Benefit Services came into force. The main reason is that those NPOs that provide social services of good quality, are entitled to receive state support and priority access to budgetary resources. Since 2017, the register of SO NPOs – Providers of the Public Benefit Services is being formed, at the end of October 2018, 171 organizations were included in it, 98 of them were included in 2018.

In 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation initiated the work of the end-to-end section on the engagement of SO NPOs in the provision of social services held during the “Community” Forums. Representatives of nonprofit organizations took part in the work of the section, which allowed for public monitoring of the mechanisms for access of SO NPOs to the provision of social services. According to the results of the work, a number of problems were identified that impeded the development of this sphere, and proposals were made to overcome them.

First of all, public activists speak about the imperfection of the legal framework. **To date, there are no clear mechanisms for providing privileges and preferences to SO NPO providing public benefit services.** As a matter of fact, the entry into the register is a quality mark for the NPOs, but for the time being there are no particular advantages – they should be determined by administrative regulations in the regions, but such

regulations are few in place. They fail to implement the provision of the federal law, according to which state authorities and local governments should provide support to SO NPOs – Providers of Public Benefit Services as a priority measure (In regional regulatory legal acts, the order of priority support to SO NPOs – PPBS is not disclosed, or general provisions are included that do not provide for any specific benefits to NPOs providing public benefit services).

The inequality of competitive conditions for the entry of SO NPOs into the social services market as compared to small and medium-sized businesses is noted – non-profit organizations do not have the possibility of obtaining debt financing, concessional lending, access to support infrastructure, etc. In addition, the NPOs cannot receive property support on a gratuitous (preferential) basis in the event that they receive reimbursement for the social services rendered, and regional SO NPOs have no preferences when concluding a state contract.

In addition to legislative measures, there are a number of administrative barriers. First of all, we are talking about a nominal transfer of NPO services through re-registration of budgetary organizations to non-profit ones. It was also noted that **small NPOs that provide a small set of services cannot be included in the number of social service providers due to the orientation of the authorities on those providers rendering integrated services, like budget institutions.**

Also there were a number of technical gaps that impede the engagement of NPOs in the provision of social services on a competitive basis. **Representatives of non-profit organizations say that there is no methodology for tariffing new, including innovative NPO services in the social sectors.** There is no reimbursement for the provision of urgent social services, standards for many social services, including those included in the list of public benefit services. **Compensation for the work done often does not cover even the minimum expenses of the organization.** For example, in Rostov Region the tariff for social and psychological counseling, including on issues of intra-family relations, is 13.3 rubles per class,



ON JANUARY 1, 2017, THE LAW ON NPO-PROVIDERS OF PUBLIC BENEFIT SERVICES CAME INTO FORCE.

in Orenburg Region – 24.81 rubles. The purchase and home delivery of food in Rostov Region costs 15.2 rub., in Orenburg Region – 11.41 rub, the socio-psychological correction – respectively 42.16 rubles. and 4.82 rubles. The regional and municipal social institutions are nominally funded on the basis of the same tariffs. But apart from that, the state assumes many of their expenses for premises, administration and so on. The NPOs have no such support. The tariff is unable to provide even the monthly salary, let alone the bills for accommodation, communications, transportation¹¹⁰.

In addition, the transfer of social services from SO NPOs does not imply the transfer the necessary material and technical base. There was also a huge amount of paper reporting by SO NPO – providers of social services, problems in drawing up an individual program for the recipient of social services, and a number of other difficulties.

As a result of the discussions, a number of proposals and recommendations were made to the executive authorities aimed at facilitating the access of SO NPOs to the social services market and the improvement of competitive conditions.

Following the results of discussions at the "Community" Forums, the participants in the section on the engagement of SO NPOs in the provision of social services consider it appropriate to entrust:

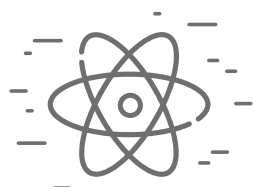


The Government of the Russian Federation

- to consider the possibility of implementing the priority project;
- consider the possibility of adjusting the relevant sectoral national projects;
- to consider the possibility of including the socially oriented non-profit organizations in the main areas of the Government activities ¹¹¹

The Russian Ministry of Economic Development

- create mechanisms for the provision of benefits and preferences for SO NPOs providing public benefit services
- ensure equality of competitive conditions for SME and SO NPO organizations
- form mechanisms for obtaining debt financing, preferential loans for SO NPOs
- extend the moratorium on scheduled inspections for SME organizations at SO NPO;
- introduce a mechanism for liability insurance for SO NPOs - providers of public benefit services;
- to work out the possibility of obtaining by SO NPOs the property support on a gratuitous basis;
- to form mechanisms for the development of the support infrastructure for SO NPO in the regions of the Russian Federation,
- to include mechanisms of SO NPOs support and development in the Main Areas of the Government Activities project for meeting strategic objectives
- to promote the establishment of standards for the provision of social services
- to form a library of best practices of interaction between SO NPOs and volunteers
- to consider the opportunity of encouraging the volunteers for working with SO NPOs
- to prepare guidelines for collecting data from authorities
- to undertake jointly with the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation a study of barriers for the SO NPOs on the market of social services in health sector;
- to consider the possibility of establishing a model methodology for defining social services markets
- to work out the possibility of establishing preferences for SO NPOs, when concluding a state contract
- develop methodological solutions for the social sector for use in the pricing of new services of NPO
- to promote the establishment of a system of interaction between the executive authorities and the relevant SO NPOs



Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation

- organize preparation of the administrative regulations by the profile federal bodies of the executive authorities.

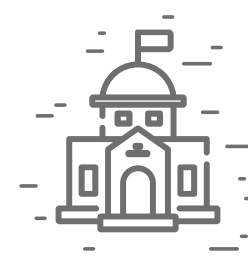


Ministry of Labor of Russia

- to work out the issue of establishing the legal basis for independent assessment of individual entrepreneurs
- consider the revision of the Indicative List of social services by types of social services
- to provide access for small NPOs that provide a small range of services to budget funds allocated for the provision of social services;
- to create mechanisms for taking into account the specifics of SO NPO in rationing and rating social services
- to form the mechanism of transferring the required material and technical base for rendering social services to the SO NPOs;
- to work out the possibility of reimbursement of SO NPOs for the provision of urgent social services;
- to develop regulatory and organizational solutions to ensure planning and coordination with non-state suppliers of the maximum amount of compensation funds for the provision of services;
- to ensure the digitalization of the interaction of relevant regional governments and SO NPOs on the issues of engagement of SO NPOs;
- to adopt measures to improve the quality of individual program of the recipient of social services.

Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation

- to work out the possibility of vesting universities with the right to independently provide SO NPO with premises for conducting activities and registering as a legal entity.
- when finalizing the draft Federal Law "On State (Municipal) Social Order", form a mechanism for allowing LLC and entrepreneurs to provide educational services at the expense of budget financing and consider the possibility of making amendments to Federal Law No. 273-FZ "On Education in the Russian Federation", and also additions to article 2 of the draft law - satellite of the Federal Law "On State (Municipal) Social Order";
- to further elaborate the possibility of extending the scope of the draft Federal Law "On State (Municipal) Social Order" in the sphere of culture.



The Federal Antimonopoly Service

- to conduct jointly with the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation an audit to ensure equal conditions of access of the SO NPOs to the provision of social services in the regions with signs of competition restriction due to the transfer of budgetary institutions to the non-profit ones.



IT IS ASSUMED THAT WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE BILL, THE NPO WILL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE EXISTING BARRIER IN THE PRICING OF SERVICES.

A new draft law of the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation “On the state (municipal) social order for the provision of state (municipal) services in the social sphere and amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation” is meant to help NPOs to compete with budget organizations in the social services market. It is assumed that with the adoption of the bill, the NPOs will be able to overcome the existing barrier in the pricing of services. The draft law makes it possible to make the information about the scope of services that the state undertakes to provide public, and establishes uniform approaches to the selection of performers. The draft law extends to the sphere of education, health care, social security and employment of the population, physical training, sports and tourism. At the same time, this will be a framework law, that is, it will simply introduce into the legal field two new mechanisms for attracting private organizations to provide citizens with a range of services (social order and certificate), and the implementation of these opportunities will depend on regional governments. If a law is adopted, its provisions will begin to apply when forming a state order for social services for 2020 and subsequent

years, and holding contests with the participation of NPOs on electronic platforms from 2024. During this time, the relevant departments should develop an array of legal acts necessary for the implementation of the law.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held public examination (zero reading) of the bill. Its emergence seems timely and necessary, the access of non-governmental organizations to the social services market will be facilitated and greater certainty and the uniformity of law enforcement practice will be introduced in this area. The law will stimulate the introduction of advanced tools in the social sphere. However, there are some comments to the bill. The text does not define the procedure for choosing the method of performing services (there are no delineations between the use of competitive and non-competitive methods for selecting service providers). In addition, the NPOs, as participants in the system of state social order, are not specifically highlighted. It was also proposed to provide a clear mechanism for the responsibility of service providers for unfair and improper fulfillment of their obligations. All the proposals were referred to the relevant Ministry.

#THE THIRD SECTOR AND SOCIETY



One of the main problems in the development of the non-profit sector in Russia is extremely weak awareness of the NPOs activities. Essentially, our citizens are not yet accustomed to consider non-profit organizations as an integral part of the life around them, in the way that happened in countries with a long tradition of the third sector.

According to a study of Zirkon analytical group conducted in 2018, even in Moscow, with a high level of declared awareness of citizens about the activities of NPOs (63%), the vast majority (85%) said they did not use the services of non-profit organizations. Of those respondents who stated that they helped strangers in the past two-three years, only 9% said they were helping through the activities of NPOs and only 2% of Muscovites were able to identify charitable actions in which

they participated; even fewer people have named specific NPOs (“Give Life” Foundation, “Faith” Foundation).

Most Muscovites perceive the NPOs as full subject regions of the solution of problems in the social sphere, but do not see the benefits of organizations of the third sector in comparison with other players in this market. With all that, Muscovites are demonstrating a positive attitude and interest in charity and public benefit activity: 43% of respondents would like to receive information on the activities of NPOs.

According to the Civic Chamber of Kemerovo Region, among the population, youth (38%), veteran (34%), human rights (32%), student (30%) and environmental (30%) public organizations are most in demand¹¹².

With a declared willingness to use the services of non-profit organizations and take part in non-profit projects, Russians are poorly aware of what the existing SO NPOs do in practice and how you can take part in their activities. Those SO NPOs that actually render help, as a rule, have limited financial resources, they do not have the opportunity to invest money in covering their activities, in attracting professionals who know how to work in the information space, and often they simply don't have time.

Indeed, in the information field, the presence of SO NPOs is barely felt. This issue was raised at a meeting of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin with members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in August 2017. The President instructed to analyze the implementation of the provision of services for the dissemination of social advertising and to submit proposals to improve their accessibility for the SO NPOs. To this end, in November 2017, the **Coordination Council for Social Advertising and Social Communications** was established under the Civic Chamber. First of all, the council

monitors the creation of commissions for placing social advertising at federal TV channels. Public Television of Russia (OTR), the TV channel Zvezda, Channel One and the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company have adopted such commissions so far¹¹³.

Their websites display information with requirements for social advertising, and any organization, including a charitable one, can study these requirements and send its social advertising for broadcast. In addition, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation received information from the Ministry of Communications, that commissions on advertising were also created by VGTRK and the First Channel. However, public monitoring did not detect any presence of these commissions on the sites of these channels.

The procedure is currently being developed for conducting examinations of social advertising. The point is that if an NPO has made a social advertisement (including for collecting donations) and wants to place it in the media (first of all, on TV channels), it can turn to the Coordination Council,



the experts of which will give a conclusion, is it really a social advertising, is it good enough? Having this conclusion, a NPO will be able to apply to the television channel with a request to place an advertisement in the air. It is important that when broadcasting social advertising the source of the message is not lost – i.e. specific non-profit organization.

In 2018 the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation conducted a survey on the topic “informational transparency of NPOs in Russia”, which was attended by representatives of NPO, mainly small regional organizations with up to 10 people (76%)¹¹⁴. The survey showed that about 14% of active regional NPOs regularly use social advertising, and the vast majority of respondents (88.2%) prefer to use the opportunities of social media to disseminate information, 68.4% publish materials in traditional media. NPOs tend to establish communications without intermediaries, including via the Internet, and an indicator of the real activity of NPO is the presence of a website and a page on social media. At the same time, only a quarter of respondents stated that they did not have regular contacts with the media, the vast majority resort to the services of the local newspapers, TV and radio channels (only 4% named Russian newspapers). According to the

Civic Chamber of the Republic of Karelia, in order to inform the public about its work, local non-profit organizations often use: Internet – 63.5%; holding mass events – 20.3%; media – 16.2%¹¹⁵.

The main problem of interaction between the media and NPO, according to public figures and experts, is that representatives of the nonprofit sector do not always know how to tell interestingly about their activities¹¹⁶. There is a problem in the very approach to presenting information: often NPOs present not specific projects and affairs, but simply their organizations, which is of little interest to the media¹¹⁷.

Since 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has been implementing the **project #NPO Region**, within which best regional practices are being presented to support non-profit organizations and assist them in entering the social services market. Every region has its sparkle and uniqueness. Tambov demonstrated successful experience in billing services provided by the NPOs. In Yakutia, local governments are trying to include remote districts into active work, and NPOs can register and receive documents on the basis of Multifunctional Center for Provision of State and Municipal Services. In Krasnoyarsk, they

began to actively work on the access of NGO to the social services market and introduced this area as a priority project. All the best practices are posted on the Website of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation¹¹⁸.

The main way to increase public confidence in the activities of NPOs is the transparency and openness of their activities: ideally, anyone should have an opportunity to study the detailed open access public reports on the work of the organization, implemented projects, financial flows. In Russia, the practice of public accounting by the NPO spreads slowly. According to the survey “Informational openness of NPOs in Russia,” in which answers were mainly collected from representatives of small operating NPOs from the regions, about half of organizations prepare annual public reports on their activities. The annual “Point of Reference” contest is intended to stimulate the publication of public reporting by NPOs. In 2018, applications from 307 non-profit

organizations from 47 regions of the Russian Federation were received, 252 of which were accepted by the jury¹¹⁹.

As noted the Civic Chamber Report for 2017, in most countries with a developed third sector there is a system of grading the NPOs upon the level of public reporting. The access of NPOs to state financing programs, tax and other benefits and preferences implies that the organization provides more detailed information about its activities, including financial flows, in other words, more stringent requirements for transparency. **Therefore, the distinction between different categories of NPOs involves the introduction of a more flexible reporting system and reporting standards of NPOs.**

According to a survey conducted by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in 2018, the majority of participants in the “Community” Forums (representatives of NPOs, civil society



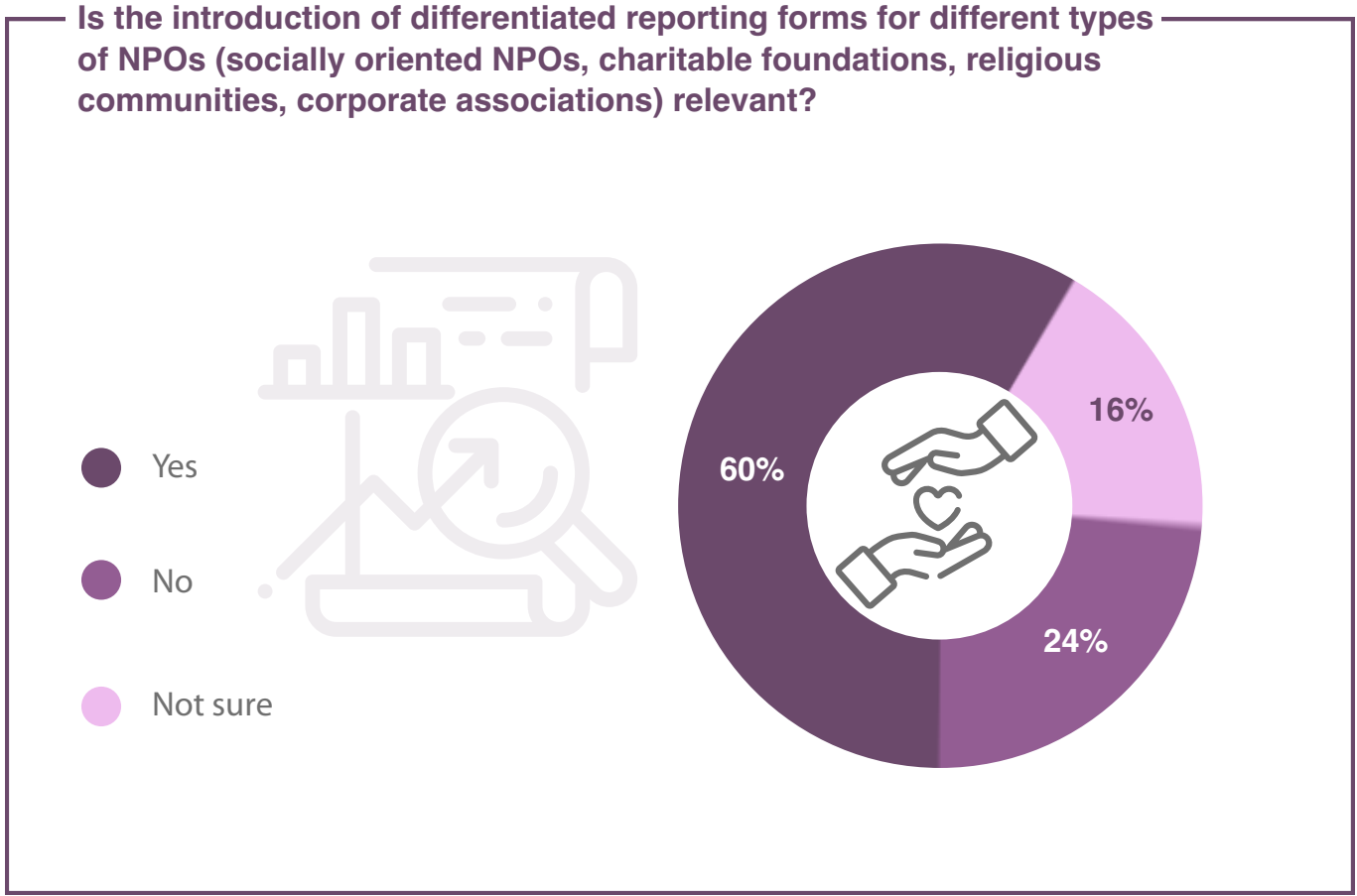
activists) support the introduction of differentiated reporting forms for different types of NPOs.

In 2018, experts from the All-Russian Civil Forum, who presented the draft “Standards of information transparency of NPO” addressed this issue¹²¹. The proposed standard includes the obligation to disclose relevant information on activities, as well as the sources and amounts of income and expenses of the NPOs PO. Information disclosure includes three levels of openness – basic, advanced and complete, depending on the degree of the organization’s readiness to place information about its activities in the public domain.

Innovations on the reporting of NPOs, established by the Order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation of August 16, 2018 No. 170, led to an active public discussion among representatives of the third sector¹²². The order approves new forms of NPOs, expands the concept of “foreign sources” and establishes the obligation of reporting on the expenditure of funds and property received from foreign organizations and individuals, either from the Russian legal entities and citizens receiving funds from foreign sources.

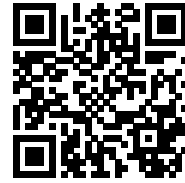
The sector’s response varied from a proposal to revise / cancel this order to the willingness to accept this innovation, provided the procedure for implementing the Ministry of Justice’s requirement is clarified: how should the NPOs receive information on foreign funding of their counterparties, how the responsibility for the authenticity of information provided to NPOs will be distributed, to whom the new reporting rules will be applied, etc. Of particular concern in the context of reporting NPOs in the professional community was the issue of obtaining reliable information about foreign funding of organizations – counterparties of Russian NPOs, including donor organizations. In the absence of clarifications from the Ministry of Justice regarding the practical implementation of new reporting requirements for NPOs, doubts were expressed as to the feasibility of requirements to include in the reports the information about cash and use of other property received from Russian counterparties with foreign funding sources.

The Civic Chamber closely monitors this situation, consults with the expert community and develops proposals for alleviating the burden of accountability for non-profit and charitable organizations.



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation¹²⁰

#VOLUNTEERING



2018 was declared the Year of Volunteer in Russia.

Thousands of volunteers took part in the provision of high-level World Championship in Russia. The campaign to recruit volunteers set a new record among the World Championships in the number of applications submitted – about 177 thousand, during the 2014 World Cup in Brazil 152 thousand applications were submitted. In total, more than 17 thousand volunteers of the Russia-2018 Organizing

Committee were selected. Applications were submitted from 190 countries around the world, 73% – from Russia. A large part of the volunteers (80%) refers to the age group of 18-25 and the oldest volunteer was 80 years old. 64% of applicants were women. More than 70% of the volunteers were students of educational institutions of higher education¹²³. From March 1, 2018, volunteers are recruited to work at XXIX World Winter Universiade 2019 in Krasnoyarsk.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CIVIL SOCIETY "GOOD PEOPLE"¹²⁴

From December 1 to December 10, Good People Festival, an annual civil society festival was held in Moscow. The event was organized by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. The aim of the festival was to show the versatility of volunteerism and its impact on the socio-

economic and social problems, stress the comprehensive scope of the volunteers and show the results of the Year of Volunteer. This year the Festival was an open platform for all Moscow residents who wanted to learn about volunteering and try oneself in different areas.

MARATHON OF GOOD DEEDS¹²⁵

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has launched August 1 the All-Russian action "Good Deeds Marathon", dedicated to Year of Volunteer in Russia. As part of the action, it is planned to collect the most successful volunteer and charitable projects on one platform and replicate them in the regions of Russia in the form of an exciting online quest with the engagement of active citizens from across the country.

All-Russian action "Good Deeds Marathon" is held by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation from 2016, with the support of the Federal Agency on Youth Affairs. During this time, its participants included over 110 thousand Russians who made more than 60 thousand good deeds for the benefit of society.



An important event was the adoption of amendments to the Federal Law of August 11, 1995 No. 15-FZ "On Charitable Activities and Charitable Organizations". The law has received the new name of the Federal Law "On charitable activities and ultraneous (voluntary) services". The law equated the concepts of "volunteering" and "ultraneous services" and gave them a clear definition. The law introduces the concept of volunteer (ultraneous) organization and organization – organizer of volunteer (ultraneous) activities, defines the powers of federal and regional government bodies to support volunteer (ultraneous) activities. For the first time, the basic conditions for engaging in voluntary activities are clearly defined at the legislative level. It is envisaged that volunteers can carry out their activities both individually and as part of organizations, the legal conditions for volunteers to carry out their activities, which can be enshrined in a civil law agreement between a volunteer and a beneficiary or a legal entity, are defined.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation took part in drafting of the law, held in 2017-2018 public hearings in 63 federal entities. However, the Government of the Russian Federation has not yet developed and adopted by-laws regulating the relationship of volunteering organizers with subordinate state institutions. Therefore, the law is not yet fully effective.

In 2017, the Agency for Strategic Initiatives developed the Volunteering Support Standard, which includes nine steps in key areas: involvement of all interested regional executive authorities in support of volunteering, development of a transparent procedure for interaction between the government authorities and volunteers and organizations, provision of infrastructure support measures, training volunteers and officials, encouraging volunteers, financial and information support for volunteers¹²⁶.



The most significant barrier hindering the entry into the volunteer movement is the underdevelopment of infrastructure – various volunteer centers willing to work with citizens, as well as inaccessibility of information about ongoing social events and projects. The creation of Russian volunteer resource centers has started just recently and they are in the process of finding their own development strategies: such centers are being created both by socially oriented non-profit organizations and with state assistance. In 2014, the Association of Volunteer Centers was formed¹²⁷, uniting the major regional centers of volunteering. During the first half of 2018, a roadmap of the Federal Program “Resource Centers” was developed and approved. The Directorate of the Year of Volunteer jointly with the Association of Volunteer Centers is working on the mass formation of a network of volunteer centers in educational organizations (in 2018 more than 6.5 thousand school teams and 350 volunteer centers in universities opened¹²⁸), regional volunteering resource centers (centers opened in more than 30 subject regions in 2018, 47 subject regions are in the process of forming their centers¹²⁹), as well as centers of silver volunteering for the elderly (30 regional centers opened in 350¹³⁰). The target models were developed based on the best practices for each type of infrastructure with engagement of the Civic Chamber Coordination Council for the Development of Volunteering. Over 450 thousand volunteers were registered on the Volunteers of

Russia portal, and the number of vacancies for personal fulfillment through volunteering exceeded 35 thousand. (20 thousand events and 15 thousand projects)¹³¹. Based on the analysis of domestic and foreign experience, the Federal Agency on Youth Affairs created a model of a resource center to support volunteering and prepared methodological manuals “A Model for Developing Resource Centers to Support Volunteering in the Subject Regions of the Russian Federation” and “Best Practices for Organizing Resource Center Activities”.

The largest volunteer resource center in Russia is Mosvolonter, established in 2014 as the main element of the volunteering support infrastructure in Moscow, it supports over 490 NPOs and accompanies the activities of more than 56 thousand volunteers¹³². The leaders in the organization of the volunteer movement are also the Krasnoyarsk Territory, the Republic of Bashkortostan, and Kaliningrad Region.

Upon the initiative of the Volunteer Search Team “Liza Alert” and the support of the Agency for Strategic Initiatives, the Unified Search Center for Missing People was created.

A significant step forward was the massive opening of volunteering (ultraneous) centers in educational institutions. The program, which was initiated by the Association of Volunteer Centers, is aimed at promoting the volunteer movement among schoolchildren. As part of a joint project of the Association of Volunteer Centers and the Russian Schoolchildren Movement “League of School Volunteer Units”, 6.5 thousand teams of young volunteers have been created in schools throughout the country¹³³. Until the end of 2018, it was planned to create volunteer centers at 350 universities, and by 2024 such centers should appear in 60% of all educational organizations – schools, colleges and universities.

Another barrier in the development of volunteering in Russia is the insufficiency of educational programs, as well as the lack of competencies in working with them among representatives of state institutions that attract volunteers. To solve this problem, the “Learn.PRO” educational platform with online

courses for civil servants, public sector employees, volunteer organizers and volunteers themselves was launched. In the fourth quarter of 2018, over 25 thousand users completed the training¹³⁴. An educational standard was developed for volunteers, regional schools of volunteers were opened in 82 subject regions of the Federation.

Mentoring is an important area of voluntary activity. As a rule, it means attracting retirement professionals as specialized teachers for young professionals. This issue has been addressed in detail in the “Community” Forums in the regions of Russia. Participants came to the conclusion that further development of mentoring will contribute to State support and coordinate the efforts of State and civil society. It was proposed to provide state support for the development of mentoring within the framework of federal priority projects aimed at increasing labor productivity, to develop regulatory legal acts on the development of mentoring in various fields, to recommend to state authorities of the subject regions of the Russian Federation to provide grants to NPOs running social projects for the development of mentoring and several other measures.

In his annual Address, the President of the Russian Federation in 2018 noted that he considered the development of the mentoring movement a significant task, namely the All-Russian Generation Relay project supported by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was aimed at reviving mentoring and actively involving the country’s veterans community in this activity. In 2018, the project held 13 training seminars in all federal districts of the Russian Federation, more than 2,600 volunteers of the All-Russian movement “Volunteers of Victory”. The project provides an opportunity for the veteran community to participate in the formation of morality, patriotic feelings, and the transfer of experience to modern Russian youth. According to a study conducted in July 2018, 95% of veterans noted the need to continue the project further. 52.5% of veterans noted improvements in their activities, thanks to interaction with young people in the framework of the project. 72% of veterans said that the project contributes to the efficiency of work in the veteran organizations themselves.

A vivid manifestation of patriotism is the work of volunteer firefighters. Today the All-Russian Public Organization “All-Russian Voluntary Fire Society” has more than 290 thousand volunteers in its ranks. More than 15 thousand settlements with the population of about 6 million people are under the protection of the Society’s fire volunteers¹³⁵. In 2018, the voluntary firefighters of the All-Russian Voluntary Fire Organization were involved in extinguishing natural fires in the territory of the Ural and Siberian federal districts. With the engagement of voluntary firefighters, the All-Russian Voluntary Fire Organization extinguished more than 600 wildfires with about 500 people and more than 100 units of equipment involved.

The responsible and significant area of volunteering – volunteering in emergency situations continues its development. The All-Russian Public Organization Russian Union of Rescuers¹³⁶, systematically interacting with the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations and the executive authorities of the subject regions of the Federation, carries out activities in the field of fire safety, search and rescue, provides assistance to victims of natural disasters, other disasters and social conflicts, leads active work on the preparation of various segments of the population of the rules and skills of first aid to victims of emergency situations, and promotes the ideas of volunteering, humanism and charity. The organization has more than 24 thousand voluntary rescuers¹³⁷. Also within the framework of the organization, the Russian public specialized rescue squad is functioning, bringing together over 500 highly skilled volunteers of rescuers from among





the sportsmen-climbers, speleologists, mountain tourists and dog trainers. Almost daily, the squad members participate in rescue, educational and training activities throughout the country.

The organization does a lot of work among children and young people: there are more than 200 student community rescue teams, more than 240 thousand children and adolescents are involved in a complex of activities aimed at developing a safety culture and working out behavioral skills in various emergency situations. Every year, the Russian Union of Rescuers, with the support of the Council of the Federation and relevant ministries, implements the civil-patriotic project “Heroic Children”, within which Russia searches for children and teenagers who have committed heroic acts to save human life. The 20 most distinguished children on the eve of the National Unity Day take part in the awards ceremony at the Federation Council. A broad coverage of the actions of children-heroes in the media serves as an example and forms an active life position and a desire to help their neighbor in a wide range of children and adolescents.

Volunteering in the area of preserving historical memory continues to develop. Activists of the Russian Public Movement “Search Movement of Russia” in 2018 conducted 1,525 expeditions to former battlefields in 37 regions of the country. The remains of the 16,700 fallen defenders of the

Fatherland were found and solemnly buried in the earth, 625 names of heroes were established. The search engines opened public reception rooms, The Fate of a Soldier, in which volunteers helped the descendants of war participants, to find out where their ancestor had perished, to establish their fate using new archival data.

The problem of perpetuating the memory of fallen heroes on military memorials remains urgent. Thus, the searchers of Orenburg managed to establish more than 1,000 soldiers who died in hospitals and were buried in Orenburg, whose names were absent not only on the military memorial, but even in the burial passport. In Vologda Region, the searchers have identified the names of 225 soldiers buried in the region and missing in documents and on memorial plates. This means that the relatives of the heroes do not have information on the place of repose and may not visit this place. As part of a broad public discussion of this issue initiated by the Civic Chamber, it was decided to organize a systematic public monitoring of this problem by volunteer searchers, petitions were sent to the authorities.

Hundreds of thousands of volunteers of the Victory Volunteers All-Russian movement, with the support of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, helped to organize key Victory Day events, including Victory Parades and the Immortal Regiment. Preparations began for the

75-th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. The Victory Volunteers have an idea to create the International Volunteer Team for the 75th anniversary of Victory in 2020. It was presented at large international youth forums and found a response from young compatriots living abroad.

According to sociologists, in Russia about 22% of families keep a family archive and study family history, while only 5% do it systematically. Only 9% of respondents were able to identify the names of all eight great-grandparents, and 13% could not name a single name¹³⁸. In the Year of the Volunteer and the 100th Anniversary of the Archive Service, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation together with the Victory Volunteers All-Russian Public Movement and the Russian State Humanitarian University Historical-Archival Institute developed My History All-Russian project. The main idea of the project is to provide volunteer assistance to residents in the study of family archives and compiling a family tree. In October, on the basis of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation the first volunteers training session was held. In the spring of 2019 year volunteers will begin actively advising citizens on the family tree.

Most of the world’s largest corporations implement long-term corporate volunteering programs, a global corporate volunteering council has been created with their engagement. **Since 2014, the National Council for Corporate Volunteering has been operating in Russia¹³⁹, which brings together more than 40 companies, whose projects involve more than 40 thousand corporate volunteers.** The National Council was created to consolidate forces and resources in the development of corporate volunteerism in Russia and represents business community association managers, developing corporate volunteering in the companies.

In 2018, the Russian delegation took part in the 25th IAVE International Volunteering Conference. Within the framework of the conference, co-organized by Russia, our delegation organized over 60 events. According to the head of the UN Volunteers Program, Olivier Adam, “Russia is the leader in organizing the volunteer movement”¹⁴⁰.

In August 2018, at the All-Russian Youth Educational Forum “Tavrida”, leaders of volunteer projects in the field of culture united in a social movement “Volunteers of Culture”, the main goal of which is to develop the social activity of citizens in art, to support young people’s interest in the activities of libraries, theaters, museums and other cultural institutions. Over 201 thousand projects in the field of cultural volunteering were received at the All-Russian Volunteer Russia Contest in 2018, which testifies to the great interest of young people and citizens in this topic.

In 2018, the All-Russian “Read-the-Country!” campaign took place. More than 6 thousand participants, 500 volunteers took part in it, and 152 libraries from 47 regions of Russia supported the event¹⁴¹.

The development of digital technology has not bypassed the scope of volunteering. **The development of common information system “Volunteers of Russia” allows using modern technologies and simplifies the search for volunteers, beneficiaries and opportunities for self-actualization as a volunteer.** As of November 2018, more than 400,000 volunteers, 12,000 organizations, 20,000 events, and 15,000 projects were registered.

Among the priority areas of volunteer assistance, Russians name helping seriously ill children and adults, helping orphans, families in difficult life situations, helping older people, retirees and, finally, organizing children’s leisure, additional education, and developing competencies. The real areas of volunteer activity of Russians are slightly different. According to data of the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center in early 2018, the most common form of volunteer practice was engagement in landscaping (72% of Russians report about the experience of this kind of activity), money transfer to the needy (51%), assistance in collecting donations (47%). 28% of respondents declare assistance to socially vulnerable groups using their professional knowledge and skills, 22% of Russians report participating in charity events. Less common is the “practice of personal communication with representatives of socially vulnerable groups” (18%)¹⁴².



In 2018, the seventh Volunteers for Children campaign was organized by the Foundation for the Support of Children in Difficult Life Situations, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and other organizations. 80 regions in the period from April 20 to September 15, 2018 carried out activities in their regions aimed at active involvement of citizens of all ages in volunteering to support children and families with children. 8.25 million people took part in the events of the action, and assistance was provided to more than 2 million children and families with children in difficult life situations. During the action 170 million rubles were raised¹⁴³.

In the statistics on volunteering, as the non-profit sector, there is some variation. In the regions, the same volunteers take part in various regional actions held with state support, while in statistics they are counted as a separate “participants in a volunteer action”. At the same time, simultaneously with the “event-driven” volunteer movement, in recent years a lot of informal volunteer initiatives have arisen in our country, which in fact make themselves distant from state support, often they are not even registered. It is clear that as a result, our understanding of the extent of volunteerism is far from complete.

So, according to Federal State Statistics Service, in 2017 in Russia, the average number of volunteers of socially oriented non-profit organizations was 2,377 thousand people. According to Russian Patriotic Center, there were about 5.3 million volunteers in the country in 2017. And according to surveys conducted by the National Research University

Higher School of Economics, 38% of Russians over the last month had to perform any unpaid work for other individuals or organizations for at least one hour, and most Russians did it themselves (69%), rather than through existing organizations. Only one third of Russians involved in volunteer work, believes that they can be called a volunteer¹⁴⁴.

Due to the difference in approaches to the definition of the concept itself, the method of its measurement, as well as the difference in methods and procedures for collecting data, there is no agreed information on the level of development of volunteering in the country, and it is difficult to accurately present the overall picture of the development of volunteerism in our country. Just as in the case of the non-profit sector, it hinders the development of volunteering and makes it difficult to regulate the quality of the sphere.

In this regard, **the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation considers it appropriate to move from the now accepted calculation of the volume of ultroneous (voluntary) labor in “people” to the generally accepted in world practice of calculating labor in man-hours.** We can cite two situations as an example. In one case, 100 volunteers for two days assisted in holding the forum, in the other case 10 volunteers every day throughout the year distributed free food to the homeless. Meanwhile, they would be taken into account in the statistics as “110 volunteers” which is not justified. It also makes sense to move from counting volunteer labor in the whole country to accounting of volunteer labor by types of activities that vary greatly. One thing is to participate in major sporting events, receiving a lot of positive impressions, and another one is to work as a volunteer in the hospice facing human grief every day.

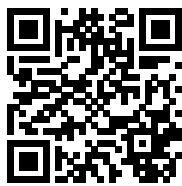
It is reasonable to move from counting the volume of volunteer labor “in general” to counting the volunteer labor in terms of the required level of qualification and the cost of the product (or service) created. Volunteering includes, among other things, highly skilled labor, for example, programmers creating sophisticated free software for access of poor people or charitable organizations to high-tech products.

It is advisable to focus on four types of volunteer activities, for each of which it is logical to keep separate statistics in the spent man-hours:		
	Work not requiring special training (sufficient instruction and training)	Work requiring special training (requires specialized education and training)
Safe work	Serving mass events, including sports, etc.	Development of open source software, etc.
Dangerous work	Care for homeless patients in hospices	Rehabilitation of drug addicts, rescue work in difficult conditions, fire fighting, etc.

The event that summed up the Year of Volunteer was the contest “Volunteer of Russia”¹⁴⁵. This year the contest was launched in a new format – 12 updated nominations appeared, the Acceleration program was created – a three-month program for the development and training of the initiators of the most successful projects. The contest becomes a meaningful social lift for volunteers. In 2018, the contest received a new scope – 15,839 applications were filed (in 2017, about 1.6 thousand applications were filed). An important event of the year was the All-Russian contest to support the best regional volunteer practices “Region of Good Deeds”,

organized by the Federal Agency on Youth Affairs together with Federal State Budgetary Institution “Russian Patriotic Center”. As part of the contest, in 2018, 200 million rubles was allocated for the implementation of regional volunteering support programs, from 2019 to 2024, funds were allocated for these purposes in the amount of 1 billion 450 million rubles. For the entire history of the volunteer movement, for the first time, the state allocated funds from the federal budget as subsidies to subject regions for strengthening infrastructure, implementing educational programs, etc.

#CHARITY

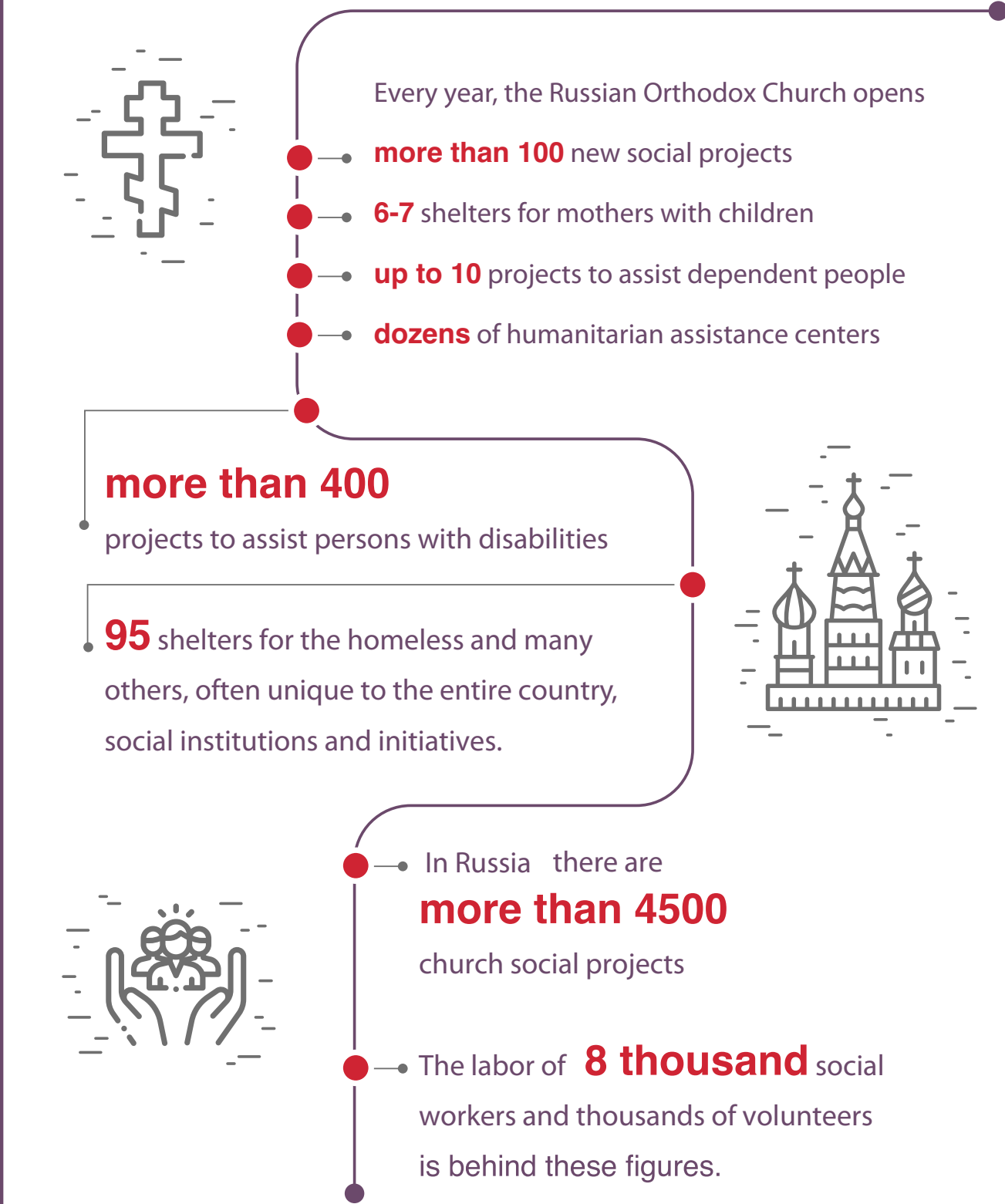


The charity sector in 2018 gave mixed signals. On the one hand, there were publications about the rapid development of the sector – about an increase in the number of charitable organizations, movements, actions, about the growth of donations. On the other hand, many foundations complain of difficult financial situation and talk about the threat of closure¹⁴⁶.

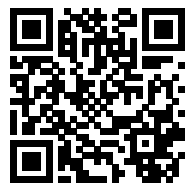
In addition, public opinion polls record the accumulated information fatigue from charity events. So, 60% of Muscovites replied that do not want to receive messages about charitable events and activities¹⁴⁷.



Mission of the Russian Orthodox Church¹⁵¹



#THE MAIN TRENDS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECTOR IN 2018



In general, for Russians, an episodic type of charitable behavior remains characteristic – this is confirmed by numerous polls of various years¹⁵².

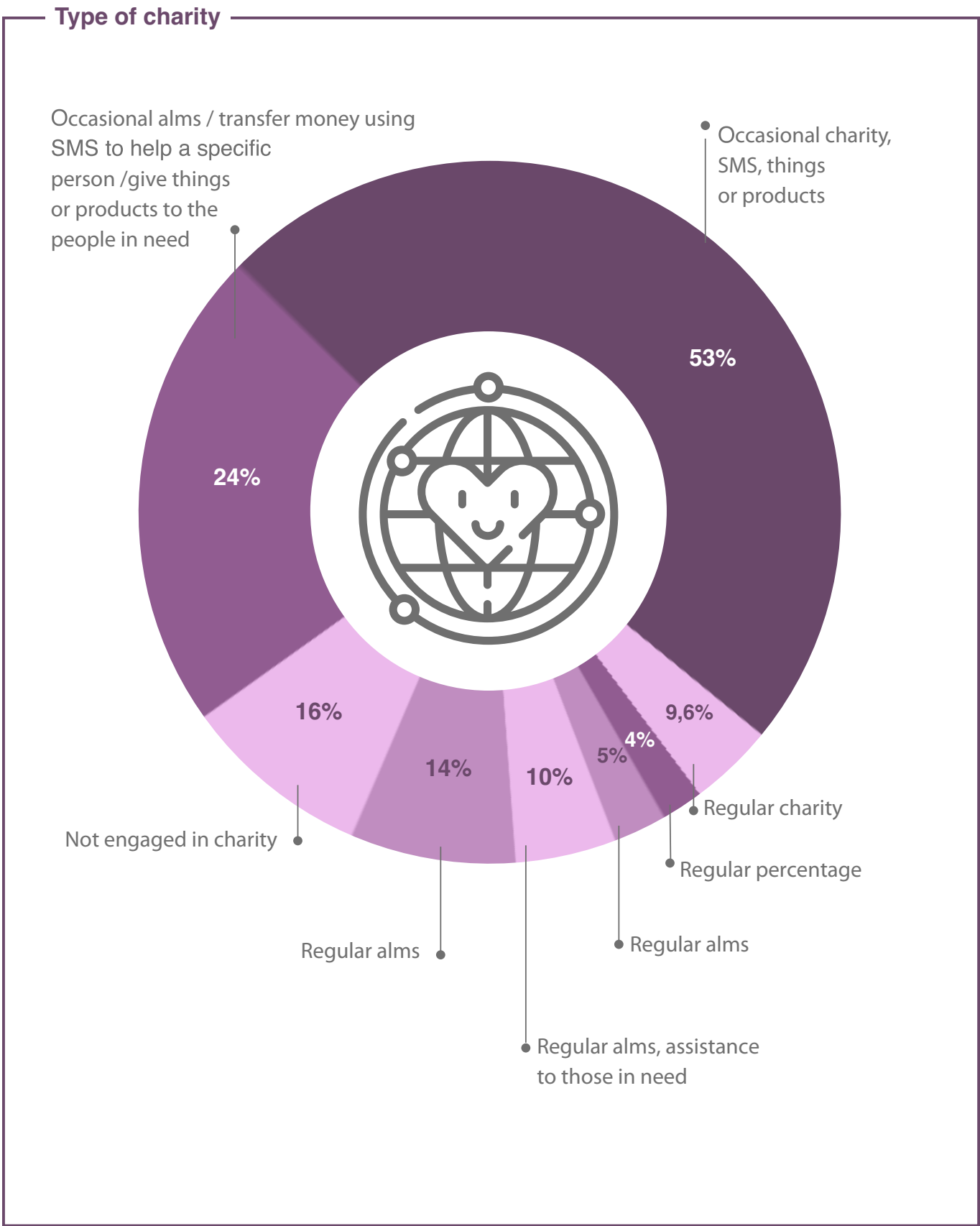
Among the trends of the “external” environment of philanthropy (the behavior of donors – the public and business), there is a noticeable decline in the population’s willingness to donate money – the share of new regular payments by subscription or “auto payments” decreases and, in general, the personal budget for charity decreases. The professional community of the charitable sector today prefers to move on to project activities and gradually refuses from targeted assistance, is ready to raise important social problems and offer solutions to the state, is ready to unite to solve acute problems.

According to a poll by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, 53.7% of respondents occasionally give alms, transfer money through SMS, transfer things or products to the needy. Also, 24.2% of respondents occasionally donate

for the construction of a temple, an animal shelter, the restoration of an art monument or a valuable natural site.

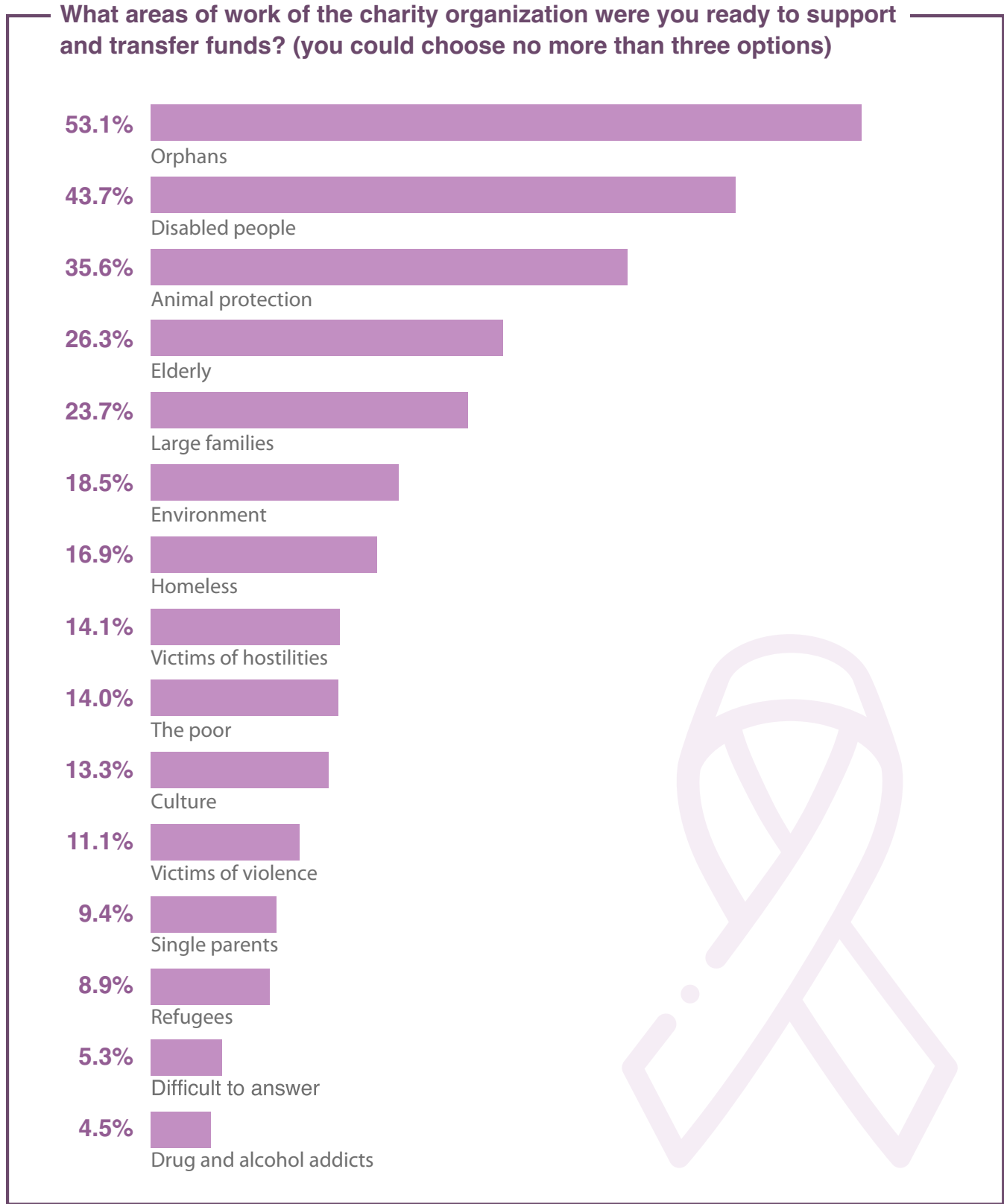
16% of respondents are not engaged in charity. 32% of respondents are engaged in various charitable activities on a regular basis:

- 13.8% regularly donate to a well-known charitable organization (foundation) / transfer funds to an orphanage, a nursing home, etc.;
- 9.60% regularly give alms / attend those in need and provide voluntary assistance to them;
- 4.70% regularly make donations to fund-raising projects for the construction, repair or reconstruction of cultural sites/monuments/art/valuable natural sites;
- 3.90% regularly allocate a percentage of their income to charity.

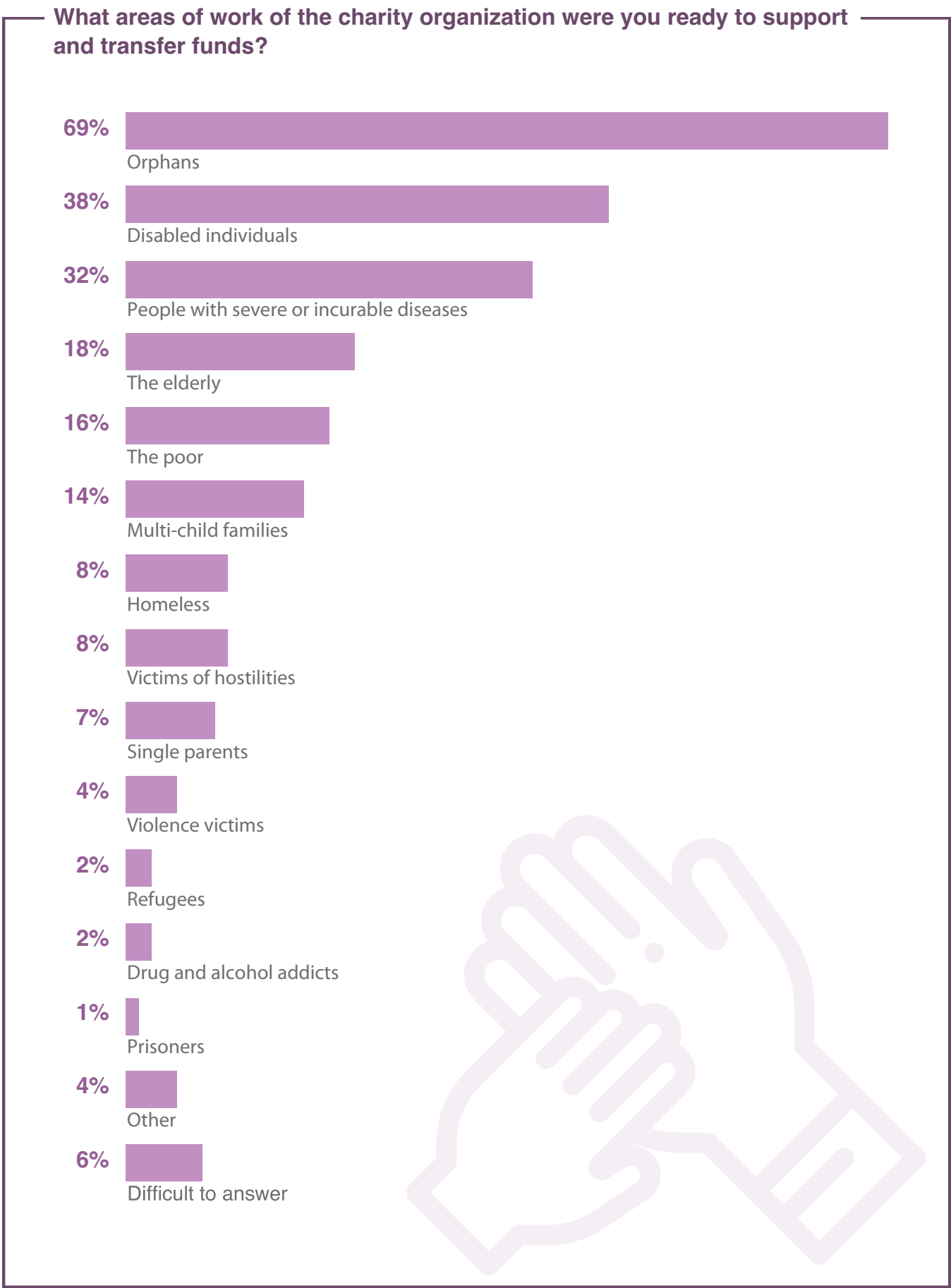


Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation¹⁵³

According to a poll held by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the most popular areas of donations from citizens are helping people with serious illnesses (53.1% of respondents), orphans (43.7%) and people with disabilities. (35.6%). Interestingly, the top 3 answers coincide with similar POF¹⁵⁴ poll.



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation¹⁵⁵



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation¹⁵⁶

At the moment, the charity sector experts talk a lot about the importance of regular donations for the financial sustainability of charitable foundations and organizations¹⁵⁷. So, in August 2017, Mitya Aleshkovsky, a co-founder of the “Need Help” charitable foundation and director of the “So It Goes” information portal, launched a “50 rubles” flash mob, through which he requested to issue a regular monthly donation of 50 rubles to support the foundation’s projects¹⁵⁸. In less than a day, the fund collected 5,139 new regular donations (before the

start of the flash mob, the fund had only 63 regular donations). In 48 hours it managed to gather 707,827 rubles, and 564,088 rubles a month¹⁵⁹. However, donations from the population remain irregular. So, according to a survey of POF 86% of respondents do not think they can afford regular donations¹⁶⁰.

The participants of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation poll responded to a similar question with a more favorable answer for the

development of the trend of regular donations, but the result is still generally low – only 8.1% of respondents donate money regularly and 23.3% of respondents considered they can afford it, but 51, 6% of respondents do not think they can afford regular donations.

Experts note that charitable activity through volunteering is coming to replace donations. Professional volunteering (pro bono) is actively developing: accountants, IT volunteers, lawyers are ready to join the NPOs. Corporate volunteering is developing.

Business also prefers not to increase charitable budgets, but concentrates on the development of corporate volunteering projects.

Also, some experts speak of a decrease in demand for a model of interaction between business and charitable foundations “donor-recipient” in Russia: business is no longer satisfied with the role of donors in the classical sense of the “cash cow”. Today, investors are interested in supporting local communities that are able to further scale up their activities independently. Actually part of the Russian business is ready to become a social investor¹⁶³.

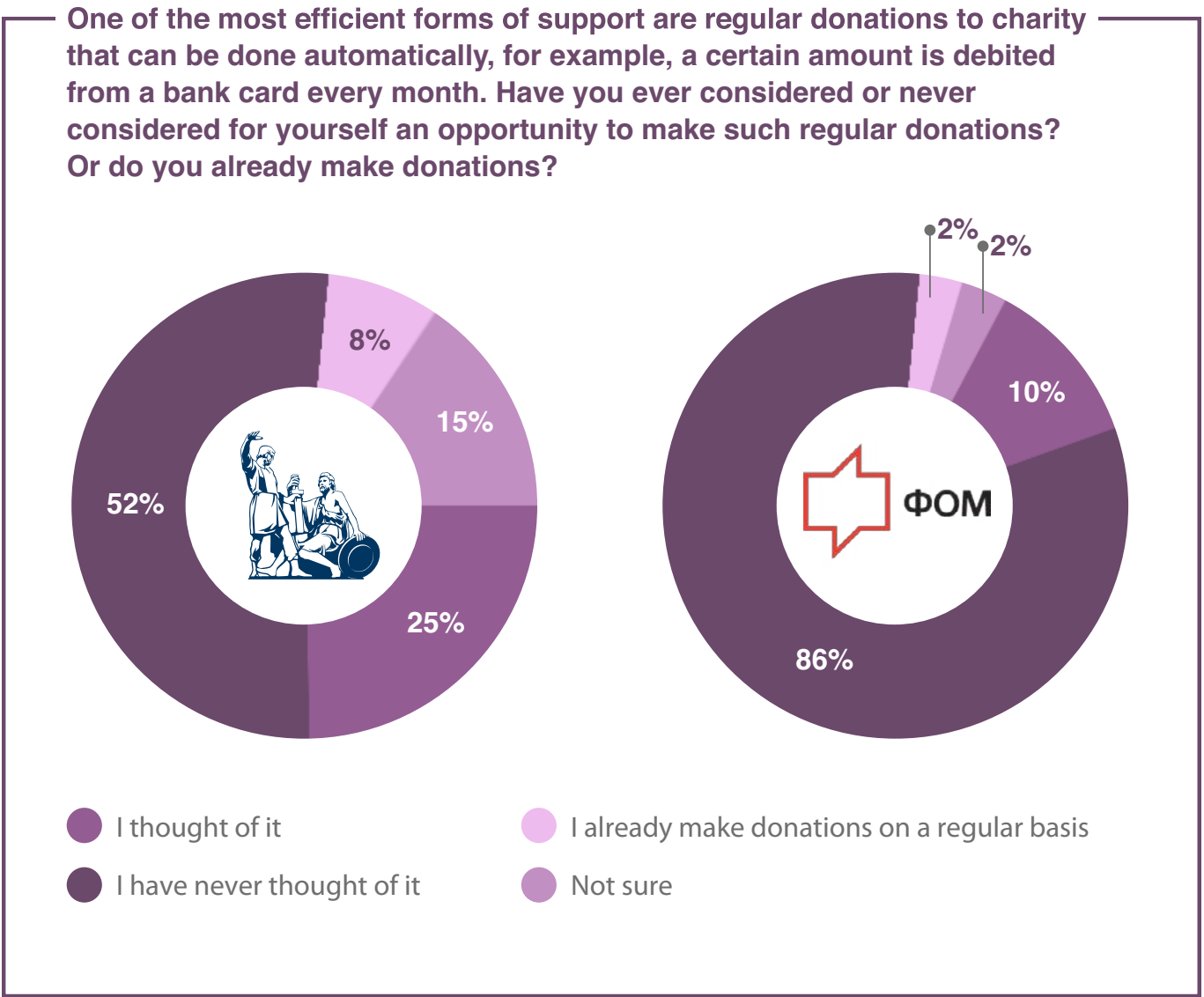
In addition, some representatives of socially responsible business are switching to new models of partnership with NPOs in accordance with the goals of sustainable development, and prefer to develop social communities in their regions.

Business begins to introduce the practice of charitable deductions from the sale of commercial goods and services. As an example, we can cite the project Imaginarium Good held by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation jointly with Cosmodrome Games. Eight charitable foundations took part in creating Imaginarium Good Zhivi, Korablik, Ronald McDonald House, Vera, Sheredar, Nastenka, Sozidaniye and Rusfonf. All the cards in the new game were created on the basis of drawings by pupils of orphanages and children with serious illnesses. 100 rubles from the sale of each box will be given to charity to help children¹⁶⁴.

Government and and charity sector foster partnership. In 2018, the Government, in cooperation with the professional community began developing a new version of the concept of development of charity in Russia. The Government notes that the Concept should not only clarify certain tools to support the federal level, establish new tax breaks or expand property support, but also give impetus to further development of charity. In particular, the sector should offer ideas on creating motivation for state institutions to work more actively with charitable organizations, to motivate businesses to better understand the charitable sphere and to more closely involve managers of charitable programs in social policy development processes at the federal and regional levels¹⁶⁵.

The charity foundations and organizations are increasingly working online. Gradually, the funds are abandoning offline events, in favor of the Internet undertakings. They develop activities in social media and online services to engage citizens. Active work on the part of charitable foundations and organizations is carried out by online polarization and recurrent donations¹⁶⁶. Social activists say that the online donations tool has yet to be developed and insist on further simplification: for example, it would be convenient if the “charity” button appeared in the mobile Internet bank¹⁶⁷.

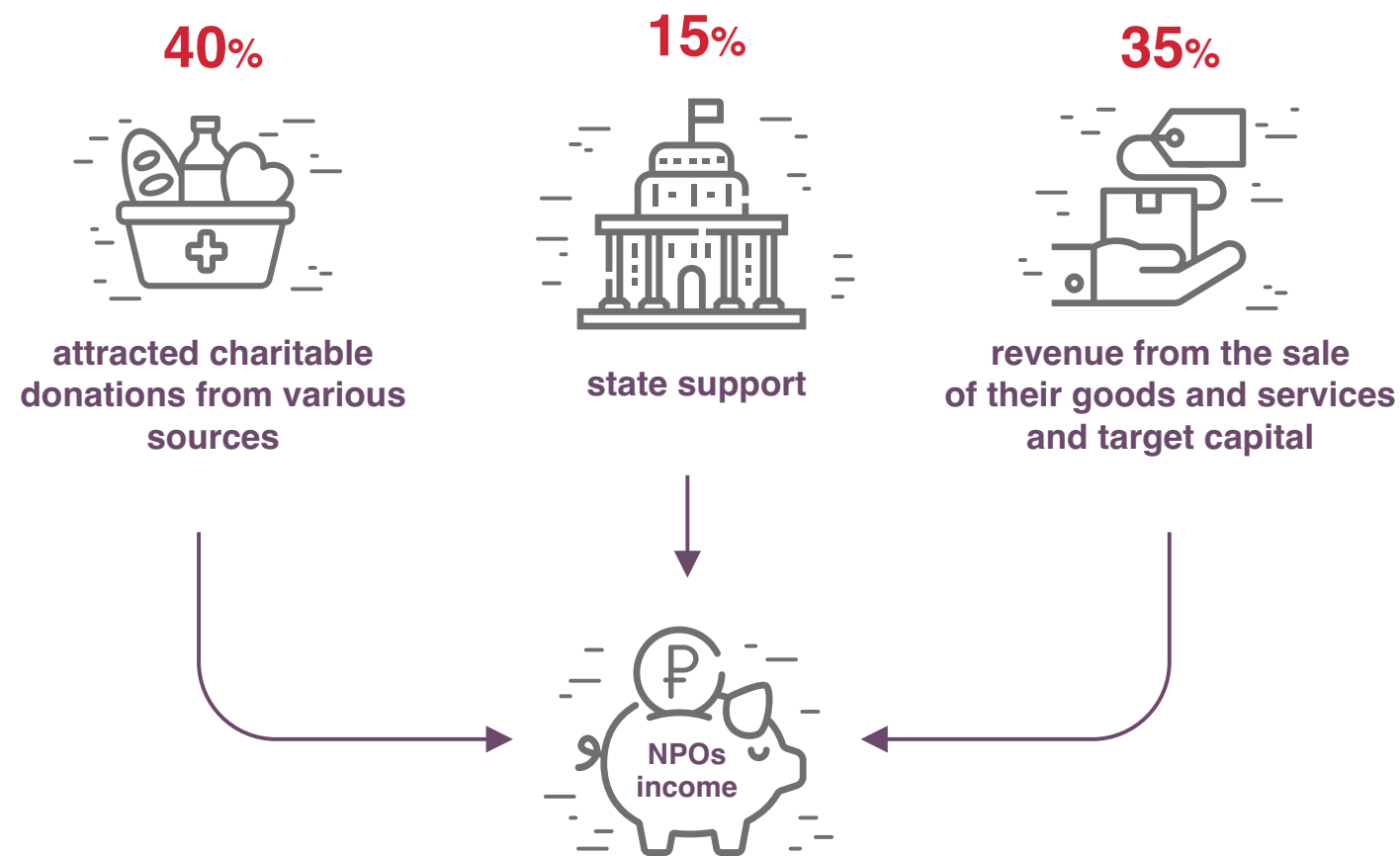
Many funds today began to reflect on the possibility to ensure financial sustainability¹⁶⁸. All major funds today employ professional fundraisers and actively use crowdfunding. Some NPOs were able to reach self-sufficiency and became social entrepreneurs. For example, with the support of the Center for Social Innovation, the project “Altaiskaya Avoska”, in which completely blind people work, received permission to open a shop at Barnaul airport and thus was able to pay the work of people under its care.



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation¹⁶¹

Source: POF¹⁶²

TODAY, CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS AND NPOS ARE GENERALLY READY TO DEVELOP IMPORTANT LONG-TERM PROJECTS AND HAVE MOVED FROM SIMPLY PROVIDING SERVICES TO TRYING TO CHANGE THE SITUATION AT LARGE.

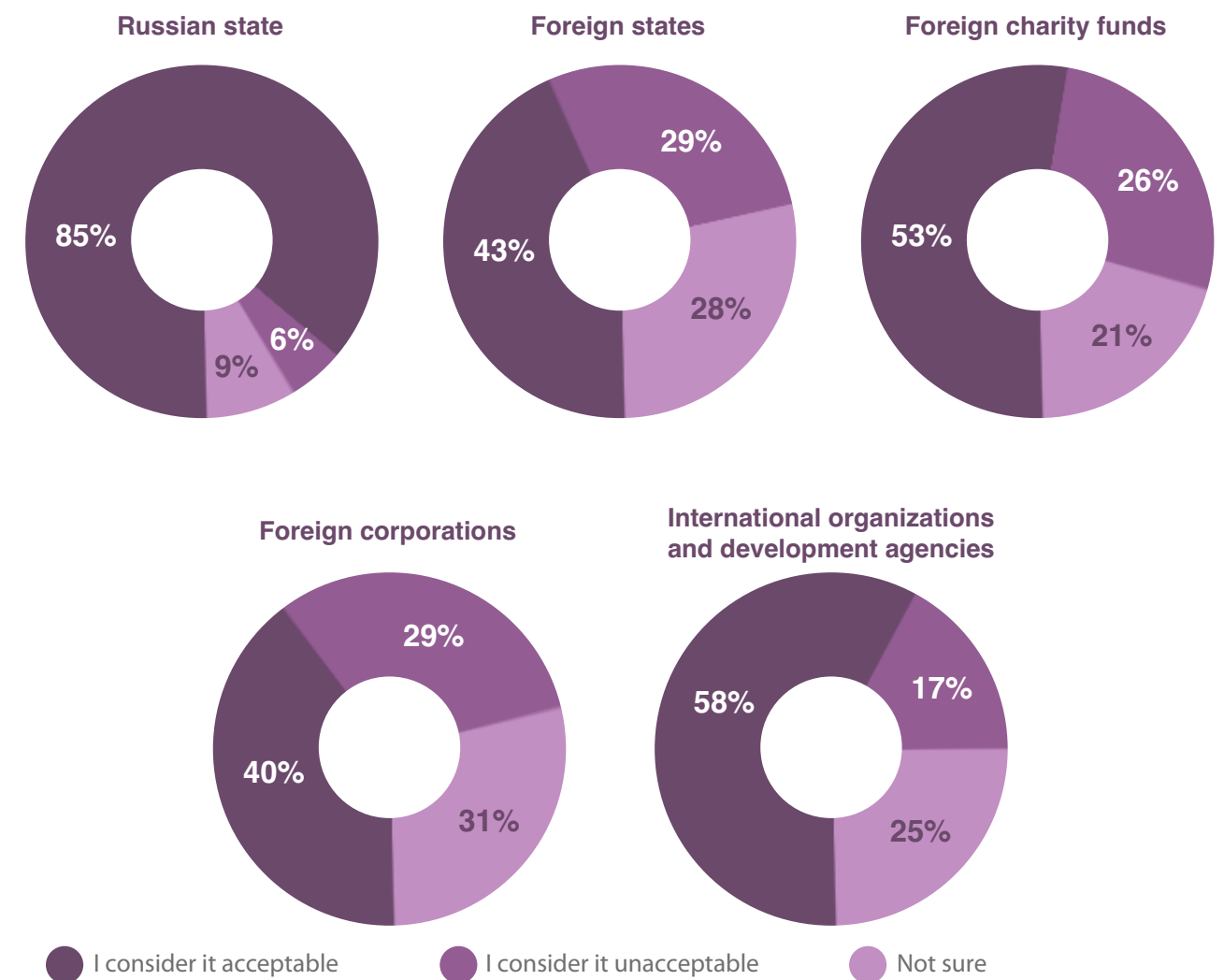


Source: Foundation "Need Help"¹⁶⁹

Within the framework of the survey, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation tried to find out the attitude of citizens to financing charitable foundations by the Russian state, foreign states, foreign charitable foundations, foreign corporations and international organizations and development agencies. Russians have the least doubts about the support of a charitable foundation by the Russian

state – 85.5% of respondents consider it permissible. 57.6% of respondents believe that the funds should be allowed to be raised from international organizations and development agencies; 53.3% of respondents – from foreign charitable foundations; 43.1% – from foreign countries and 40.4% – from foreign corporations.

Do you personally their engagement in the financing of Russian charitable organizations permissible or unacceptable?



Source: Public Chamber of the Russian Federation¹⁷⁰

Today, charitable foundations and NPOs are generally ready to develop important long-term projects and have moved from simply providing services to trying to change the situation at large. Charitable funds are becoming newsmakers of the social agenda. While such funds are few, they still appear. In 2018, such projects included, for example: Rusfond's project on the development of a national registry of bone marrow donors, the Joy of Old Age Foundation project on changing the policy on long-term care for the elderly¹⁷¹, Timchenko Foundation's project on remote monitoring of

chronic diseases in the elderly in rural areas, Filtech projects of Rybakov Fund to promote technologies of charity in the digital age¹⁷², the program Lift to the Future of the charity foundation of AFK System searching for technological solutions of social problems¹⁷³.

Well established social partnership projects of NPOs and the State¹⁷⁴. For example, great success has been achieved in the field of children's palliative. Now, NGOs and the state are trying to apply the same approaches to the adult palliative.

THE FIRST CHILDREN'S HOSPICE IN RUSSIA TURNS 15 ON JUNE 1, 2018¹⁷⁵.



One of the main trends of recent years is the willingness of charitable foundations and organizations to unite and create specialized communities: joint fundraising events are held (Meet for Charity, Hearty Bazar, etc.), the All Together Association is created – a project to combat fraud in the field of charity¹⁷⁶.

Experts talk about increasing the level of professionalism of managers in the third sector and about raising the demand for professionalization on the part of representatives of the sector. In this regard, there are more and more new proposals for the training and development of employees and volunteers of charitable foundations and organizations.

Large funds are increasingly resorting to social appraisal of the results of their activities¹⁷⁷. There is still a lot of controversy on this issue, since there are no universal and objective evaluation criteria. The sector participants are working together to work out suitable approaches. In particular, there are contests “Objective Charity”, “Point of Reference”¹⁷⁸.

In general, the mentioned trends indicate the development of the sector and its professionalization, however, many unresolved problems remain within the sector.



#PROBLEMS DISCUSSED IN THE FIELD OF CHARITY



ACCORDING TO PUBLIC
OPINION POLLS, CITIZENS
TRUST FUNDS THAT PROVIDE
ASSISTANCE TO SPECIFIC
PEOPLE, RATHER THAN THOSE
WHO HELP THE ENTIRE
CATEGORIES OF CITIZENS OR
RAISE FUNDS TO SOLVE A
SOCIAL PROBLEM IN GENERAL



The media continuously transmit stories of children and adults who are deprived of the opportunity to receive free medical care and are forced to seek help. At the moment, the problem has reached a huge scale, but the authorities still do not react to it. Although, according to the Constitution, the Russian Federation is a social state whose policy is aimed at creating the conditions that ensure a decent life for a person and the protection of his/her health.

Social activists ask themselves questions: why is this happening? Is there really no way to grow up domestic highly-qualified specialists or send them to overseas internships? Is there really not enough medical equipment in the country?

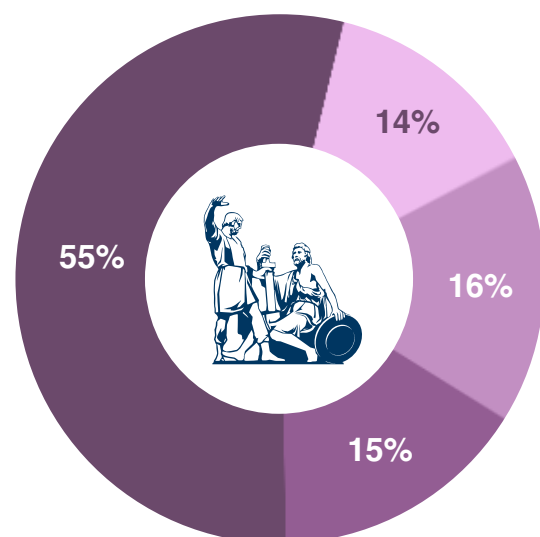
Solving the problem is possible only after increasing the responsibility for such cases by the Ministry of Health. It is necessary that in each case the heads

of the ministry explained the reasons, why free treatment in the country is not available for people. The Civic Chamber considers it important to know through whose fault the citizens are deprived of the right to recovery¹⁷⁹.

This led to the fact that today in the field of charity there is a place for fraud and unfair practices. **The most pressing problems of the sector in recent years are false charity and toxic charity.**

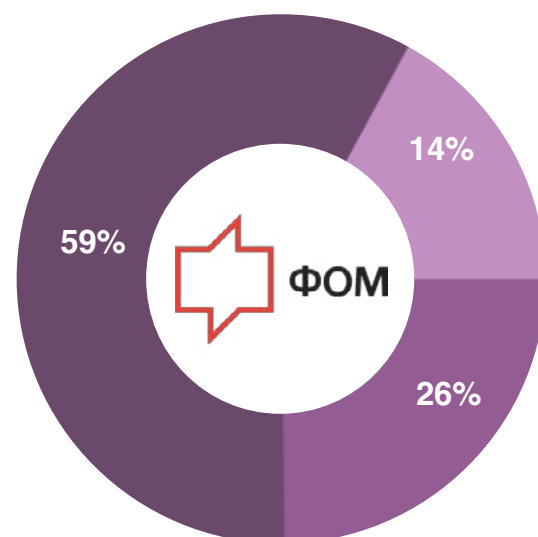
The conditions for the development of these problems are created by the people themselves. According to public opinion polls, citizens trust funds that provide assistance to specific people, rather than those who provide assistance to entire categories of citizens or raise funds to solve a social problem in general (for example, improving the environmental situation in a particular region or solving social orphanhood).

If you had a choice, to whom would you transfer a charity donation, what would be your choice?



- Transfer money to help specific people.
- Transfer money to help the group, the category of people in need

Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation¹⁸⁰



- Transfer money to solve a social problem
- Not sure

Source: POF¹⁸¹

The community of the charity sector is actively shaping ethical standards and seeking protection from crooks, but pseudo-charitable foundations that send “volunteers” on electric trains don’t care about ethics. Most citizens are not so deeply immersed in the topic of charity after seeing an emotional picture emotionally quickly send money to a transparent box or make a click.

The problem of collecting cash in boxes is that the so-called face-to-face campaigns are an accepted practice of attracting private philanthropists and informing citizens about social issues around the world. Fundraising with the use of boxes for

fundraising is used in Russia not only by scammers, but also by reputable funds, and you need to look for solutions to this problem by combining the efforts of foundations, law enforcement agencies and volunteer organizations.

Within the sector, it is necessary to create broader coalitions — we need registries of trustworthy organizations that exist in other countries. But these registries should be created solely by organizations, not from above. Today, various lists of NPOs have already been created – for example, organizations verified by Welcome. Mail.ru, but apparently this is not enough¹⁸².



It will not be possible to defeat the scammers only by the forces of the non-profit sector – the state must be involved in this process. For the time being, law enforcement agencies have no particular interest in illegal fundraising on the street, since these cases qualify as insignificant. Greater attention to bodies attracts fundraising through advertising on federal television channels.

Modern legislation does not help to protect against crooks. On April 13, 2018, the State Duma submitted a draft amendment to the law on charitable activities (No. 441707-7 “On Amendments to the Federal Law “On charitable activities and charitable organizations”), which determine the requirements for installing and using the donation boxes (the bill is on preliminary consideration)¹⁸³. The draft law was developed by a group of deputies jointly with representatives of the largest charitable organizations in the country and prohibits the collection of funds through donation boxes for NGOs that do not have the right to engage in charitable activities.

In addition to external legislative regulation, **the third sector needs internal self-regulation in the fight against crooks.** The charitable community should itself propose mechanisms for assessing the professionalism, ethics and transparency of charitable organizations, and also work more actively with law enforcement agencies to curb the activities of false charity foundations, twin foundations of well-known organizations.

Charitable funds may initiate the creation of a “trust rating”, which will include an assessment of colleagues within the professional community¹⁸⁴.

There are also proposals to extend the practice of public control to charitable foundations and organizations, but not all representatives of the sector support this initiative.

Unfortunately, the methods of toxic charity today are resorted to not only by crooks, but also by charitable foundations themselves. Many funds build their work on collecting money for a particular child. Most often, the surname, name and patronymic, details of the diagnosis are published, which undoubtedly violates the rules for the protection of personal data¹⁸⁵.

The society reacts quite painfully to such photos of children, and more and more often there is a discussion in the media about the inadmissibility of this form and search for other methods.

To solve this problem, **it is advisable to create, at TV channels, a commission for placing social advertising that would evaluate information about a charitable organization wishing to disseminate information about a charitable collection on the subject of toxicity and fraud.** Scammers use the fact that they are not checked – they come to the sales department, buy the advertising time and collect money from millions of viewers to their pockets¹⁸⁶.

COMBATING CROOKS IN CHARITY

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation appealed to the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation with a request to conduct an audit of the activities of the Golden Hearts Foundation and take measures to restore the rule of law.

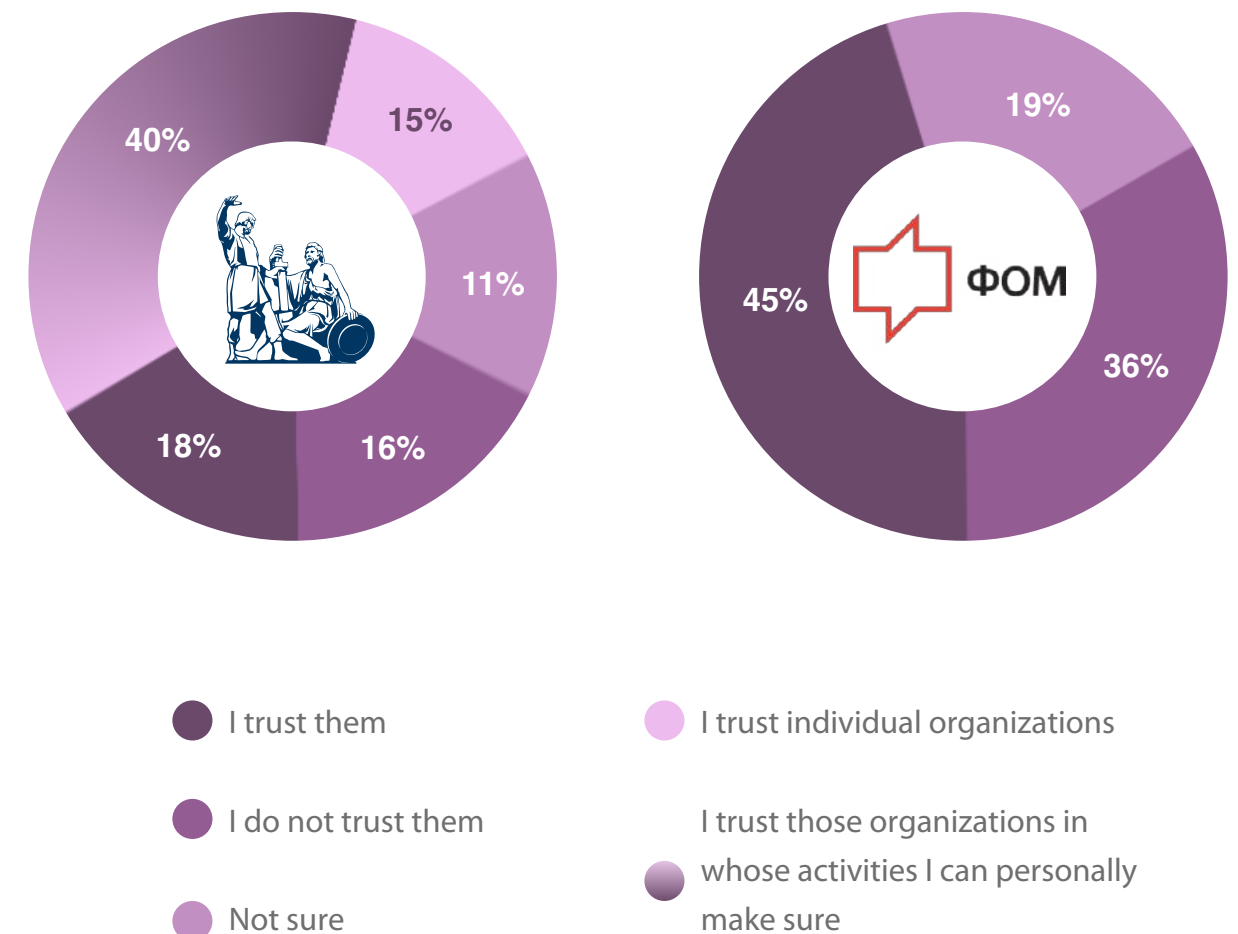
The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also appealed to the management of Gazprom-Media holding: on TNT and NTV channels making part of its structure, a video clip of the Golden Hearts Charity Foundation was shown dedicated to raising funds for the treatment of Alina K. According to the information available to public figures, it was done contrary to the prohibition of the parents of the child, and the money raised was not transferred to them¹⁸⁷.

In its response to the request of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Gazprom-Media Holding reported that it had ceased cooperating with the Golden Hearts Foundation and broadcasting the video immediately after the appearance of information about the fund's unfair activities. Also after the incident, Gazprom-Media Holding additionally informed the subsidiaries of the need to increase attention to verifying the information provided by charities for a public demonstration.

Low confidence of people is still a pressing problem of the sector¹⁸⁸. According to the KAF Foundation, approximately 65% of Russians are convinced that the money donated to charity will not reach those, who really need it. The poll of the National Research University Higher School of Economics shows that only 6% of Russians declare their trust in charitable foundations and 15% in charitable events¹⁸⁹. However, the POF poll shows more “bloomy” numbers, in general, 45% of respondents trust charitable organizations and 36% do not trust them¹⁹⁰.

According to a poll by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, 11.4% of respondents generally trust charitable foundations; 15.1% trust individual organizations and 39.5% of respondents trust those organizations, whose activities they can personally verify. 16.1% of respondents definitely do not trust charitable organizations.

How much do you trust charity organizations?



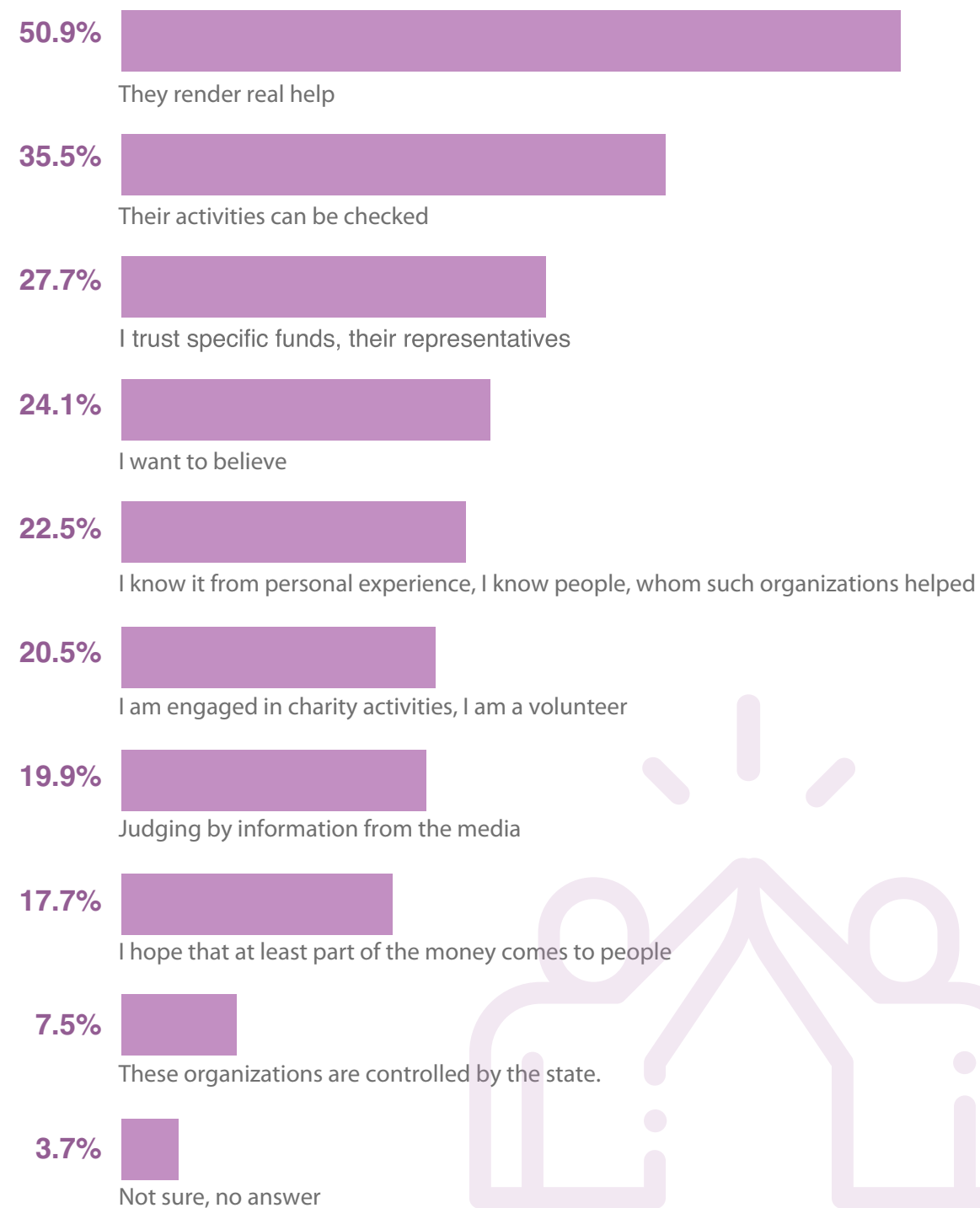
Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation¹⁹¹

Source: POF¹⁹²

When asked by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation about the **reasons for trust, a charitable organization**, 50.9% of respondents called the provision of real assistance to charitable

organizations; 36.5% chose the ability to check the activities of a charitable organization; 27.7% called trust in specific funds and their representatives.

**Please, specify why you generally trust charity organizations.
(up to three options)**



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation¹⁹³

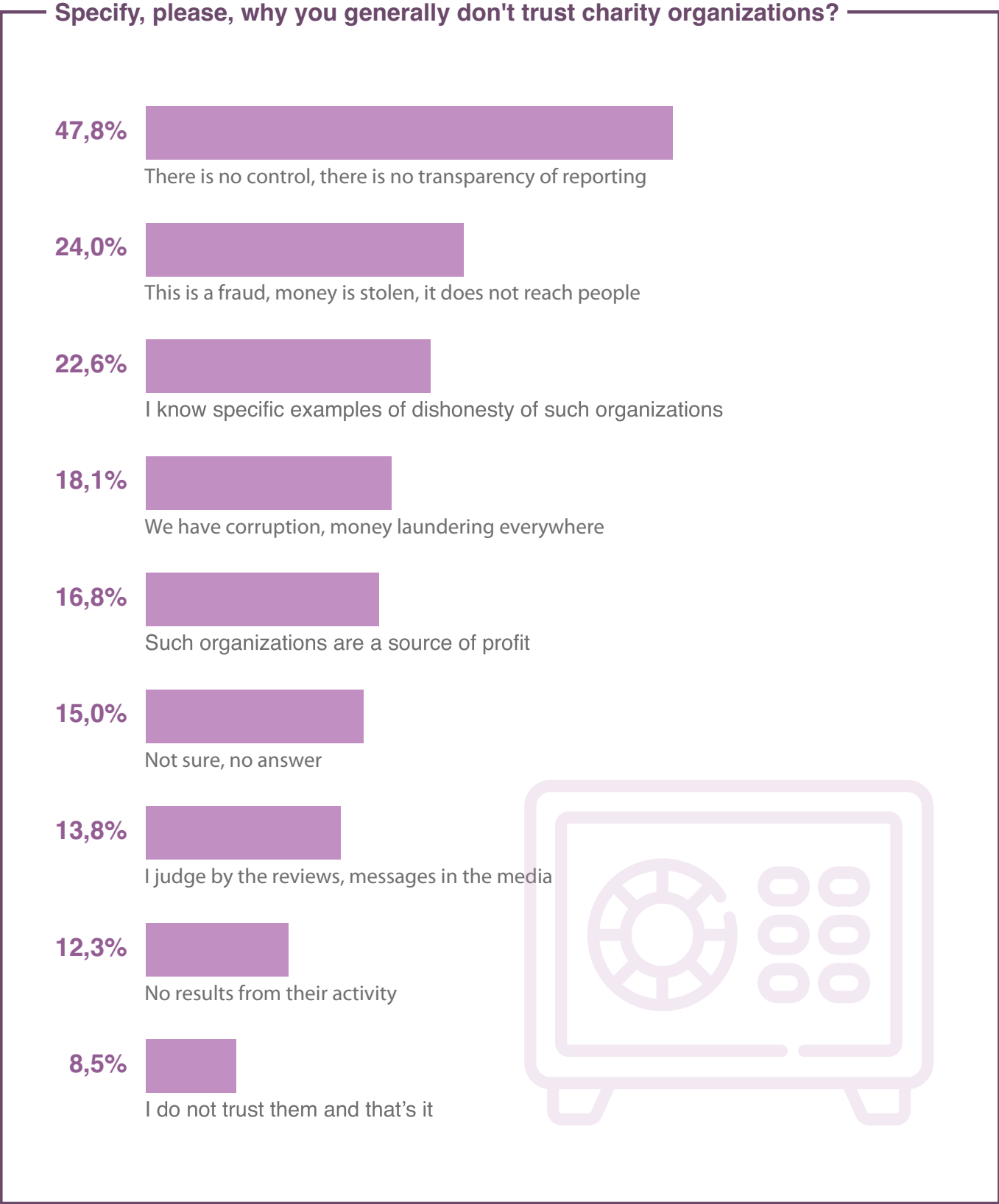
Please, specify why you generally trust charity organizations.



Source: POF¹⁹⁴

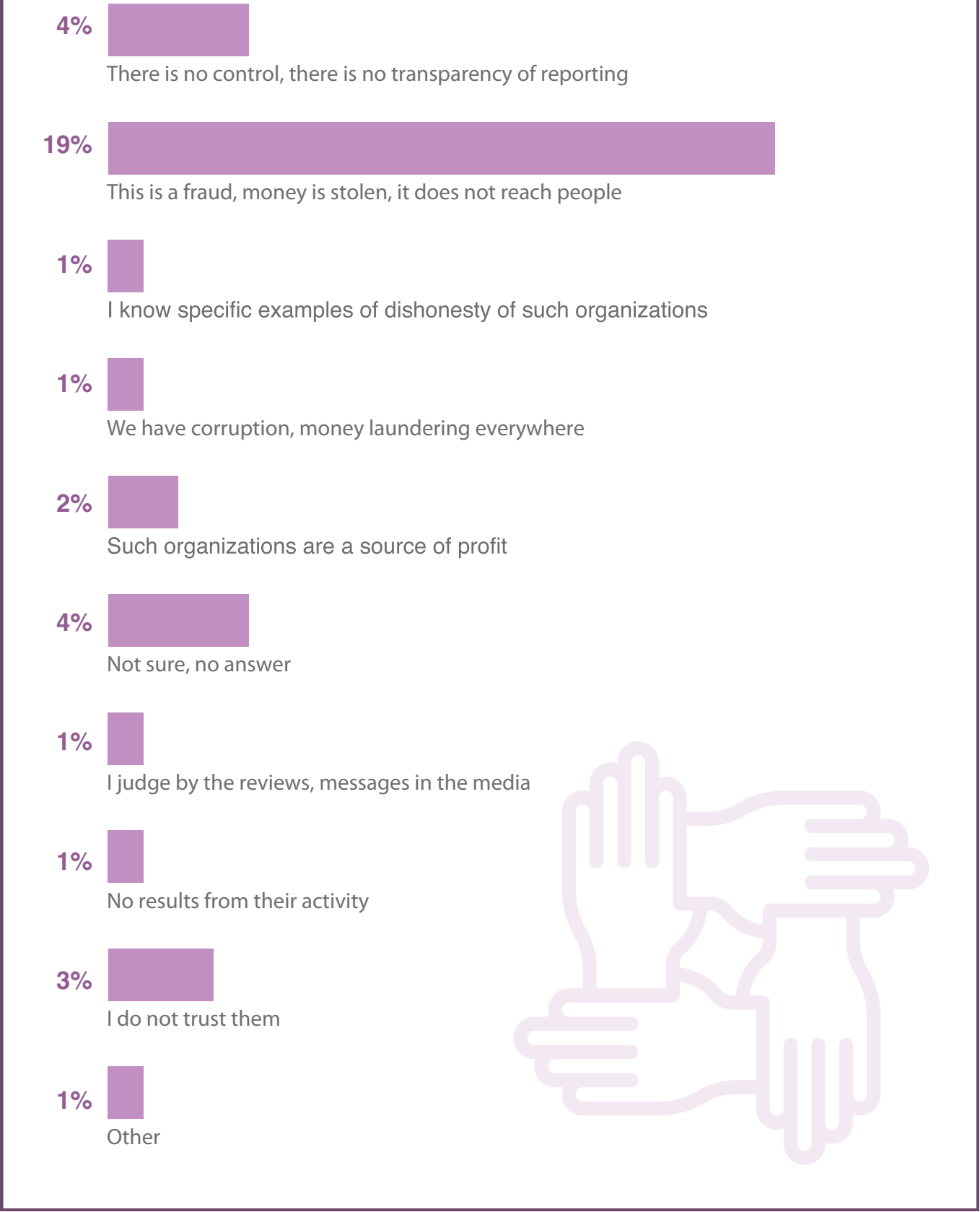
The main reasons for mistrust to charitable organizations, according to respondents of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, are the lack of control, transparency, and reporting (47.8%);

respondents perceived charitable organizations as crooks who steal money and do not convey it to people (24%); awareness of specific examples of the dishonesty of charitable organizations (22.6%).



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation¹⁹⁵

Specify, please, why you generally don't trust charity organizations?



Source: POF¹⁹⁶



Trust between charities and society is undermined by high-profile reputational scandals. The scandal around the “Fair Help of Doctor Liza”¹⁹⁷ foundation and the head office of the Russian Red Cross has not ceased¹⁹⁸.

Sector participants admit that many of the above problems arise from the low transparency of the work of charitable foundations and programs. Very few funds publish financial statements and activity reports on their websites. For example, in the fall of 2018, technical support for the social network VKontakte threatened to close the group of the social movement against slavery “Alternative” – because the movement does not follow the fundraising rules that VKontakte established for its users. The group “Alternative” has no monthly reports in the social network “VKontakte”, only a

table in the “Google Docs”, but the data contradict the words of the leader of the movement¹⁹⁹. Such situations are unacceptable when working with private donations.

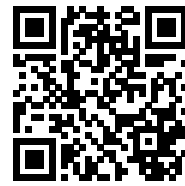
In addition, over the years, representatives of the sector talk about the absence of tax incentives. Legal entities involved in charitable activities have no tax benefits, and NPOs employees experience the same tax burden as entrepreneurs. In fact, part of the funds that the charitable funds collect as donations, have to be given to the state as taxes – it prevents development. Self-employed citizens are stimulated by tax holidays, while non-profit organizations are not encouraged at all²⁰⁰. Representatives of charitable organizations are asked to leave a credit insurance contributions to charities that expires this year²⁰¹.

“

THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS OF THE SECTOR IN RECENT YEARS ARE FALSE CHARITY AND TOXIC CHARITY. THE COMMUNITY OF THE CHARITY SECTOR IS ACTIVELY SHAPING ETHICAL STANDARDS AND SEEKING PROTECTION FROM CROOKS. IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DEFEAT THE CROOKS ONLY BY THE FORCES OF THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR – THE STATE MUST BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS.

”

2018: PUBLIC AGENDA AND CONFLICTS



The current agenda defines the state of civil society not less than statistical data and sociological measurements. The expert component of public activity is the content of interaction between society and government.

In 2018, civil society was involved in resolution of numerous conflicts. Thus, **these were the activists, who forced the state authorities, local governments to become focused on environmental issues, to preserve, rehabilitate landfills, to attend to the construction of waste recycling plants, to control more strictly and prevent air pollution, water bodies.** This work is not finished, constant efforts are needed here, and being under pressure from the public, the authorities understand this today.

The NPOs paid a lot of attention to social issues, helping children, families in difficult life situations, disabled people, generally considered the problems of poverty, social injustice, trying to remedy the situation, to make their contribution to its improvement.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation made a comprehensive investigation of this problem at the “Community” Forum in Ufa in April 2018, together with representatives of various subject regions of the Federation.

The public did not stand aloof from discussing pension reform, the quality and accessibility of medical care, and made a great contribution to improving the housing and utilities system by organizing effective control over management companies where they were inactive.

#INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT IMPERATIVES



Social infrastructure development depends directly on the success of the economy. In its turn, economic development in the modern world is closely linked to innovation. **Our country has been working successfully for a long time on search, support of talented people, aimed at the companies’ targets.** For 25 years, the Innovation Assistance Fund has been operating in the country, with a network of regional representatives in 72 regions of the Russian Federation. During this time, the fund supported more than 32 thousand projects, including 6,500 startups and 17,500 young innovators. The Fund has financed 410 projects within the framework of the implementation of plans for activities (road maps) of the National Technology Initiative in the amount of almost 7 billion rubles. And yet this is clearly not enough to recognize that today all conditions have been created in Russia to develop and implement breakthrough solutions: **the number of innovations is still small, the created innovation system as a whole remains ineffective²⁰².**

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation repeatedly addressed this problem. **In the course of the expert discussions, it was found that barriers to innovation remain.** Firstly, the public procurement system today works by a single criterion – the price, while innovators with their new proposals often turn out to be uncompetitive, government orders should be focused on creating products with a long-term perspective²⁰³. Secondly, the lack of practice of issuing a loan for the idea. There is still no reliable system for evaluating startups. Innovators, as a rule, have an idea and need funds for its development, and getting a loan with just an idea, even expressed in a patent, is almost impossible. Thirdly, there is no system for evaluating the practical relevance of patents. Fourthly, there remains unbalanced antimonopoly policy.



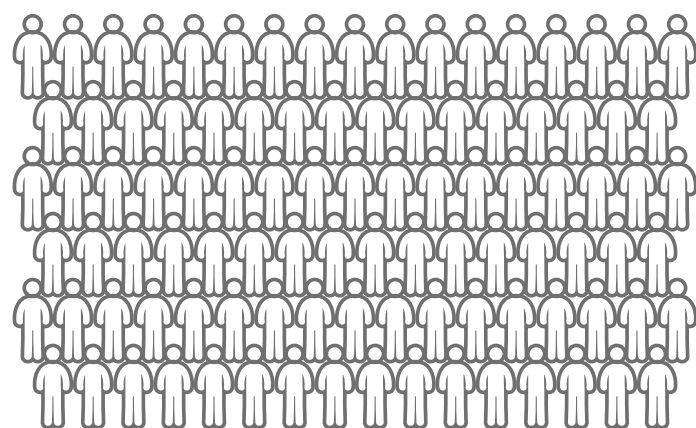
It is essential to take into account the views and experience of business and trade unions when making responsible decisions by the authorities in the field of industrial and economic policy²⁰⁴.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation receives many inquiries from businessmen and the Chamber tries to help in protecting small, medium and large businesses.

However, there are many different systemic problems that also need to be addressed, including at the legislative level.

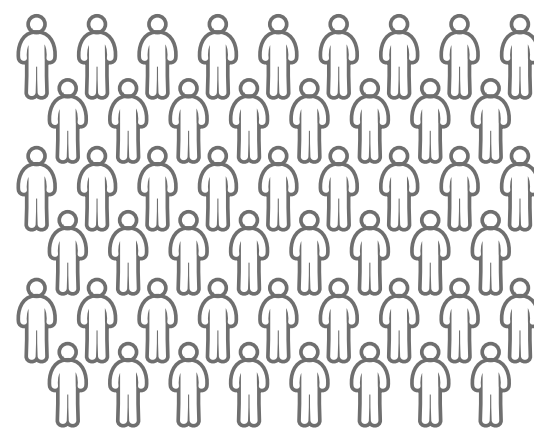
In particular, **the conditions for the withdrawal of self-employed citizens from the shadows have not yet been properly worked out.** The earlier reform of their legalization did not bring

There is varied data on the number of people, who do not have a permanent job, but have a permanent income:



15-20 million people

(Federal Compulsory Medical Insurance Fund)



4,3 million people

(Federal State Statistics Service)

the expected results (a little more than a thousand people were legalized).

In 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held a zero reading of two different bills on self-employed citizens: April 6-draft law by the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation²⁰⁵, June 14-draft law by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation²⁰⁶. The main problem, according to public activists, is that the authorities cannot find a unified approach to determining the status of self-employed citizens. It is important not only to create comfortable conditions for legal registration of entrepreneurship, but also to make communication with the fiscal authorities for these people as simple, safe and mutually beneficial as possible²⁰⁷.

On November 15, the State Duma of the Russian Federation adopted a package of laws on conducting in four regions (Moscow, Moscow and Kaluga Regions, Tatarstan) an experiment on imposing a tax on professional income (the Law on Self-Employed)²⁰⁸.

Also, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted the importance of supporting social entrepreneurs. This type of business

creates not only an economic effect, but also a social one: it makes you move from a passive position – “the state solves all problems” – to the position “I saw the problem – I took it and managed it”²⁰⁹. On November 14, 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held a zero reading of the draft law developed by the Ministry of Economic Development. In general, the Civic Chamber supports the bill²¹⁰.

During the work of the section “Economic development and improvement of the quality of life of people” at the final “Community” Forum in Moscow on November 2, 2018, it was noted that no department is responsible for the production of competitive non-commodity goods today. There are no breakthrough solutions in the implementation of the National Project “Small and Medium Entrepreneurship”. Thus, experts note that support for small and medium-sized businesses will only have a positive result when the reforms of control and supervisory bodies are completed. And the issue of reform must be taken under public control.

It is from the position of creating conditions for the development of innovations and the reflection of the provisions laid down in the May Presidential



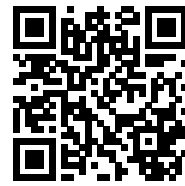
Decree of September 27, 2018 in the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation the draft federal budget for 2019 and the planning period 2020 and 2021 were discussed. **Social activists noted that, unlike budgets of the past years, the document demonstrates a consistent approach to solving important problems.**

At the same time, members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation made a number of comments on the parameters of the submitted draft budget. In particular, serious doubts were raised by the reasonableness of the rates of economic growth presented in the forecast²¹¹.

Social policy has traditionally been the focus of attention of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.



#OVERCOMING INEQUALITY AND POVERTY



Ensuring equality of citizens in access to social and economic benefits, income growth and improvement of the quality of life of all social groups was the main topic of discussion at the “Community” Forum on April 24-25 in Volga Federal District. It noted that ensuring a high quality of life for all social categories requires a new approach.

During the forum, a lot of proposals were made, submitted later for consideration to the public authorities, in particular:

- expand measures of state support and social protection of low-income citizens and persons belonging to other socially unprotected categories by providing financial and organizational assistance to these citizens in the development and implementation of social contracts and projects to improve the financial stability of their households, in the development of private farms, other types of self-employment, in the implementation of projects for gasification, improvement, insulation of their homes, individual housing construction;
- develop special programs to reduce and eradicate child poverty and increase the economic



sustainability of families with children, drawing particular attention to families living in rural areas and small towns with a population of up to 50 thousand people;

- provide state support to non-profit organizations, including charitable organizations, cooperatives, whose members are mainly citizens belonging to socially unprotected categories, for the development of consumer, agricultural supply and marketing and processing cooperation, for the purpose of providing assistance in employment, self-employment, development of personal subsidiary plots, improvement of suburban and garden plots, improving energy efficiency (including-insulation) of housing, its improvement;

- provide subsidized loans target to low-income households and their cooperatives;

- expand measures of state support for employment of residents in single-industry towns;

- recommend to deputies of the state Duma and members of the Federation Council together with the Government of the Russian Federation to make changes to the laws on bankruptcy and free legal aid for ensuring the availability of the Institute of bankruptcy for the low-income citizens having debts²¹².



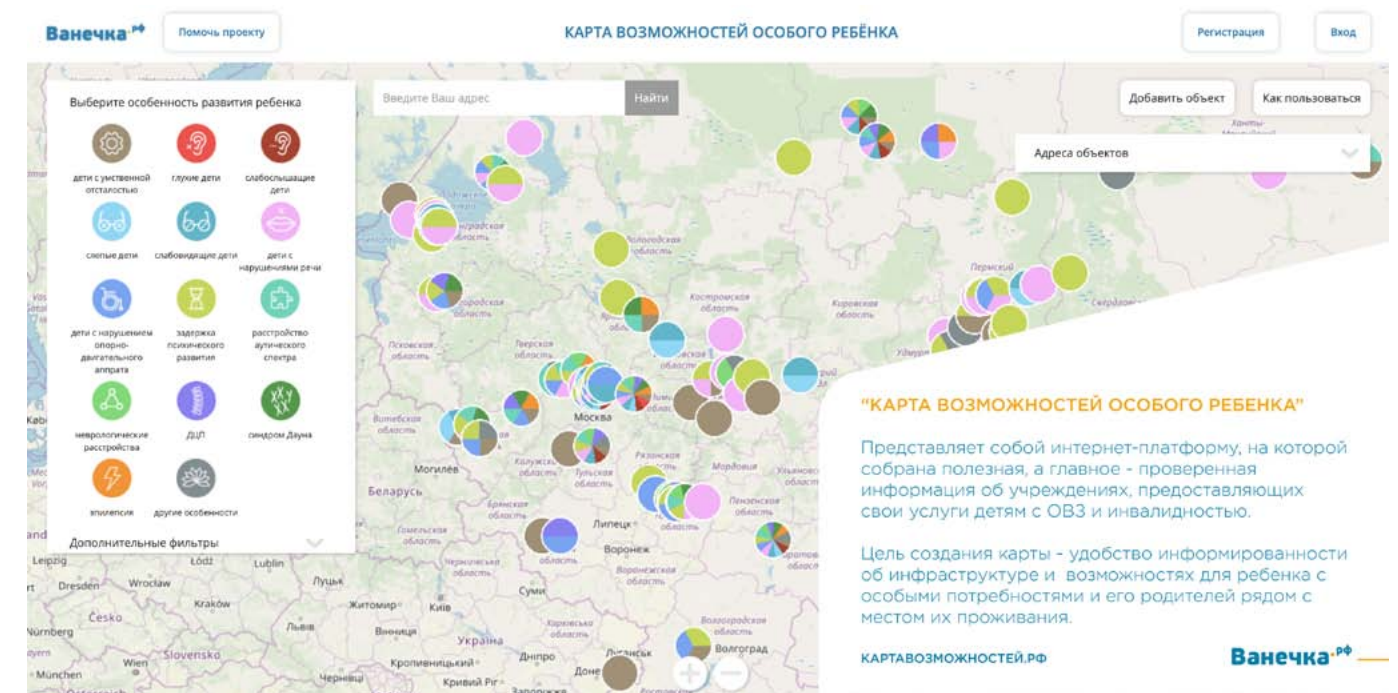
#CHILDREN



As a follow-up to the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of May 29, 2017 № 240, on the basis of which the beginning of the Decade of Childhood was announced²¹³, the Government of the Russian Federation developed the Action Plan²¹⁴. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation became an active participant in the development of this plan, and some of its proposals were included in the final version of the document, including those related to the analysis of the efficiency of social support measures for families with children, holding a “gift to a newborn” campaign in

the subject regions of the Russian Federation, determining the content of child care services, establishment of requirements for specialists in child care.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, in accordance with the Government’s plan (para.94), has received the right to develop proposals aimed at reforming the system of prevention of abandonment and juvenile delinquency, the end result of which will be a reduction in the number of street children and abandoned children²¹⁵.



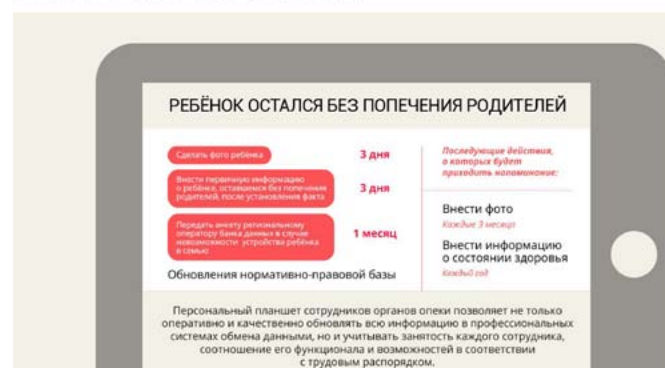
CONTEST OF SOCIAL INNOVATIONS AND QUALITY OF SERVICES "ALL THE BEST IS FOR CHILDREN!"

In 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held a contest of social innovations and services quality "All the Best to Children!" In accordance with the recommendations of regional civic chambers and authorities, 175 non-

governmental non-profit organizations took part in the contest, 103 of which passed expert selection and voluntary certification with the award of the "The Best to Children" quality mark.

SOCIAL ORPHANAGE PREVENTIVE MEASURES, CHILD ADOPTION BY THE FAMILY

ТЕХНОЛОГИИ - ДЕТЯМ



For the second year, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has a hotline for removal (withdrawing) of children from families. During this time, the Chamber has considered more than a dozen of such cases.

During the discussions at the Chamber's events, it was noted that in the regions there were cases of de facto discrimination of children on a social basis, when children are withdrawn from low-income families and transferred to substitute families, who are paid quite enough funds for the maintenance of minors²¹⁶.

One of the discussion forums of the "Community" Forum in Ufa was dedicated to this issue. The arguments of public activists have caused mixed reactions from the officials present. Nevertheless, during the discussion the guardianship authorities were suggested to exclude the material security of the family from the criteria on which the child's withdrawal from the family is decided²¹⁷.

In addition, there are quite a number of complaints to the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation from the potential surrogate families and the actions of the guardianship authorities. Their work remains bureaucratic, reliable information to the

PROJECT

TABLET OF THE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES EMPLOYEE

candidates to parents about children is not provided in a timely manner, due to which the process of placing a child in a family is prolonged²¹⁸. There is no open information on the priority of adoption, and this allows the guardianship authorities to demand money for adoption of children, as, for example, happened in Sverdlovsk Region²¹⁹.

The Civic Chamber organized a hotline to identify the problems faced by potential caregivers and parents²²⁰.

It is obvious that the system of family organization of children needs reforming. This year, the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation started developing a draft law on changing the procedure for family placement of children, in particular, it is proposed to introduce a psychological examination of the family, including family members living with the guardian / adopter. In August 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation hosted a roundtable on "Improving legislation in the field of family structure". The participants made recommendations to the document. The Ministry of Education promised to take into account the views of adoptive parents and experts²²¹.

Within the framework of the project "Technologies for Children", digital solutions are being developed at the site of the Civic Chamber aimed at increasing the transparency and efficiency of the sphere of family planning and system help to families with children, including the adopted ones: "Electronic portfolio of a child using distributed registry technologies"²²², "Tablet of specialists of guardianship and trusteeship bodies", "Special Child's Opportunities Map"²²³.

REFORMING THE INSTITUTIONS FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL CARE

An important topic for the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is the monitoring of organizations for orphans. Since 2015, Russia has been reforming the system of orphanages. They must depart from the previous methods of work of barracks, collective institutions. The new federal requirements are designed to make the organization of temporary places of assistance and rehabilitation, arranged by family type.

The monitoring was organized by the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation in 2018 and took place in all regions of the Russian Federation with civic chambers engaged. Criteria for assessing the work of organizations for orphans were determined with the engagement of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation²²⁴. The Chamber acts as a methodical center for the regional chambers in the process of monitoring.

The main task of the research is to understand whether the quality of life of the child has changed in the organization after the entry into force of the RF government Regulation of May 24, 2014 N 481 "On activities of organizations for orphans and children left without parental care, and on children left without parental care". According to the results of monitoring, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation will analyze not only the activities of organizations for orphans, but also the activities of regional boards on organizing the engagement of NPOs representatives in public monitoring.

Another problem for orphans, raised by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is the absence legal of obligations assigned to any of the departments to provide care when an orphaned child is hospitalized or left without parental care. As practice shows, in a large number of medical institutions in Russia, children left without parental care are deprived of proper care. To such a child, sometimes for a day, nobody of the medical staff approaches even once throughout a

day, either to feed, or to give water or to change diapers. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has repeatedly drawn this intolerable situation to the attention of the health and care authorities. However, there must be an interested and constant engagement of both citizens and NPOs to achieve the obvious: **no child without parents under five should stay in the hospital ward without supervision, one of the adults should always be with him – a medic, a nanny, a volunteer.** The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation proposes to respond to each case of abandonment of the orphan in danger, to make a list of medical institutions, where such cases are recorded, in order to establish order in these institutions²²⁵.

It was also proposed to introduce a nurse in orphanages, who could accompany children during long-term treatment, as well as legalize assistance to pupils of orphan institutions by adding it to the list of services of socially oriented NPOs funded from the state budget²²⁶.



EARLY ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN

An important problem in preserving the health of the younger generation is the provision of psychological, educational, medical and social assistance to children from birth to three years old. Such assistance helps to identify features and disorders in the child's development to prevent or correct pathologies. Now the service of early help is provided only periodically, although it is obvious that it should be continuous and family oriented. In 2016, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted the Concept for the Development of Early Assistance in the Russian Federation²²⁷, which stipulates that there should be regional systems of early assistance in the subject regions of the Federation.

But the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, having considered this issue with the involvement of specialists, came to the conclusion that the measures taken were not enough, it was proposed to create working groups by region, consisting of representatives of departments, socially oriented NPOs, entrepreneurs and experts, in order to transfer the main powers to identify early stages of life impairment in the development of the child and the provision of rehabilitation to the health care system, as well as to enshrine in law the term "early help"²²⁸.



MULTI-CHILD FAMILIES: SOCIAL SUPPORT MEASURES

During the direct line of the President of the Russian Federation on June 7, a multi-child mother from Tomsk addressed Vladimir Putin with a complaint that she did not receive a plot of land she is entitled to by the law²²⁹. Another multi-child family was denied benefits due to lack of permanent residency registration²³⁰. These and many other petitions have shown again how many problems remain for multi-child families.

In April 2018 the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation conducted a poll among three thousand multi-child families from 53 regions of Russia to find out what social support measures are in demand, what measures are effective, what are needed, but not easy to obtain and what are not needed at all. It turned out that most parents were concerned about medicine, housing and land plots²³¹. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation had prepared proposals for the draft bill on the status of a multi-child family²³².

FAMILY KIDNAPPING

According to the Federal State Statistics Service, 611,436 divorces were registered in Russia in 2017, and in the first half of 2018 almost 349,368 divorces, which is by 1,550 more than in the same period of last year. In this case, 190,300 divorced pairs had one child, and 170,057 had two or more children. There are often situations when one parent illegally deprives the child from the other parent. According to the data provided by the Federal Bailiff Service, in the first seven months of 2018 the office recorded 560 such cases²³³.

Today, the offender parent can incur only administrative responsibility in the amount of two to three thousand rubles for the abduction of a child, and for a repeated violation—from four to five thousand rubles or get an administrative arrest for up to 15 days. And when divorced, wealthy parents,

despite the decisions of the courts, practically steal children, constantly change their place of residence, keep mothers in complete obscurity about the fate of children.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has repeatedly pointed to the inadmissibility of such situations²³⁴. During the discussion of the problem of family kidnapping in April 2018, the **Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation raised the issue of introducing criminal liability for abduction of children by one of the parents if the parent repeatedly commits an offense and if the court decision is not executed**. In this regard, it is important to expand the functions of bailiffs, who should monitor the execution of the court decision²³⁵.



CHILDREN'S SAFETY IN PRIVATE KINDERGARTENS AND SCHOOLS

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation responded to the events that required quick civil intervention. Thus, after an outrageous case in one of the private kindergartens of Astrakhan, in which the teacher treated children cruelly, it considered the problems of pre-school education and offered to return the concept "nursery" to the Federal Law of December 29, 2012 N 273-ФЗ "On Education in the Russian Federation" and the definition of childcare and care as a public social service, and suggested the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Russian Federation to adopt the developed draft standard of the nanny (child minding employee) and introduce compulsory certification or licensing for child minding service²³⁶. In November 2018 year this standard was approved by the Ministry. In

accordance with it, in 2019, with the support of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, projects on the creation of regional systems of certified nannies will be implemented.

On October 17, 2018, a massacre was committed at Kerch Polytechnic College. According to investigators, the attacker was a student of the fourth year of the college. After the attack, a young man committed suicide²³⁷. This tragic case is not the first one in Russia.

As practice shows, such cases are often provoked by negative messages spread on the Internet. According to the Monitoring Center "Security 2.0", which operates under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, groups containing dangerous

content have begun to appear more often on social media²³⁸. And, according to experts, the popularity of online violence about the public is growing, as well as the growing number of requests, for example, about the massacre in American schools. The center revealed a number of potentially dangerous communities, the total audience of which amounted to more than 11 thousand people, in which the school shooting theme was popularized (literally – shooting in educational institution, at school). **At its hearings and round tables, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has repeatedly called upon the educational authorities to reconsider the approach to secondary schools, in which they often completely neglect raising children and adolescents.** In addition, psychologists should work in schools, and teachers should take refresher courses in order to know how to stop harassment of schoolchildren and other deviant manifestations in children's communication with each other. Schoolchildren themselves need to explain that it is important to inform teachers if someone from their classmates threatens to use violence. This will help to identify children at risk.

In September 2018, the Round Table Fighting Columbine Communities was held at the Civic

Chamber of the Russian Federation. Who will be blocked in social media²³⁹? "The participants discussed a bill, under which Internet resources and groups in social media, where there is information encouraging children to commit illegal actions, will be immediately blocked²⁴⁰.

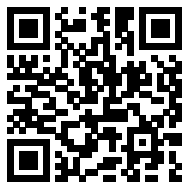
Today, it is important to conduct cybersecurity education in schools, but specialists who are ready to conduct such specialized training are not enough, though civil initiatives emerge in this area. So, at the final forum Community in Moscow, a project of cyber patrols was presented for tracking the inaccurate information disseminated in social media and electronic media.

On June 29, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation hosted a round table "Do not play the hero, but be it: innovative forms and methods of preventing computer gaming addiction among young people". It was noted that about half of Russian adolescents are subject to cyberbullying. According to data cited in a study²⁴¹ by the Regional Public Center for Internet Technologies (ROCIT), 46% of teenagers witnessed aggressive online behavior, 44% received aggressive messages addressed to them²⁴². At the end of the round table, proposals were made to the authorities²⁴³.





#NATIONAL PROJECT “DEMOGRAPHY”



The Government of the Russian Federation had developed a national project “Demography”, aimed at promoting sustainable natural population growth in the country. During the discussion of the project at the final “Community” Forum in Moscow, it was noted that to achieve the natural growth rate, it is necessary to focus on higher fertility rates and introduce additional measures to support multi-child families, development of variant forms of preschool education and care services and care for children under three years old. The implementation of a new set of birth support measures can be started from the regions of the Far East, relying on the positive experience of the Sakhalin Region.

In this regard, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted the particular relevance of collaboration with regional civic chambers²⁴⁴ of public monitoring of demographic and family policy²⁴⁵. On June 8, 2018, an extended joint meeting of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Civic Chamber of Nizhny Novgorod Region was held on the theme “Development of health care in the Russian Federation in the light of Presidential Decree No. 204 of May 7, 2018” On the national goals and strategic objectives of the Russian Federation for the period until 2024”²⁴⁶.

#HEALTHCARE



VITAL MEDICINES: PRICES AND AFFORDABILITY

ON AUGUST 3, 2018, THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION SIGNED THE LAW ON EXPANDING THE LIST OF RARE (ORPHAN) DISEASES.



On November 16, 2018, President Vladimir Putin held a visiting conference at St. Petersburg Geropharm plant on measures to improve the efficiency of the Russian drug supply system²⁴⁷. Much has been done to establish control over the quality of drugs sold, the delivery of these drugs to medical institutions and the public. **However, there remains a shortage of medicines for those diagnosed with rare diseases, drugs and supplies for diabetics, also an acute shortage of medicines for HIV-infected persons is recorded.** In Bashkiria, Nizhny Novgorod, Tambov and Kaliningrad regions, as well as Altai and Krasnodar Territories, there is an acute shortage of medicines that are vital for these patients.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation proposed to solve the problem of interruptions of vital medicines, transferring the authority to allocate them to the federal level, since regional budgets do not cope with the workload,

sometimes 70% of the budget for drug provision goes for the procurement of medicines for patients with rare diseases.

On August 3, 2018, the President of the Russian Federation signed Federal Law No. 299-FZ “**On Amendments to the Federal Law” On the Basics of Citizens’ Health Protection in the Russian Federation**” on expanding the list of rare (orphan) diseases. The law is aimed at transferring authority for organizing the provision of drugs to individuals with hemolytic-uremic syndrome, juvenile arthritis with systemic onset, mucopolysaccharidosis (types I, II, VI) to the authority of the federal executive body that performs the functions of developing and implementing public policy and regulatory legal regulation in the field of health. Federal law comes into force from January 1, 2019 year. This will remove a significant burden on regional budgets and provide medicines to patients with the above-mentioned diagnosis.



DONORS' MOVEMENT

Over the past five years, the donor movement has grown significantly. The total number of donors in Russia for the first half of 2017 amounted to 866,637 people. The number of honorary donors in Russia is increasing every year from 577,672 in 2015 to 589,572 people in 2017. Any Russian who donated blood 40 or more times can be an honorary donor. Most honorable donors live in Ivanovo Region, Karelia, Kurgan and Nizhny Novgorod Region. As of January 1, 2017, Ivanovo Region became the leader in the number of honorary donors – 11 donors per 1 thousand people, Karelia ranks second (10 per 1 thousand). The third place is shared by Kurgan and Nizhny Novgorod regions (9 per 1 thousand). These data were provided by the Federal Medical Biological Agency²⁴⁸.

Readiness for engagement in blood donation among the population is high: 77% of irregular and 80% of regular donors like to donate blood²⁴⁹.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation does not stand aside. On May 14, within the framework

of III Moscow Donor Marathon “Knocking Out of Hearts”, an action on voluntary blood donation was held within its walls²⁵⁰.

There are other important donation. On October 3, representatives of NPOs and hematologists discussed problems of bone marrow transplantation and the development of donor registers at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. Many participants argued that any register of bone marrow donors must be public.

On September 28, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, for the eighth time, awarded the winners of the **VIII All-Russian Prize of the All-Russian Award “Engagement”** for their contribution to the development of donation. 350 applications have been received from 52 regions of Russia. The shortlist of the award includes initiative groups and non-profit organizations, blood service institutions, the media, Russian business and ordinary citizens²⁵¹.

#FOSTERING HEALTHY LIFESTYLE STRATEGY



The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation criticized the draft Healthy Lifestyle Strategy until 2025 proposed by the Ministry of Health and, after sending recommendations for adjustments, proposed to finalize the document. It also recommended the Government of the Russian Federation to create an interdepartmental working group involving representatives of interested business associations, the scientific and expert community to discuss the issue²⁵².

Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, together with a network of regional civic chambers is also involved in systematic work to promote effective strategies of improvement of the working population in Russia in introducing production

gymnastics for all categories of the population. The development of the system of health services in organizations throughout Russia was discussed on July 13 in Kazan at public hearings “Strategy 2030 – health protection of citizens in terms of developing the system of health services in organizations following the example of the Republic of Tatarstan”²⁵³. Within the framework of public hearings, issues of promoting a healthy lifestyle, physical training and sports, increasing the share of persons doing physical exercises and sports on their own, the spread of corporate socially oriented practices to support healthy lifestyles, as well as ways to improve the health of workers during the working day (physical training at the exercise).

PHYSICAL TRAINING AND SPORTS ARE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR RUSSIANS.

DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORTS

Physical training and sports are one of the most important areas of social development. Healthy lifestyle as value ranked third after family and financial well-being. Among young people, physical training and sports are popular not only as a means of personal development, but also as a promising area of career growth²⁵⁴. And the creation of new exercise sites, as a powerful means of building and maintaining health, in the open air – those requests that most citizens today place on public spaces²⁵⁵. The contest “Best Practices for Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle in the Territory of the Russian Federation”, held by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, once again demonstrates a great interest in physical training and sports among Russian people²⁵⁶.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation considers another government initiative – the federal project “Sport is a norm of life” (for 2019 – 2024). While stressing the urgency of the problem, civil society activists nevertheless noted that in fact, all the measures proposed in the project are limited to engaging the population in preparation to hitting the All-Russian physical and sports qualifying standard “Ready for Labor and Defense” (RLD).

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation proposed to allocate a separate national project

“Physical Training and Sport for Russian Citizens” as more appropriate for the tasks set by the President to preserve the health and working capacity of the population.

The national project “Physical Training and Sport for Citizens of Russia” should include measures aimed at improving personal physical culture as an integral part of the general culture of man and society, measures to improve the system of general and supplementary education in the field of physical training and sports and create an efficient mechanism of interactions between further education and the training system of the sports reserve; measures to formulate a state task to provide advanced training for teachers of preschool education, physical education teachers, trainers and teachers implementing educational programs for physical education of children of preschool and primary school age, recommended by the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation; measures to modernize statistical research in the field of physical training and sports and related to sport services in order to formalize and create conditions for the development of the “sports industry” economy; competitive selection and state support of digital technologies and platform solutions for the development of physical training and sports.

CONSTRUCTION OF SPORTS FACILITIES

At the events of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation it was repeatedly stressed that **the opening of new branches of sports organizations, the construction of sports facilities is often carried out without taking into account the views of residents of the region**. The population has no opportunity to express wishes and will for the development of sports life. For example, while preparing for the Community Forum in Kaliningrad Region, it turned out that in the town of Mamonovo, the only one sports school

opened powerlifting, weightlifting and football sections, which resulted in only one girl attending it. Parents simply feared to give daughters to such “male” sports.

It is obvious that, first of all, a statistical study is needed on the technical condition of the infrastructure, as well as public and expert support of regional industry initiatives, programs and actions.

THE PROJECT “SPORT FOR ALL” AUTONOMOUS NON-COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION “SPORTS AND CULTURAL CENTER “KOSTENKI”

There are no sports sections in the village of Kostenki. In October 2017, Kostenki Sports and Cultural Center, a non-profit organization, was established, which concluded a gratuitous agreement with the local high school on cooperation and joint use of the gym. As a result, everyone from different age groups, free of charge, under

the guidance of volunteer coaches, had an opportunity to play football, volleyball, table tennis, chess and work out on weightlifting machine in a school gym and on the sports ground.

The project was presented at the final “Community” Forum in Moscow.

Communication support of sports public organizations is important, which will provide feedback with residents of the regions and their engagement in the practical implementation of federal and regional projects.

It is necessary to hold an expertise and harmonize the regulatory framework of sports, education, health care, regulating the conceptual apparatus and relationship in the field of physical training and sports.

MEASURES TO COMBAT INCREASING ALCOHOL ADDICTION OF POPULATION

According to the Russian Health Ministry, the number of alcohol consumption per capita since 2006 year has decreased by almost 40%. The Concept for the implementation of the state policy on the reduction of alcohol abuse and prevention of alcoholism among the population of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020 has been developed, there is a ban on the sale of alcohol, including beer, in children's, educational, medical and cultural organizations, as well as in sports facilities, on adjacent areas, limited retail sales of alcohol products by time, campaigns are conducted to stimulate a healthy lifestyle²⁵⁷. While announcing a reduction in alcohol consumption, the Ministry of Health relies on official statistics,

data from the legal alcohol market, excluding counterfeit goods and surrogates. However, today, according to experts, the share of counterfeit is 70%, and the problem of alcohol involvement of the population is relevant²⁵⁸. On June 25, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at the round table "Sobriety Territory: How to Expand the Area of Public Health and Family Well-Being" presented the results of a study conducted in localities where residents voluntarily introduced prohibition and banned the sale of alcohol. As a result, it was decided to prepare recommendations for the authorities to disseminate the practices of sobriety territories both in rural settlements and in urban areas²⁵⁹.

#PROBLEMS OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS



DRAWING DISABLED INDIVIDUALS INTO SPORTING ACTIVITIES

In 2012, the share of disabled individuals engaged in sport was 3% of the number of such citizens, in 2017 it was 14.1%²⁶⁰. According to the subprogram "Development of physical training and mass sports" of the state program of the Russian Federation "Development of physical training and sports", the proportion of persons with disabilities and disabled individuals regularly engaged in physical training and sports should increase to 20% by 2020²⁶¹.

69% of children with disabilities are not engaged in sports, 74% of parents of such children do not have information about the sport facilities for their children. Among the reasons why their children do not play sports, 85% of parents note the absence of sections. On June 28, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation discussed the problems faced by people with disabilities at the round table²⁶². It is proposed to monitor the accessibility of sites for adaptive sports²⁶³.

EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS

In January 2018, the President of the Russian Federation set a mission of increasing the share of educational organizations with conditions for obtaining secondary vocational and higher education by the disabled individuals and persons with disabilities, including using distance learning technologies, to strengthen interaction with organizations of the public sector and companies engagement in the employment of people with disabilities²⁶⁴.

Every year, about 5 thousand people with disabilities enroll in state universities under a quota that makes up 10% of budget vacancies. In total, approximately 20 thousand people with

disabilities receive higher education – this is every thirty-third disabled person aged 18-30 (data for 2016). The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation launched an initiative to lift the basic restrictions, for example, proposed to cancel the restriction "one university – one specialty" supported by the Commission under the President of the Russian Federation for the disabled, and then by the relevant ministries. As a result, the Federal Law No. 162-FZ of June 27, 2018 "On Amending Article 71 of the Federal Law" On Education in the Russian Federation" was signed, granting applicants with disabilities the right to apply for admission under their 10% quota not in one, but in five universities for three specialties in each, as well as an ordinary entrant.

MEDICAL AND SOCIAL APPRAISAL BY EXPERTS

On March 29, 2018, the Government Decree N 339 "On Amending the Rules for the Recognition of Persons with Disabilities" was issued, according to which the approaches to the determination of disability and the revision of the individual program of rehabilitation and habilitation were greatly simplified. This decision concerns tens of thousands of people. Now, people with disabilities, if they have certain diagnoses, do not have to undergo an examination every year and prove what has already been proven, they should be assigned a disability for up to 14-18 years. However, in reality, the situation has not changed everywhere: primary medical and social appraisal in a number of regions is still governed by old laws.

On October 1, 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation reopened a hotline on the availability and quality of work of the institutions of the MSA system aimed at monitoring the implementation of the new rules for examining





disability, introduced by Government Decree No. 339. During the first weeks of work it received hundreds of hits. Most complaints at MSA in Moscow, Moscow region, Tatarstan. Despite the inclusion of these diseases in Resolution No. 339, people having such incurable diseases as hemophilia, cystic fibrosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, etc., are assigned a disability status only for a year or two. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation will continue to work assiduously towards the execution of the decisions of the Government.

Research Center “Minority Opinion” together with the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation with the assistance of the Commission under the President for the Disabled and the Ministry of Labor of Russia, held an all-Russian comprehensive monitoring of the quality of MSA institutions work using the funds of the presidential grant²⁶⁵. The study showed that 25-30% of respondents spent more than one month to get an appointment to MSA, and for half of them it will take more than two months. Almost every third of them had apply

for paid medical services, and every second In Nizhny Novgorod and Komsomolsk-on-Amur.

Telephone recording is absent in many regions, and where it exists, for example, in Moscow, it is impossible to reach the line in weeks. Moreover, in many regions, patients spend from one to three hours on the road to the MSA.

To ensure openness and improve the quality of MSA, the President of the Russian Federation instructed the Government of the Russian Federation and the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation to consider improvements to the system of public control in the field of medical and social appraisal. At the moment, public councils under the MSA bureaus are being created, the system of cooperation with relevant public organizations has started developing. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, together with patient and disabled organizations, has begun to develop regulations for the activities of public councils under the MSA.

The results of the MSA institutions quality monitoring

Why do citizens apply for paid services when they are sent to MSA:

Adults

30%

he required specialist was absent from the district clinic at this time

Parents of children with disabilities

35%

48%

in the clinic, it was impossible to submit to the required tests

44%

40%

It would take too long to wait for the results of the tests and diagnostics

25%

- **11,5%** of parents of children with disabilities and 9% of adults with disabilities were denied the necessary technical means of rehabilitation (TMR)



- In **43%** of the MSA bureaus, advance registration for the commission did not make the live queue disappear

- **30%** of patients are sent for the MSA during more than one month



- **12%** of adults with disabilities and about **9%** of parents of children with disabilities reported that MSA commission members did not explain their decisions to them

- The examination itself does not take much time, and the average waiting time for the results, according to the included observation, is **40 minute** (maximum-six hours, minimum-two minutes)

Data source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation²⁶⁶



until 2025. This proposal was made during the round table on accessible transport, which took place in the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

In 2018 the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has conducted a series of activities in the regions. According to their results, it was noted that there is no general concept on the rules of transportation of citizens in the Russian Federation, different regulations literally confuse representatives of air transportation, how to provide people with disabilities with various services. **The major problem is the human factor and interagency cooperation between the airport services and other structures.**

On August 15, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held a round table “Accessibility of air and rail transport for people with disabilities”. The problems that were discussed there were also raised during the final “Community” Forum on November 2, 2018 in the presence of the Chairman of the Commission under the President of the Russian Federation for the disabled Alexandra Levitskaya. It was about the transition to online registration of railway tickets for this category. PJSC “Russian Railways” is ready to join the solution of this issue.

TRANSPORT ACCESSIBILITY

Last December, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin received a proposal from the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation to extend the state program “Accessible environment”

PSYCHONEUROLOGICAL CARE FACILITIES: REFORM REQUIRED

Representatives of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation within the framework of the forum Community visited neuropsychiatric asylums. During these raids they could make sure that the problems of such boarding schools in different regions are very similar: long distance from large settlements, lack of qualified personnel, lack of personal space, which is necessary for the patient of the asylums. There are also difficulties associated with the organization of adult patients occupancy.

As a solution to the identified problems, it was proposed to consider them as a whole and develop a program for arranging the life of people with mental disorders in society on the principles of social integration. It is also proposed to develop alternative forms of asylum-replacing placement and social services²⁶⁷.



#ECO-RELATED AGENDA RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE NATURE AS A NATIONAL PROJECT



Environmental problems are now acquiring a major strategic importance, as they relate to the main thing – the future existence of human civilization on the Earth. Environmental issues have a permanent noticeable impact on the development of civic activity: stimulate grassroots social activity, the creation of all kinds of initiative groups, movements and associations, aimed both at solving their local issues and at developing global eco-initiatives.

Increasingly, social and environmental conflicts arise in the regions of Russia, in which members and experts of the Civic Chamber of the Russian

Federation act as mediators (Stop the Ore-Dressing and Processing Enterprise²⁶⁸ movement in Chelyabinsk, “No coal dust”²⁶⁹ in Nakhodka, “No construction of waste incineration plants” in Moscow Region and Tatarstan, a protest against the construction of the SMW landfill “Malinki” in New Moscow, a protest against SMW burial, disposal, and recycling facility “Ecotechnopark Shies” in Arkhangelsk Region in the rural settlement of Filippovskoye, Kirzhach District, Vladimir Region, a protest against the construction of Bagayevsky Hydroelectric Complex in Rostov Region, a protest against the development of monadnocks in Bashkiria “Do not touch the Monadnocks”²⁷⁰,



protest actions in Vladikavkaz demanding the closure of the Ural Mining and Metallurgical Company, a social and environmental conflict caused by the start of a project to mine uranium in Zverinogolovsky District of Kurgan Region.

In 2018, the issue of solid municipal waste management became extremely relevant. According to 90.7% of the respondents among the participants of the public events of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the problem of waste management is the most conflict-generating environmental issue.

As it was already noted in the first chapter of this report, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, jointly with the All-Russia People's Front and Human Rights Council analyzed the efficiency of measures to ensure the processing of municipal solid waste, and also provided suggestions for ensuring that the citizens' opinions are taken into account during the construction of facilities used for treatment of the said waste²⁷¹.

As part of this work, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation analyzed more than 8,000 petitions from citizens who arrived at a specially launched hotline, held discussions in the framework of the "Community" Forums, round tables, conferences with experts and business representatives. Regional civic chambers worked on the analysis of the situation.

In addition to the proposals of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on the creation of a public law company and the nationalization of landfills mentioned in the first chapter of the Report, Therefore, in the report, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation proposed, as a matter of priority, to send the resources of the utilization and environmental toll for the creation of infrastructure and the development of technology for the waste treatment, disposal and neutralization²⁷². In fact, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation took the initiative to substantially reform the waste recycling industry and tabled the national priority project "Resource Saving"²⁷³. The objectives of the

project are the involvement of secondary resources in the economic turnover, water saving, rational use of natural resources. The project is needed in order to preserve the resources of our country as the state priority, and the rational use of natural resources and the development of the market of secondary resources firmly entered our economy. Russia's wealth should be growing.

The role of public and non-profit organizations in recent years has increased in proportion to the growth of public attention to environmental issues in Russia. Upon the initiative of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in 2017–18, a large-scale inventory of public and non-profit organizations carrying out their statutory activities in the field of ecology is carried out. As of today, the analysis shows that the overwhelming majority of the eco-NPO have been in a "sleeping state" and are active only when receiving an order and financing. There are several categories of eco-NPOs in terms of their activities, including truly environmental, financially oriented to serving the interests of commercial structures, extremist and provocateurs, so-called "black environmentalists", hiring professionally trained specialists to torpedo and discredit environmental movements, procedural winding and delaying environmental hearings, expertise and lobbying environmentally unsafe projects. Currently, there are about 600 eco-NPOs operating with various activities, this is only a small part of the actually registered ones. The number of organizations actually involved in environmental activities in the field of biodiversity conservation, assessment of negative anthropogenic impact on the environment, environmental enlightenment and education is approximately 30% of the existing ones, and this number includes both constructive and destructive operating eco-NPO. There are several categories of eco NPOs in terms of their activities, including truly environmental, financially oriented to serving the interests of commercial structures, extremist and provocateurs, so-called black environmentalists, hiring professionally trained specialists to torpedo and discredit environmental movements, procedural winding and delaying environmental hearings, expertise and lobbying environmentally unsafe projects.



IN 2018, THE CIVIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ORGANIZED AN ADVISORY BODY, THE COORDINATION COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY OF THE CITIZENS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

In 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation organized an advisory body, the Coordination Council on environmental security of the citizens of the Russian Federation, which brought together the relevant ministries and departments, the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Security Council of the Russian Federation to conduct an in-depth interdisciplinary analysis of the most important and urgent environmental problems and to develop solutions to address them. The Coordination Council decided to take control of the preparation of the plan for the implementation of the environmental security Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025, adopted by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation in 2017.



THE DESIRE OF CITIZENS
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ACTIVITY.

The desire of citizens to participate in solving environmental problems should be promoted by an adequate system of opportunities for this activity. The Institute of Public Environmental Inspectors²⁷⁴, the establishment and development of which is prioritized by the Civic Chamber, has to play a significant role in engaging citizens in public environmental control. The Public control is carried out in order to realize the right of everyone to a favorable environment and prevent violations of environmental laws. The difference between an ordinary activist and a public inspector in the level of knowledge that an activist receives during training and preparation for obtaining the status of a public environmental inspector.

In the process of development of the Institute, several risks were identified, when the relevant ministries intensified their activities in managing this system and several conflicts between eco-activists and business were recorded. **It is important to create an independent institution of public inspectors, and not a controlled and obedient tool for manipulating the authorities.** And it is even more important to prevent the use

of the status of a public inspector for the purpose of individual gain, political and other speculations.

It is necessary to find a balance of interests in which the inspectors, “polite, curious green men” will not show environmental extremism on the one hand, and on the other will be completely independent from the state executive bodies.

There are examples of the competent work of eco-activists who, without being accredited in their activities by any of the departments, in order to be heard during the implementation of their project were forced to use technical means to achieve public resonance. This is a project of a public monitoring system for the removal and burial of municipal solid waste “Where the garbage goes,” which became the winner of the contest of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation “My project is for my country!” in the category “Environment”²⁷⁵. Monitoring is performed using modern tracking technology, the so-called trackers. This methodology allowed the use of the best mechanisms of public control, and even then, the entrance of the experiment revealed facts of illegal waste disposal.

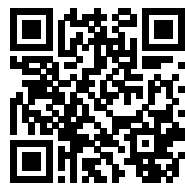
At the events of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, experts repeatedly announced that the population lacked reliable and objective data on environmental issues. For each resonant topic raised by the media, it is necessary to study the issue from different angles together with the relevant experts, and, after analyzing the information gathered, tell the public what is really happening. **The key element in educating civil society is quality objective environmental journalism.**

Based on these principles, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is developing the “Environmental Press Center” project²⁷⁶, which has become a communication platform for representatives of society, government, business, the expert community and the media. The project is aimed at improving the quality of broadcasting environmental topics in the media, and organizing widespread public access to environmental information. This will serve to increase the literacy and awareness of citizens in the field of environmental protection and to involve the public in solving environmental problems.

It is extremely important to engage young people in this work. For this purpose, the Children’s Environmental Press Center was established²⁷⁷. Its purpose is to cultivate a new generation of professionals in journalism, who will understand the indissoluble link between man and nature, and will be able to intelligently highlight the environmental issues, relying on the opinion of experts in this field and having their own practical knowledge and skills. The project provides training in environmental journalism and regular creative art contests among schoolchildren and students of Russian educational institutions.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is ready to share expert groundwork, comprehensively assist both the authorities and business. It means to help, not to criticize. It is necessary to develop the concept of interaction between society, business and the government in achieving the environmental well-being.

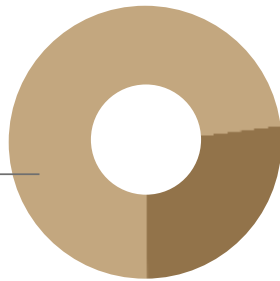
#DEVELOPMENT OF UTILITIES AND ENGINEERING INFRASTRUCTURE



The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation considers the issues of the state of municipal and engineering infrastructure as one of the main areas of its activity²⁷⁸.

In many regions, the engineering infrastructure is in poor condition. This leads to a large number of emergency situations.

Deterioration of water supply, heating and sewage networks reaches 70%



Source: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

There are not enough funds to replace the engineering networks. The normative documents providing for installation of general-consumer metering devices are performed very poorly, only in a few cities this program is executed. Up to now the question on individual devices of accounting is not solved, and this in turn leads to unjustified charges on payment for utility resources, that is payment “and for that guy”. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation proposes to strengthen the control over this issue and increase the standard (to introduce the coefficient-10) for the owners, unreasonably evading from the installation of individual utilities metering instruments.

In general, the overhaul has yielded positive results in many subject regions of the Federation. Currently, the collection of funds with the owners exceeded 90%. Special accounts have been earned. However, some regions artificially underestimate the amount of the collection and thus worsen the situation with the overhaul.

The issue of gasification of small settlements (villages and rural areas) remains very relevant. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation constantly receives complaints of citizens that they are not able to physically provide themselves with coal and firewood, while gas is sold abroad, and that comfortable living conditions has not been created for the inhabitants of the country.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation believes that it is necessary to make decisions obliging the heads of the Federation subject regions having gas distribution stations to ensure the construction of street gas networks in settlements so that the owners had an

Huge losses of thermal energy occur through the enclosing structures of buildings. Proposals of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on creation of a separate program on energy efficiency were not approved by the legislator. Works on implementation of the façade insulation in the framework of capital repairs lead to high costs and, as a result, disrupt works on capital repair in other houses.

opportunity to get technical conditions for joining the gas pipeline located at a distance of up to 200 meters.

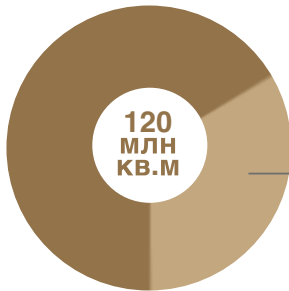
The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has done considerable work on substantiation of the necessity to preserve the system of financing on demolition of emergency housing through the State Corporation “Fund of assistance to reforming housing and utilities”.

A positive decision by the President of Russia on this issue is very important to all residents living in unsafe houses. The President decided to extend the work of the fund up to 2024 year, inclusively. However, it should be noted that the initial data on the number of emergency housing is 12 million square meters. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation informed the President of Russia that this figure should be increased not less than twice, and therefore it is necessary to continue work on increasing the sum of financing in the next 6 years, starting from the 2019, which should be more than the allocated 460 billion rubles.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation notes that many regions artificially underestimated the number of emergency housing that is why the information about 12 million sq. m. is unreliable. The

Chamber notes that in recent years the quality of the housing stock built by developers for resettlement of citizens from the emergency and dilapidated housing has improved. Public activists believe that while solving the problem of demolition of emergency housing, it is necessary to use as much secondary housing as possible. In the event of demolishing the emergency housing, the possibility of resettlement of people standing in line for resettlement in central Russia from the Far North regions should also be considered.

The May Decree of the President of Russia provides for the introduction of new housing in the amount of 120 million square meters. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation believes that such a program will be possible only under condition of individual housing construction, for which it is necessary to maximize the use of vacant territories at an insignificant distance from urban development. Alongside allocation of land plots, it is necessary to simultaneously develop, at the level of the Federation subject regions, master plans for future settlements, build roads and engineering infrastructure, build social infrastructure jointly with individual housing construction. All this will significantly save public funds and solve the problem for residents who intend to engage in horticulture, gardening, etc.

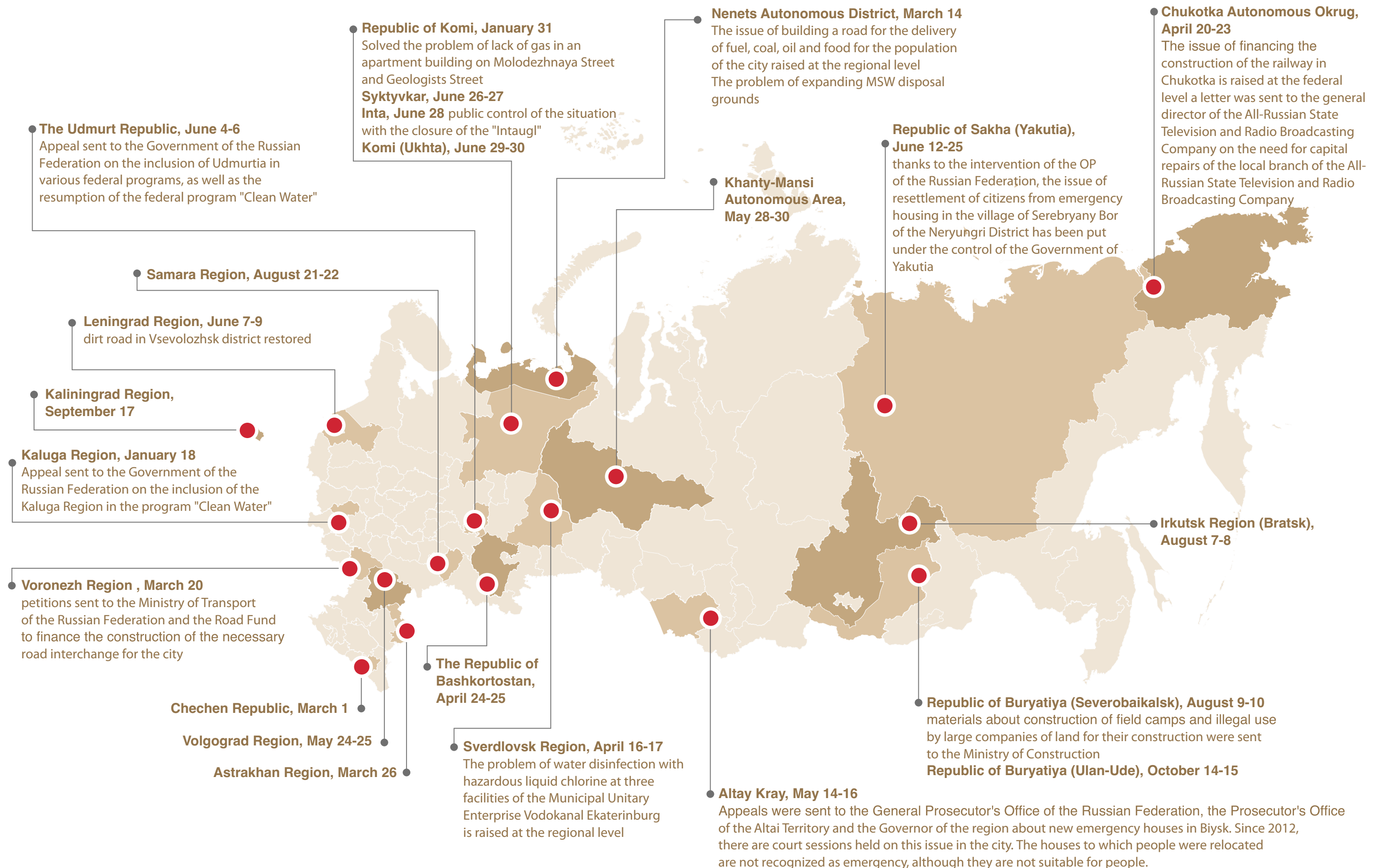


According to the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, 40 million square meters out of the 120 million square meters declared for commissioning should be constructed as individual housing.

In recent years, a large amount of road construction has been completed, but this concerns the federal road network, the length of which is 50 thousand sq. km., and for which 500 billion rubles was allocated. Regional and municipal roads account for 1.5 million km in area, and exactly the same

amount is allocated for them. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation believes that in order to bring the roads up to 50% of the regulatory state, it is necessary to increase the amount of funds allocated for the construction, maintenance and repair of the regional and local road network.

Assessment of the state of housing and utilities system, construction and road facilities in the regions of Russia: offsite events of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. The most striking results.



“

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#HUMANITARIAN DOMAIN (EDUCATION, CULTURE, INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONSHIPS)



Traditionally, the issues of education and science, preparation of the new generation to life have been addressed by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

In 2018, there were three main areas in the consideration of education in our country:

- raising the efficiency of vocational education, improving legal mechanisms for targeted education;

- raising the efficiency of career guidance activities, the development of continuing education; ensuring the construction of professional trajectories with modern, reliable and efficient information resources in use;

- a technological breakthrough and realization of scientific and technological development Strategy of the Russian Federation²⁷⁹.

NEW TRACKS FOR IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

The solution to these problems is associated with a set of measures to be taken. Thus, practice has shown that much has become organized in the system of vocational education. It is necessary to make changes to the standard form of a target education agreement in order to clarify the mutual rights and obligations of the parties – the university, the student, the employer in order to give the targeted training greater flexibility and efficiency. This new “tripartism” is still poorly taken into account, especially when the state acts as the employer (and customer of training): the educated young man does not have any obligations to it, although the budget has spent significant funds on his education.

But before entering some institution of higher or vocational secondary education after school, high-quality professional orientation is necessary. This is not an easy process in the modern world, it is a kind of presentation of various spheres of employment, many of which were not able to present themselves

in an attractive way, to get young people interested. As a result, there are imbalances in educational policy, the desire of many schoolchildren to choose the profession of economists and lawyers, although after graduation it turns out that finding work in these areas is difficult or even impossible. It is necessary to create a digital platform, a unified information environment for ensuring the formation, actualization and long-term planning by the population of their individual educational and professional trajectories. To achieve this important goal, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation implemented in 2018 the project “Professional Trajectory”. In the course of the discussions held (Moscow, Tomsk), proposals were made for a qualitative increase in the efficiency of information resources in the field of vocational guidance, vocational education, employment, and advanced training.

PRESCHOOL AND ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

In addition, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation addressed issues of pre-school education. For example, on February 2, 2018, a hearing was held on “Implementing the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation to ensure the availability and quality of pre-school education and care services for children under 3 years old”, and the 7th International Conference “Education and Training of Young Children” took place on May 19-20. Much attention was paid to the promotion of children’s reading, the introduction of educational programs for pre-school and primary education, general education in gymnastics and swimming in the Russian Federation, film education and media pedagogy in additional education of children and young people.

The fine art is invaluable for the comprehensive upbringing and development of the child. Currently, the vocational education system in terms of training specialists of a wide artistic profile is losing its position, and the system of additional education has many difficulties – from an underdeveloped material base to a shortage of teachers in the regions.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation believes that the state should pay more attention to this area. In addition, it is necessary to hold modern contests of children’s drawings, music contests and other activities that enhance the cultural education of children from an early age²⁸⁰.



HOTLINES FOR EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation constantly keeps in touch with the parent community on the most urgent issues of education and for this purpose hot lines are open on the following issues: possibility of canceling school grading system, from the first to the ninth years²⁸¹; preparation to the Unified State Exam in 2018²⁸²; teaching native language²⁸³; school fees²⁸⁴.

In early June, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation once again launched a hotline on USE issues, where anyone could get an expert advice by phone or report violations.

As it is known, from 5.5% to 56% of school graduates received zero points for essay in a foreign language in 2018, in several regions at once According to the Federal Service of Supervision in the Sphere of Education and Science, about 40% of schoolchildren across the country did not cope with this part of the USE²⁸⁵.

The line received about 300 petitions, and the number of people, who passed the Unified State Exam in 2018 totaled more than 700 thousand people. Figures show that many of the problems of preparing for the exam and its conduct were removed. Still, the very fact of appeals indicates the need to continue work on improving the organization and conducting the final test, improving the quality of work of subject commissions, analyzing the criteria for checking part of the exam, which provides a detailed answer. We are happy that the geographical localization of petitions is noted. This year, representatives from only nine regions turned to the line.

The content of the petitions, as in previous years, is mainly related to the procedure for organizing the exam, both in terms of the exam pass (malfunction of the throughput technique) and the work of teachers at the exam acceptance point.



IN EARLY JUNE, THE CIVIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ONCE AGAIN LAUNCHED A HOTLINE ON USE ISSUES.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also notes that not a single call criticizing the assignments has been addressed to the hotline this year²⁸⁶.

TRAINING OF THE PEDAGOGICAL PERSONNEL

Throughout the year, the training of educators, teachers, and instructors remained an important issue: On February 20 in St. Petersburg, a round table was held on “Developing standard training standards for higher technical education on” Bologna “and classical engineering training”; March 2 in Moscow – a round table “The development of high-quality teaching staff as the key to successful industrial development”; April 4 – hearings on the draft professional standard “Specialist in the field of education” in the additional education of children and youth.”

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation believes that it is necessary to pay attention to the training of teachers, the advanced training of those teachers who work with graduates, in particular, not only to their linguistic, but also to their general cultural development²⁸⁷.

However, many issues remain unresolved. The participants of the events in the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted that the level of bureaucratization of the work of both teaching staff and institutions at all levels of education and

science is very high. Moreover, the situation is only aggravated. Another urgent issue is preparation for the Unified State Exam, Basic State Examination – the burden of preparing for exams becomes unbearable for families, because both tutoring and additional workloads on students lead to serious financial expenses, affecting the health of schoolchildren.



PRIORITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RUSSIAN SCIENCE

The main document defining the state science and technology policy is the Doctrine of the Development of Russian Science, approved by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 884 of June 13, 1996. The Doctrine is based on the thesis that “Russian science has made a huge contribution to the development of the country and the world community over its long history. Russia owes much of its position as a great world power to the achievements of Russian scientists.”

In the modern world, no country can take its place among the leaders unless it has its own fundamental science as the basis of culture, technology, education, high technology industry. Based on this, it is necessary to take the following measures at the state level as soon as possible: create a strategic planning system based on a scientific analysis of global trends and modern forecasting methods; form a new system of state management of research and development (coordination of research and innovation activities should be assigned to one of the Vice-Presidents of the Government); restore the Russian Academy of Sciences as the leading scientific and expert organization of the country; review approaches to resource provision in the field of research and development (by 2025 it is necessary to ensure the share of science in GDP of at least 2%); The modern education system should not be viewed as a service, but as one of the main institutions for ensuring national security.

• In 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held a series of events on the problems of national science. Thus, such public events as the round table “Universities as centers of innovation” on February 27; All-Russian Congress of Education and Science Managers on May 21; hearings “Hear the Tomorrow of Russian Science” on August 3.

• It was noted that the main problems are caused by:

- low quality of strategic planning, lack of a goal-setting system, as a result of which deliberately

IN MODERN WORLD, NO COUNTRY CAN TAKE ITS PLACE AMONG THE LEADERS UNLESS IT HAS ITS OWN FUNDAMENTAL SCIENCE AS THE BASIS OF CULTURE, TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION, HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY.

impracticable indicators are established and inadequate management solutions are proposed;

- the low level of the public administration system of research and development, which is a consequence of the organization of the management system itself, as well as of low qualification and executive discipline of civil servants working in this field;

- problems of resource provision, including chronic underfunding of the research and development sphere, first of all, basic science, with an outdated material and technical base;

- reduction in the number of people employed in the field of research and development, destruction of the system of training highly qualified scientific personnel due to elimination of scientific postgraduate studies.

- Obviously, such a situation not only does not contribute to the transition to an innovative socio-economic development, but also creates a real threat to national security.

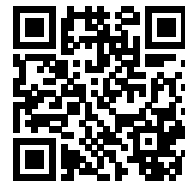
CULTURE

ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS TO THE RESIDENTS

Cultural and leisure cultural institutions in small towns and rural settlements have 80% of a worn-out engineering and technical complex, the modernization and restoration of which requires significant financial investment. Many institutions have been closed due to their condition. The budget of the urban or rural settlement is not able to solve these problems in full.

It is estimated that 70% of the surveyed heads of rural libraries and houses of culture, the question of financing is the most relevant one. There is a shortage of qualified personnel. People do not want to go to work in the sphere of culture because of low wages.

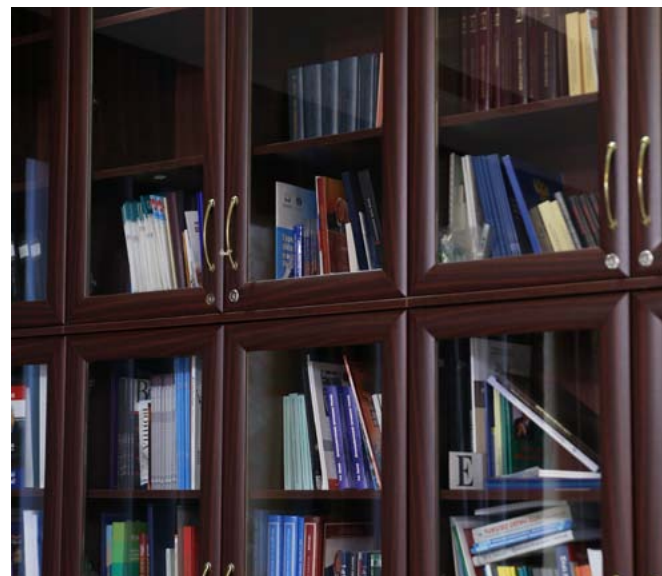
In 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held a special monitoring "Access to



Culture"²⁸⁸ aimed at analyzing the situation in small towns and rural settlements. The monitoring revealed that the situation with cultural and leisure establishments under the jurisdiction of local government leaves much to be desired. No funding to support and replace worn-out logistics and communications. Communications and buildings are preserved, as a rule, from Soviet time. There are clubs, houses of culture, in which people are forced to work at a temperature of 15 degrees Celsius. Many are closed or in disrepair. Regional cultural support and development programs are not aimed at solving these problems. We need an open dialogue with the authorities of the regions in order not to lose the cultural centers that we have today.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Social activists from the regions reported on the closure of libraries in rural settlements, the majority indicated that local governments say that there is a total lack of funding for this activity. No region reported on population surveys in reorganization of rural libraries. Many libraries have survived only due to the fact that they were transferred to the system of cultural and leisure institutions. However, such a reorganization leads, as a rule, to the loss of the status of the library, and hence financing.



FEATURE AND DOCUMENTARY FILMS, ANIMATED CARTOONS

In 2018, a significant number of events occurred in the Russian cinema, there were also problems, confrontations associated with demonstration of individual films. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held the whole series of events on the subject of cinema, having considered both individual trends in the development of this art and its educational role for young people.

Thus, on March 26, a round table discussion "On the problems of the development of Russian animation as a means of popularizing classical and contemporary works of art" was held. And on March 29, a round table "Documentary Film in Russia: Problems and Development Prospects" took place.

The upbringing of children and youth by means of cinema was discussed at events in the Civic Chamber on May 16, July 16, July 18, August 8. The topic of youth cinema has fallen out of sight of the cinema, therefore, the development of system sentences is important. There used to be a target studio, so a lot of children's films were produced. Within the framework of the declared Decade of Childhood, the state can give it full support.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation supports the initiative of the Government of the Russian Federation to create the children's state television channel²⁸⁹.

PRESERVING THE RUSSIAN OLD MANOR

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation receives a large number of petitions from citizens asking them to pay attention to the preservation of old estates. And the Chamber addressed this problem. On January 30, a round table discussion was held on the Manor Tourism Industry – Restored Manors of Russia. It was attended by members of the Public Council under the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, representatives of the Association of owners of historic estates, as well as officials of the Federal Agency for Tourism of the Russian Federation. The event was attended by the head of the Federal Agency for Tourism Oleg Safonov.

THE CIVIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION RECEIVES A LARGE NUMBER OF APPEALS FROM CITIZENS ASKING THEM TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE PRESERVATION OF OLD ESTATES.



HOUSE OF POETRY BY ANDREI DEMENTIEV



Andrei Dementiev, famous poet, honoured arts worker, passed away on June 26. He passed away just a little short of his 90th anniversary.

For more than ten years he was a member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. Despite his age, Andrei Dementiev to the end remained a young and energetic, partial and sympathetic person. While speaking at a plenary session of the Civic Chamber in May, he struck his colleagues with a fiery speech, appealing for social justice and denouncing the vices of society²⁹⁰.

The main creation and pride of Andrei Dementiev was the House of Poetry. At his invitation, creative evenings were held here by Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Larisa Rubalskaya. The House will remain one of the main centers of cultural life in Tver.

A street in Tver is named after the poet. One of the initiators of this step was the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation²⁹¹.

UNION OF POETS

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation supports the initiative to establish new creative unions. In particular, there is a need to create a Poets' Union in Russia. Such a union will help authors to publish their creative works in specialized editions, create conditions for the performance of touring activities of poets in the regions of Russia and abroad, organize the speeches of young authors on the major specialized sites. It will also help to provide conditions for the implementation of multi-genre programs and projects, to create an efficient search mechanism for young creative individuals able to set independent creative groups. The Poets Union will help to establish a dialogue between different generations of poets.



“THE GREAT NAMES OF RUSSIA”: AIRPORTS WILL BEAR THE NAMES OF PROMINENT RUSSIAN CITIZENS

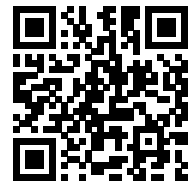
On October 4, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation presented a large-scale project to name the main airports of the subject regions of the Russian Federation after our prominent compatriots. The project, called the “Great Names of Russia”, is not intended to replace the existing names, it is only about adding new ones.

The project “Great Names of Russia” is a public initiative of the Russian Geographical Society, the Society of Russian Literature, the Russian Historical

Society, the Russian Military Historical Society. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also decided to join this initiative and coordinate its work.

It is assumed that according to the results of the contest, the official names of 45 Russian airports of international and federal importance with an aggregate passenger traffic of more than 170 million people will be get the names of prominent compatriots²⁹².

#PUBLIC DIPLOMACY – RUSSIA’S SOFT POWER



Public diplomacy is versatile and has many different forms, one of which is a cross year program. 2018 became cross year of Russia with both Japan and Germany. The cross year of Russia and Japan was designed to give a powerful positive impetus to bilateral relations by organizing numerous events in politics, economics, culture, science and technology. The cross year of Russia and Germany was dedicated to regional municipal partnerships. The main goal of this year’s program is to deepen communication and mutual trust in Russian-German relations by developing public inter-municipal diplomacy by enhancing cooperation at the municipal and regional levels of both countries. Three Russian-German events were held at the site of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in 2018. The Chamber’s delegation also participated in a Conference in Berlin, during which agreement was reached on the establishment of a permanent mechanism for the exchange of investment projects, training for industry, reporting on key business events²⁹³.

In 2018, the West continued to increase pressure on our country, using unilateral sanctions. **In the midst of a difficult international situation, Russia every year increases the representation of Russian NPOs at international venues under the leadership of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.** Thus, members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation spoke at the OSCE annual meeting to review the implementation of human dimension commitments in Warsaw and were included in the official Russian delegation to the UN General Assembly; the regularity of meetings with the European Social and Economic Committee was restored; the result of the visit of the delegation of the American Council of Young Political Leaders was a statement that the new generation of leaders could improve relations between Russia and the United States.

In general, 2018 was a year of growing activity of international cooperation among non-governmental organizations, including the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, which is a significant help in promoting Russian policy in the international arena: reciprocal visits were made and memorandums of understanding and cooperation between the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation were concluded and the Forum of the Civil Public Alliance of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, All-Russia People’s Front and the Patriotic the dawn of Vietnam; Memorandums with the Economic, Social and Ecological Council of France, the Civil Alliance of Kazakhstan and the Council of State Support of Non-Governmental Organizations under the President of the Azerbaijan Republic are being prepared for signing; the Chamber delegation took

ONE OF THE IMPORTANT TASKS IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER WAS THE STRENGTHENING OF TIES BETWEEN VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS FROM RUSSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES.



part in election observation at the international level, namely the general parliamentary election in Cambodia.

Russia traditionally plays one of the leading roles in the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and similar institutions. In 2018, the Russian experience in digitization of the economy and society aroused great interest from delegations of the developed and developing countries members of the Association at a presidium meeting, in discussions at the General Assembly and at the Association’s international seminar at ILO headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland).

Despite the fact, that digital information and communication technologies have a major impact on enhancing the interaction of representatives from different countries, they are nevertheless unable to replace direct human communication, which overcomes the prejudice propagated by politicians. The task of bringing positions between the countries is ultimately carried out through public diplomacy channels and falls on the shoulders of civil society. Thus, the World Soccer Cup held in the cities of Russia clearly demonstrated how direct acquaintance of tourists and fans with Russia has largely cleared up the atmosphere of mistrust and negative image of Russia created in foreign countries.

If earlier, there was a struggle for the interpretation of facts, now the struggle is for the proof of the very existence of the facts themselves²⁹⁴, including historical ones. **Stepping up educational and enlightenment work in Russian society, and especially among young people aimed at rooting the understanding of historical reality and countering the revival of Nazi ideology is included in the list of priorities of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.** At the site of the Chamber in 2018, several international meetings were held dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the uprising in the Sobibor camp, as well as a scientific conference dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Munich Agreement. The engagement of representatives of foreign countries in these events demonstrated the importance of the struggle for history and the transfer of the values of their grandfathers who fought against fascism to young people, not only for Russia, but also for Europe.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation stressed the inadmissibility of the distortion of history, which poses a threat to the country's national security, in connection with the absentee accusation brought against Russian citizens by Vilnius District Court and the requirement of the Lithuanian Prosecutor's Office for significant terms of imprisonment (life imprisonment for

twenty persons). The resolution of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, which turned out to be the only public structure in the country that expressed its attitude to these events, was the result of consistent work to protect citizens of the Russian Federation who participated in the events of January 1991 in Vilnius from an unfair court in Lithuania.

One of the important tasks in the field of international cooperation in the Year of the Volunteer was the strengthening of ties between volunteer organizations from Russia and other countries. Increasing cooperation with volunteers from the CIS countries took place through the approval of the Concept for the Development of Cooperation of the CIS Member States in Support of the Volunteer Movement. In addition, a special unified platform was created for searching and combining international volunteer initiatives²⁹⁵. In June-July 2018, more than 34 thousand volunteers took part in organizing the FIFA World Cup 2018. In September, the Eurasia International Forum was successfully held, bringing together about 250 volunteers and volunteers from around the world.²⁹⁶ The "Volunteers of the World" program of the international youth community Future Team covered more than 150 countries: more than 30 international events, humanitarian missions and educational programs were organized.

Another example was the United Nations Volunteers Program (UNV), which, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, in 2018, recruited Russians to participate in projects and programs around the world²⁹⁷. UNV offered 19 citizens of the Russian Federation an opportunity to gain unique international experience and to help the UN in solving problems of sustainable development in 16 countries of the CIS, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

A new regional initiative, Russian Volunteer Humanitarian Corps was presented at the final "Community" Forum. This initiative will expand Russian presence at international venues.

The popularization and distribution of the Russian language abroad for several years now remains



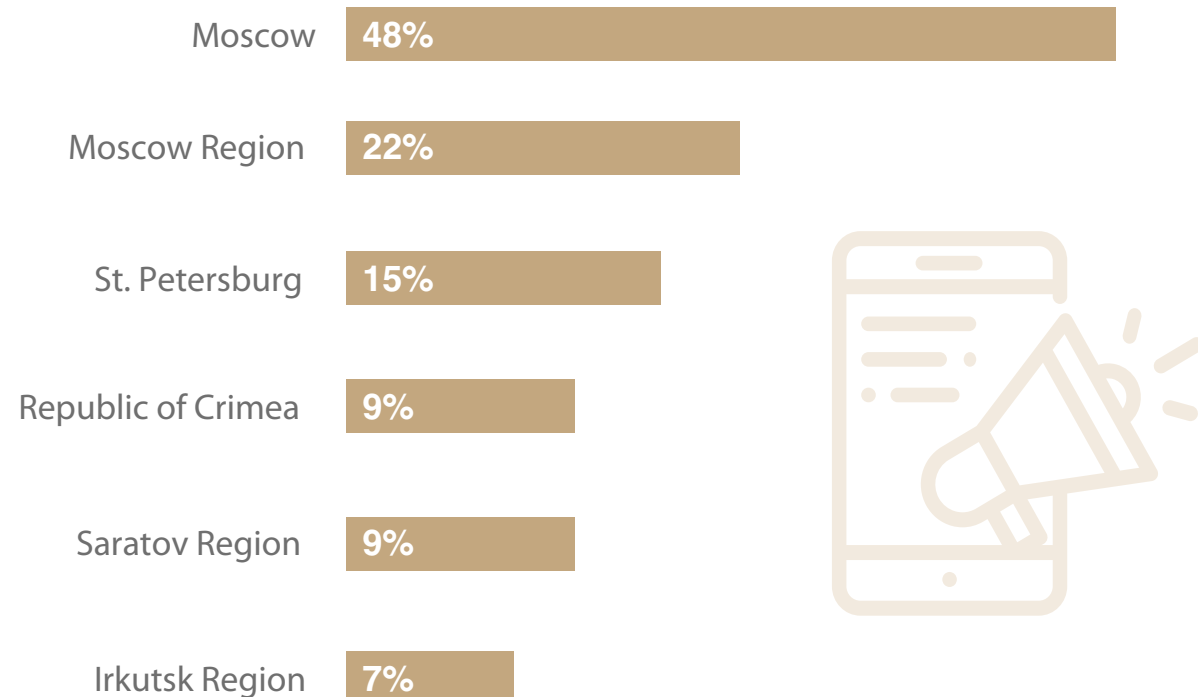
one of the priorities of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. In 2018 alone, schools from the United States, Great Britain, Austria, Belgium, Germany, and other became participants in the "Russian Corner" project, where, according to their requests, more than 7,000 multimedia interactive educational games and teaching aids in Russian were sent.

With the development of the information society, terrorism began to penetrate into all spheres of life without exception. The more powerful the mass media becomes and the higher is their role in shaping public sentiment, the wider is the scope of the potential impact of terrorism. In this regard, the role of civil society in countering terrorist activities is increasing. Under the auspices of the Coordination Council on Counter Terrorism, the

Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation holds numerous international and domestic events on inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue, cooperation in the prevention of extremism and ethnic conflict, social, legal and cultural adaptation and integration of migrants, the development and publication of guidelines on countering pseudo-religious extremism. A special place in the activities of the Chamber is the prevention of extremism among young people. Since August 1, 2015, a hotline has been operating in the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation to counteract the recruitment of recruiters "Islamic State in Russia" To date, over 200 complaints have been received from 45 subject regions of Russia from people who have been recruited or their relatives²⁹⁸.



The results of hotline on combatting the recruiters of Islamic State in Russia



According to the analysis of petitions data and information space presented by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the main target audience for recruitment is young people and girls aged 22–25 years old – their share reaches 25–40%. In this regard, in 2018, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the International Public Foundation Russian Foundation for Peace, together with the Anti-Terrorist Center of the CIS member states, issued a handbook on the Prevention of Terrorism and Extremism in the Youth Environment, which summarizes the recruitment methods. Also, Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation opened a hot line to counteract the involvement of young people in destructive and extremist groups²⁹⁹.

In this regard, raising the voice of Russian civil society, shaping its own international agenda and activating public diplomacy are increasingly in demand. The modern unbalanced world needs points of support, binding threads. Such strong links are

cultural exchange, intellectual communication.. It is for this purpose that the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has implemented a project “Cultural Belt of the Great Tea Route”. On March 2 and July 12, the participants of the round tables, discussed the project of Russian-Chinese strategic cooperation, while special hearings on March 22 were dedicated to cultural contacts with India.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also proposes to declare one of the coming years as the Year of Public Diplomacy and is ready, together with federal ministries and departments, subject regions of the Russian Federation, to implement additional measures of state and regional support for civil society activists, organizations of all forms of property for the development of humanitarian ties with similar organizations for abroad, with Russian-speaking compatriots and all interested in the development of friendly relations with Russia.



CULTURE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

With the support of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Russian Peace Foundation in the Republic of Slovenia, the installation and solemn opening of the monument to the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin took place with the participation of officials of two countries (Russia and Slovenia). This project was implemented by the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Slovenia in cooperation with the State Duma Committee on International Affairs, the Mayor of Ljubljana with the active assistance of the Russian Center for Science and Culture.

Also, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation supported such projects as the international photo contest “Children of the World” held as part of the PhotoDiplomacy project. The main goal is to expand and strengthen the methods of public diplomacy through photography to strengthen

peace and mutual understanding between Russia and other countries.

This year, photographers from 22 states took part in the contest. They took several hundred incredible for the stories “Children of different ages and nationalities in various life situations”, “Children are ambassadors of peace”, “Children of the world as a creation of humanity”, “Children, changed the world”, “Children-peacemakers”, Look at the world through the eyes of a child.”

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, together with the international public fund “Russian peace foundation regularly organizes exhibitions of Russian photo artists at leading venues in Moscow and other cities. Only this year, these exhibitions visited 12 countries of the world, where they were displayed in Rossotrudnichestvo buildings.



CONCLUSION



Recent years have shown: Russia regained the status of a great world power, the center of power, the key and independent player in the international arena. It was the strengthening of our positions that caused the introduction of various sanctions, restrictions, massive anti-Russian propaganda in the Western media. The purpose of these attacks is understandable, to limit the influence of Russia and “demonize” our country in the eyes of the world community.

Inside Russia, on the contrary, we see internal consolidation, growth of trust and civil activity. These positive changes in the public atmosphere are our most important achievement in recent years and the key to further progressive development. The overall success of NPOs, civic chambers and the state was the creation of the unique system of public observation during the presidential election in Russia and in the regions.

The main goal for the coming years is an economic breakthrough and a change in the quality of life of people. In our country there are huge disparities in the distribution of national wealth, striking the inequality of individual social groups and entire regions. Much of the Russians still live in extreme poverty, villages and small towns are empty, although our country has enormous human capital and natural wealth.

The national projects put forward in 2018 by the President of Russia are designed to correct this situation and significantly improve the quality of life of people. We are talking about the growth of material well-being, but also an increase in life expectancy, transport accessibility, environmental safety and much more. **National projects are not just a matter of public administration, they are a development program for the whole country in the coming years, which can be realized only with the engagement of the general public.**

Such large-scale development projects are a common cause, which in our history used to bring together and mobilize Russians for the accomplishments that no one else believed possible, except us. The main task today is to ensure a broad social mobilization of our society for the implementation of national projects, and the “Russian breakthrough”, at large. Broad circles of Russian society should realize the significance of the “Russian breakthrough” for the destinies of the country, for the needs of various strata and groups, for regions and settlements, and for the well-being of each and every Russian.

Therefore, it is of fundamental importance to preserve and increase social consolidation. **It is impossible to force people to love the state, but for a breakthrough we need such a social atmosphere where citizens generally trust the state.** Therefore, today the public – state dialogue and the direct engagement of civil society in the implementation and monitoring of the implementation of national projects is more important than ever. This issue is a priority for the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and Civic Chambers in the regions for the coming years.

Improving the efficiency of public-state interaction and actually bringing it to the level of public administration, when the bureaucracy consults with the public in making key decisions, is the next priority in the work of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. As part of the implementation of this work priority, the overall success of NPOs, civic chambers and the state was the creation of a unique system of public observation during the presidential election in Russia and in the regions. The Civic Chamber, with its expert resources, seeks to help shape civil initiatives and convey them to the federal authorities. In 2018, at the site of the Civic Chamber, such projects were drawn up in the field of ecology (utilization of household waste), the fight against cancer, changes in the fishing industry, while cheap fish is not available to our citizens. At the regional level, local civic chambers can act as an intermediary if they have sufficient resources and a desire to work with civil society activists.

- The extreme form of dialogue is protest actions: as a rule, in this way people are trying to bring the most acute problems to the authorities, to attract media attention. In one place, people take to the streets, as they can't tolerate the suffocating stench from the landfills, in the other ones they are protesting the demolition of historic buildings of the 19th century, the highlight of urban landscape. **In no case can one priori treat such protests as anti-state activities, on the contrary, it is an example of civic activism that makes the state and society stronger.**

- In recent years, the state has embarked on the support of NPOs that provide social services to the population. The joint work of civil society, authorities, and the expert community to ensure the access of non-profit organizations to the social services market has produced results – the process has been launched, contest begins to develop in the social services market, which should lead to an increase in the quality of services. Nevertheless, there are still barriers. **The Civic Chamber has prepared a comprehensive package of decisions for the Government and Federal Authorities, including the maximum use of the potential of SO NPOs to solve strategic problems of Russia's development for the period up to 2024 as part of the implementation of national projects at the regional level, including tax incentives for NPO following the example of small and medium**





business and infrastructure development support for non-profit organizations.

- It is necessary to bring order to the laws governing the sphere of activity of non-profit organizations. The law “On non-profit organizations”, adopted many years ago, is morally obsolete and does not correlate well with the current state of the third sector. It is important to legally distinguish between certain categories of NPOs, because under this abbreviation completely different organizations are hiding – from all-Russian to local, and some of them have nothing to do with non-commercial activities. Structuring the third sector should be accompanied by a reorganization of the statistical accounting system: to create working development programs, you need to know how many active NPOs we have, what they do and what opportunities they have, how many volunteers there are in the country. Today we have no such reliable and updated information.

- The year of the volunteer provided a break in relation to volunteering, both on the part of the state and in the public consciousness. People are much more actively involved in mass volunteer actions, and the state actively helps volunteer projects and creates the appropriate infrastructure. Volunteers are becoming a familiar part of the daily routine and it is important that this new quality be not an opportunistic phenomenon, but an organic part of our life. **It is no less important that social volunteer projects, whose participants often do not officially register their activities and do not interact with the state, did not pass out of sight behind the ceremonial facade of mass event volunteering, in which active young people are mainly involved.** Meanwhile, it is such initiatives coming from below that make up the essence of volunteering, as the desire to help other people disinterestedly.

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