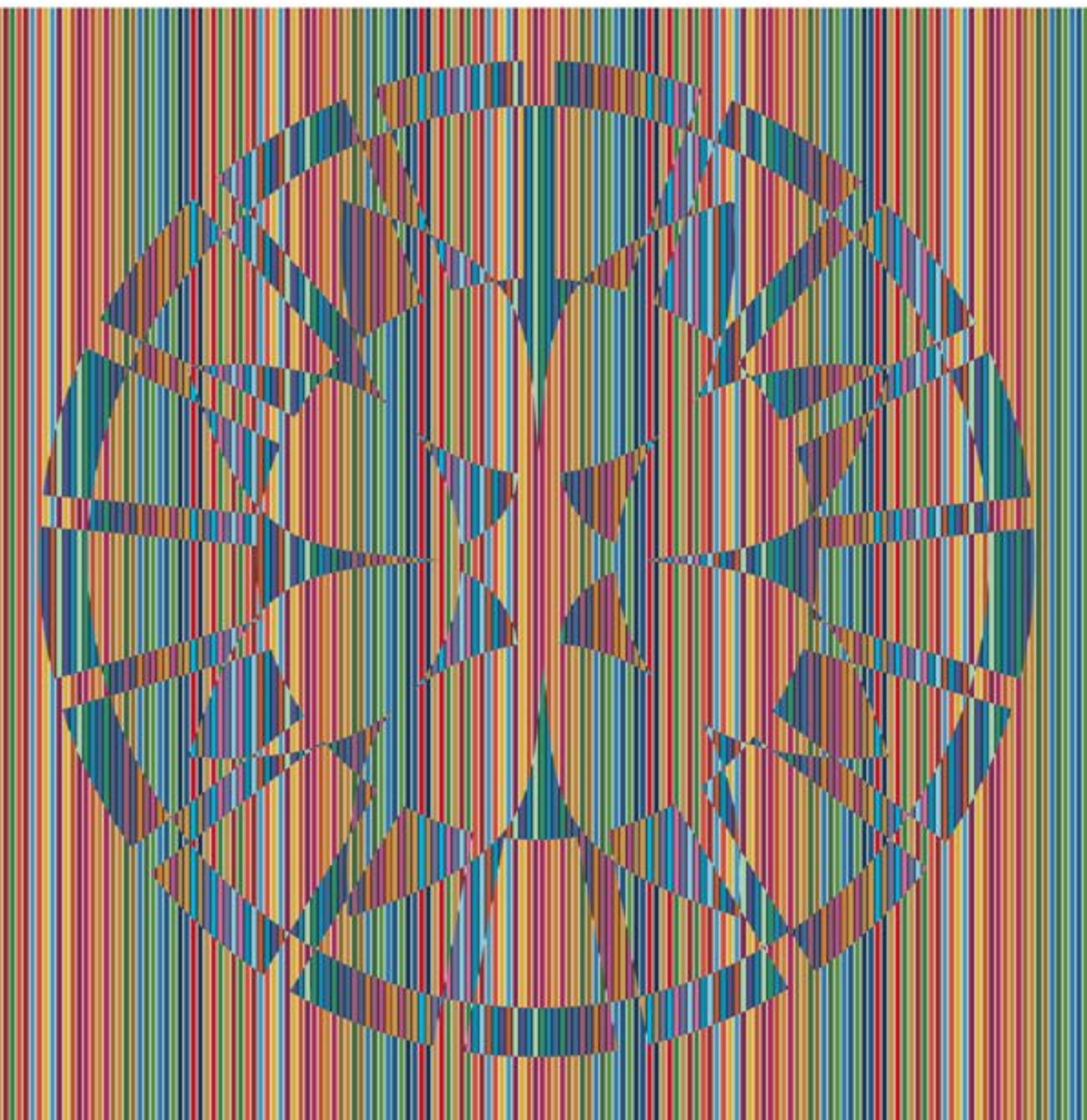


2020–2030:

Decade of Action in Russia

Challenges and Solutions





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Decade of Action in Russia: Challenges and Solutions
(Moscow: s.n., 2020), 125 p.

The Civil Society Review on the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Russia was prepared by the Coalition for Sustainable Development of Russia with the support of the Plus-one.ru portal. The contributors to the Review analyzed the current situation in each of the 17 SDGs and prepared recommendations for the state and civil society on how to achieve the SDGs. The Civil Society Review will be presented in July 2020 at the UN High-Level Policy Forum.



*Nelya Rakhimova —
Open School of Sustainable
Development*

Dear colleagues and friends,

In the turbulent time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are releasing the first Civil Society Review on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Russia. It is of utmost importance for us to demonstrate that civil society in Russia is not only aware of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, but is also actively working on their implementation and maintaining an open dialogue with the state. The Review aims to demonstrate that civil society in Russia is keeping up with their colleagues all around the world: we are ready to participate in the global effort and work together in order to achieve tangible results in the next decade.

The number of activists and organisations in Russia who adhere to the principles of the SDGs is increasing. We would like to see this Review serve as both a reference and starting point for the 'Decade of Action to deliver the Global Goals' from 2020-2030. At the same time, we welcome initiatives from both civil society and the state. For this reason, the Review provides detailed recommendations to government bodies and looks forward to fruitful cooperation with them.

I would like to express my gratitude to all those involved in drafting the Civil Society Review. Most notably, all the members of the Coalition for Sustainable Development of Russia, who analysed the level of SDG implementation in Russia, prepared the Review materials and provided recommendations to the state and civil society. I would also like to thank those people who expressed solidarity with the Review in its final stage.

I would like to give my special thanks to the Plus-one.ru web portal, who released appendices to the Review demonstrating SDG implementation in Russia and assisted us with the design of the Review you are reading now.

We are grateful to the international civil society platform Action for Sustainable Development for recognising the importance of our work and promoting it at a global level.

We would like to express special gratitude to the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, which supports the objective of establishing a dialogue between civil society and the state in order to implement the SDGs in our country.

We hope that the Review will attract attention from the general public both in Russia and abroad, despite the limitations that people around the world currently face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe that this coalition of civil society will continue to work on implementing the SDGs in our country and that the Review will mark the beginning of a wonderful tradition.

*On behalf of the Coalition for Sustainable Development of Russia
Nelya Rakhimova, Ph.D*

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Introduction

Russia was among 193 countries that in 2015 adopted the UN Resolution ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ (Agenda 2030) and committed to achieving the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda states that governments “have adopted a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets.”

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by December 31, 2030 (with the exception of certain targets) is a major global challenge. Russia is the world’s largest country by landmass and ranks number 9 by population. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda in our country is vital for every person in Russia, but also for progress towards sustainable development worldwide.

In 2020, Russia will have to report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). For over a year, the country has been preparing a Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the SDGs. The VNR was designed by the Analytical Centre for the Government of the Russian Federation. However, the Review’s discussion and call for proposals were not properly organised, failing to engage the grassroots level or NGOs in drafting the document. It also passed by social media unnoticed. To remedy this situation, civil society activists proposed establishing the Coalition for Sustainable Development of Russia and preparing the Civil Society Review.

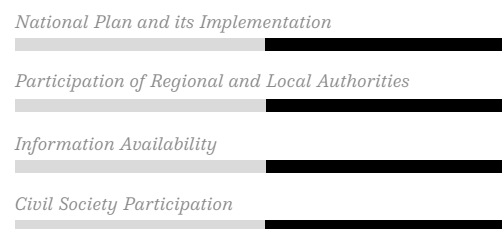
CSDR includes representatives of civil society, aiming to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in Russia and abroad by 2030. The coalition includes representatives of Russian NGOs, small and medium-sized enterprises, social entrepreneurs, educational institutions, research institutes, trade unions, journalists, civic activists and community leaders, whose expertise covers all areas of sustainable development.

We believe that the ‘Decade of Action to Deliver the Global Goals’ announced by Antonio Guterres in January 2020 is a new means for Russia to scrutinise its SDG-related policy implementation and to establish an open dialogue between the

state and civil society. Over this decade, our joint effort will constitute a new step towards achieving the SDGs in Russia. It is for this reason that we called the Review ‘Decade of Action for the SDGs in Russia: Challenges and Solutions’.

This Review neither intends to replace the VNR nor to address all the SDGs’ targets and indicators, and their progress in the country. Rather, it reflects the ideas, assessments and recommendations from CSDR members who are working on many integral elements of the 2030 Agenda in Russia. We aim to provide recommendations to the public sector as well as find methods of cooperation between the state and civil society.

Figure 1. Example of presentation of survey results



Methods

We started working on the Review in October 2019 and formed a working group which contained representatives of Russian NGOs facilitating the 2030 Agenda. The working group decided to establish the Coalition for Sustainable Development of Russia and created a road map for drafting the Civil Society Review. In January 2019, we formed the Coalition, launched its website (kurs2030.ru), and identified the key expert moderators for each Goal who later supervised the preparation of the relevant chapters.

The drafting process involved three major steps:

- *Preparing for discussions.* Key expert moderators prepared a text on each SDG to be publicly discussed. The text comprised information on positive trends and challenges pertaining to each Goal, recommendations from civil society to the state, and opportunities for their cooperation to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Upon the request of the expert moderator, other professionals working on the implementation of a certain SDG in Russia were also involved in the drafting process.
- *Online consultations.* The second stage involved online consultations, enabling civil society representatives who had joined the Coalition to make contributions to the text. They were reviewed and integrated into the text by the expert moderator.
- *Second call for comments.* The third step allowed everyone to review the text of the chapters once again and make their final amendments in writing, which were also integrated into the content by the expert moderator. After this step, we received the final versions of the chapters.

The organizations that joined the process in its final stage have reaffirmed their commitment to the Review and have been included in the list of supporters.

In addition, organizations, experts and activists who were engaged in preparing the Review from January to April 2020 completed a survey on the three SDGs that are most relevant to their work. On a five-point scale, they rated the current state of affairs with regard to four issues:

- Has the government developed a specific plan for the implementation of the SDGs and begun to implement it at the national level?
- Do other levels of government (local, regional) participate in the planning and implementation of this SDG?
- Is there transparent and publicly available data used to measure the progress of this SDG?
- Did civil society participate in the development of an implementation strategy, planning approach, and the collection of monitoring data?

The average results obtained from the survey of participants are presented in the chapter pertaining to the corresponding SDG, as shown in the figure below.

We also stress that the Review was prepared before the COVID-19 pandemic caused a global crisis. All data, materials and recommendations are provided with no regard to social and economic changes that occurred in Russia in spring 2020.

Russia's Implementation of the 2030 Agenda: How Civil Society Assesses the Progress Achieved

1. Путин призвал не увязывать реализацию Целей устойчивого развития с политическими условиями. 5 сентября 2017 года. Сайт информационного агентства «ТАСС». tass.ru (дата обращения: 03.03.2020).

2. Путин назвал смысл госуправления. 25 сентября 2019 года. Сайт «Российской газеты». rg.ru (дата обращения: 03.03.2020).

3. Указ Президента Российской Федерации от 01.04.1996 г. № 440 «О Концепции перехода Российской Федерации к устойчивому развитию». Сайт Администрации Президента РФ. kremlin.ru

4. Основные положения стратегии устойчивого развития России / Под ред. А.М. Шелехова. М., 2002. — 161 с. nsc.ru

5. Доклад о человеческом развитии в Российской Федерации. Экологические приоритеты для России / Под ред. С. Н. Бобылева, Л. М. Григорьева. as.gov.ru

6. Распоряжение Президента Российской Федерации «О межведомственной рабочей группе при Администрации Президента Российской Федерации по вопросам, связанным с изменением климата и обеспечением устойчивого развития». pravo.gov.ru

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on September 25, 2015, Russian officials have repeatedly reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In China, Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed in September 2017 that the country is actively working on the goals of the 2030 Agenda, cooperating with UN agencies, and implementing joint projects aimed at ensuring food security, modernization of industrial and transport infrastructure, and tackling economic problems [1]. In 2019, at the Congress of the International Organization

of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), the President also highlighted that the fundamental meaning of public administration is “to ensure the sustainable development of society and achieve a decent standard of living for people” [2].

Nevertheless, the SDGs have not received adequate attention either in planning the strategic development of the country, nor in the work of the executive authorities at national, regional and local levels. At the same time, Russia is actively expanding its capacities through foreign assistance to developing countries, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda.

Development Strategies of Russia and SDGs

The sustainable development policy of Russia is still defined by a document adopted 25 years ago. This is the Concept of the Transition of the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development, affirmed in 1996 [3]. Later, the government of Russia initiated the drafting of the Sustainable Development Strategy of the Russian Federation [4]. However, this was not officially endorsed [5].

The Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG) on climate change and sustainable development under the Presidential Administration of Russia coordinates effective cooperation in implementing state policy on climate change and sustainable development. It also promotes Russia's interests in these issues worldwide [6].

Russia adopted and will continue to pursue state strategies for industrial development, the environment, digitalisation and other priorities over the decade, but the strategies are poorly adapted to meet the SDGs.

The 2020 Strategy and May Decrees

The 2020 Strategy or the ‘Strategy of Long-term Social and Economic Development of the Russian Federation’ [7] was adopted in 2008 and addressed some of the goals that were later reflected in the SDGs. For example, by 2012, a growth of real income by 53-54% was expected to be achieved by 2012, as well as an increase in life expectancy by 2.5 years, an increase in the growth rate of GDP by 37-38%, and an increase of 40-41% in workforce productivity.

7. Распоряжение Правительства РФ от 17.11.2008 N 1662-р (ред. от 28.09.2018) «О Концепции долгосрочного социально-экономического развития Российской Федерации на период до 2020 года». consultant.ru

8. Будущее «на заказ». 21 января 2020 года. Сайт издания «Новая газета». novayagazeta.ru

9. РБК: «майские указы» Путина о повышении зарплат бюджетников выполнены в 16 регионах из 85. Обновлено 17 апреля 2019 года. Сайт издания «Новая газета». novayagazeta.ru

10. Президент подписал Указ «О национальных целях и стратегических задачах развития Российской Федерации на период до 2024 года». Сайт Администрации Президента РФ. kremlin.ru

11. Группа «Устойчивое развитие» партии «Единая Россия» начнет работу в феврале. 28 января 2019 года. Сайт информационного агентства «ТАСС». tass.ru

Environmental issues, urban planning, spatial development and possible negative external economic factors remained beyond the purview of the 2020 Strategy. However, the 2020 Strategy lost its relevance immediately after it was adopted: Russia entered a protracted economic crisis.

Nevertheless, certain goals stipulated in the Strategy were achieved. In recent years, inflation has been reduced by more than 5%. The quality standards of public services have been improved. Personal maintenance and repair contributions have been introduced for multi-family residential areas. The primary goal, i.e. transition to a new model of economic growth focused on the growth of workforce productivity and 'long-term' internal sources of investment, has not been achieved. Expenditure on human capital (education and health care) and infrastructure have not improved [8].

On May 7, 2012, the day he took office, President Vladimir Putin signed 11 decrees (also known as the May Decrees) as a compliment to the 2020 Strategy. They consisted of 218 orders to the government to be carried out between 2012 and 2020. The decrees specified targets for the salaries of public sector employees, the improvement of the country's investment climate and other long-term priorities. According to independent sources, in 2020 only four regions of the Russian Federation have formally attained the decrees [9].

National Projects through to 2024

Since April 2016, the working group of the Presidential Economic Council has been working on proposals for the Development Strategy of the Russian Federation over the 2018-2024 presidential term, and further proposals up to 2035. The Centre for Strategic Research (CRS) was the platform which gathered ministries and departments, representatives from the regions of Russia, and experts in related fields, who all participated in a joint effort to design the Strategy. However, this strategic plan once again failed to include the SDGs.

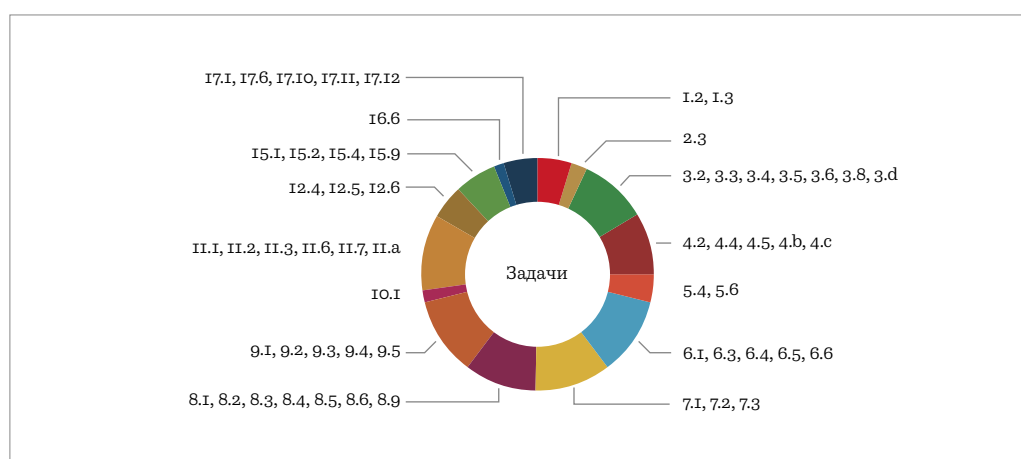
In May 2018, the President signed the Executive Order on National Goals and Strategic Objectives of the Russian Federation through to 2024 [10]. This policy paper defines strategic objectives in science, technology, social and economic development in Russia. It states the following goals: to take Russia into the top five largest economies; ensure sustainable natural population growth; increase life expectancy from 72 to 78 years (80 years by 2030); ensure sustainable growth of real wages; cut poverty in half; improve housing conditions for at least 5 million households annually; and establish conditions and opportunities for the self-realization of each citizen. The document includes 12 National Projects, each outlining how to achieve certain indicators. A total of 131 goals and targets contain only 57 of the 169 SDG targets. Meanwhile, SDG 13 and SDG 14 were not included in the policy paper at all (see Figure 2).

The Council of the Yedinaya Rossiya (United Russia) party, which has had a parliamentary majority for many electoral terms, founded a Sustainable Development group, which began working in February 2019. The group aims to foster dialogue between society and the authorities to facilitate the effective implementation of National Projects. Discussion of a spatial development strategy, considering the local demands of each federal district, was planned [11]. Independent civil society was not aware of the initiative and doubted whether members of the group had an appropriate understanding of the concept of sustainable development. According to many public activists, government officials at all levels are not fully aware of the SDGs and their importance, which also prevents the inclusion of the 2030 Agenda in strategic documents at various levels.

In addition, it should be mentioned that the spread of corruption also makes it difficult to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Corruption leads to slower economic growth, a disparity of resources and lack of equal opportunities. Corruption widens the gap between the rich and poor, intensifies social tensions, increases child mortality rates [12], reduces competition and atrophies governance.

At the end of 2019, the President initiated the process of amending to the Constitution. One of the amendments allows for the possibility of not executing the decisions of inter-governmental bodies based on international treaties if their interpretation contradicts the Constitution of the Russian Federation. Consequently, the President offers criticism of Russia's international treaties, since the suggested norm contradicts both the UN Charter and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, as well as the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR). The adoption of this and other submitted constitutional amendments calls into question the possibility of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Figure 2. Share of the SDGs targets covered by the National Projects through to 2024.
(Author's grouping of data based on the analysis of the Executive Order on National Goals and Strategic Objectives of the Russian Federation through to 2024)



It means that Russia today:

- does not have documents exclusively devoted to the implementation of the SDGs as adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, nor a separate road map for their implementation. Most of the targets for sustainable development at a national level are implemented through state programmes for social and economic development, which include sub-programmes and departmental target programmes.
- lacks a coordinating state structure responsible for the implementation of the SDGs in the country. At the state level, it is commonly supposed that ministries are responsible for the implementation of the Goals, while the government is responsible for their coordination.
- does not report regularly on the implementation of the SDGs, despite the fact that the UN recommends presenting an annual review on attaining the 2030 Agenda, supplemented by sub-national reviews, in parliament.

Integration of the Three Dimensions of Sustainable Development and Policy Coherence

If one examines the May Decrees, priority National Projects and other programme documents, it is easy to see that there is no integrated approach in the 2030 Agenda that combines the three aspects of sustainable development: social, environmental and economic.

Federal ministries and agencies are poorly coordinated with one another and with regional agencies in the execution of the adopted programmes. The Centre for Strategic Research, in their report on the implementation of the 2020 Strategy, describes the work pattern as follows: "At pres-

12. Everhart S. S., Martinez-Vazquez J., McNab R.M. *Corruption, investment, and growth in developing countries* // Calhoun: The NPS Institutional Archive DSpace Repository. — 2005. — № 4. — P. 7.

13. С.А. Белановский, М.Э. Дмитриев, В.М. Комаров, М.О. Комин, В.А. Коцюбинский, А.В. Никольская. Аналитический доклад «Анализ факторов реализации документов стратегического планирования верхнего уровня». csr.ru

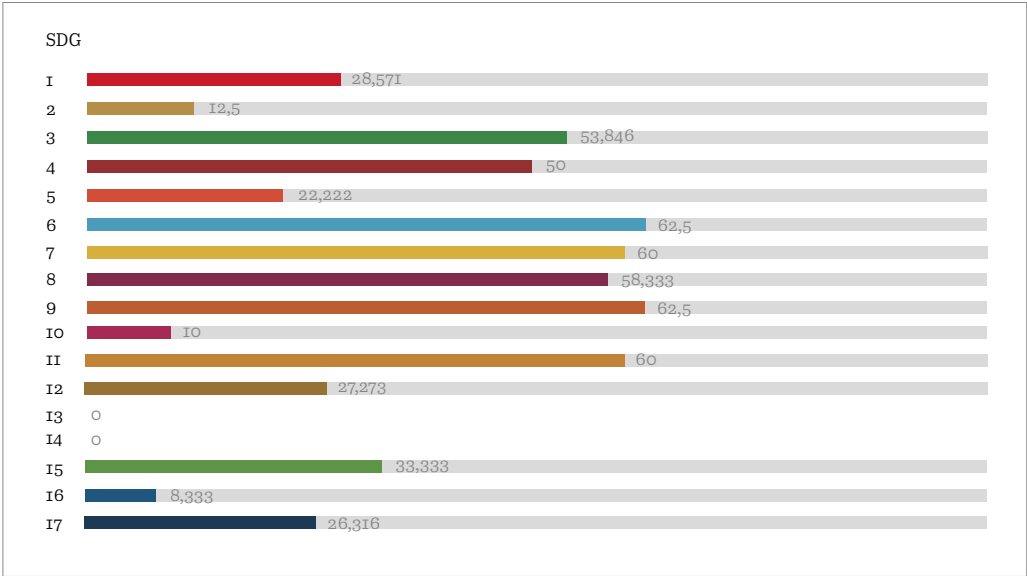
Figure 3. Share of the SDGs targets covered by the National Projects through to 2024 (%).

ent, the only institution in Russia that has the authority to ensure consistency through coercive methods is the President himself. However, his capacities are limited. This means that the only decisions that are implemented in the country are those that the President is monitoring personally. Many experts have called this a ‘hands-on management approach’, noting that it can be effective occasionally, but systematically, it cannot cover the whole range of problems in Russia” [13].

Leaving No One Behind, Planetary Boundaries and Human Rights

Authorities always emphasize that Russia is a social state. Human and civil rights and freedoms are recognized and guaranteed at the official level, following the universally recognised principles and norms of international law, and enshrined in the Constitution.

However, aspects of sustainable development such as social justice and human rights, gender equality, the interests of local communities, guarantees of justice and building a peaceful and open society have not been elaborated in Russian conceptual documents.



Moreover, in recent years, civil society has witnessed the emergence of laws, regulations and programmes that have largely discriminated against and marginalised certain groups. Examples include the gay propaganda law, the law decriminalising domestic violence, the Dima Yakovlev Law that bans citizens of other countries from adopting orphans from Russia, the pension reform, and laws and regulations aimed at restricting indigenous peoples’ rights to access natural resources necessary for their traditional ways of life.

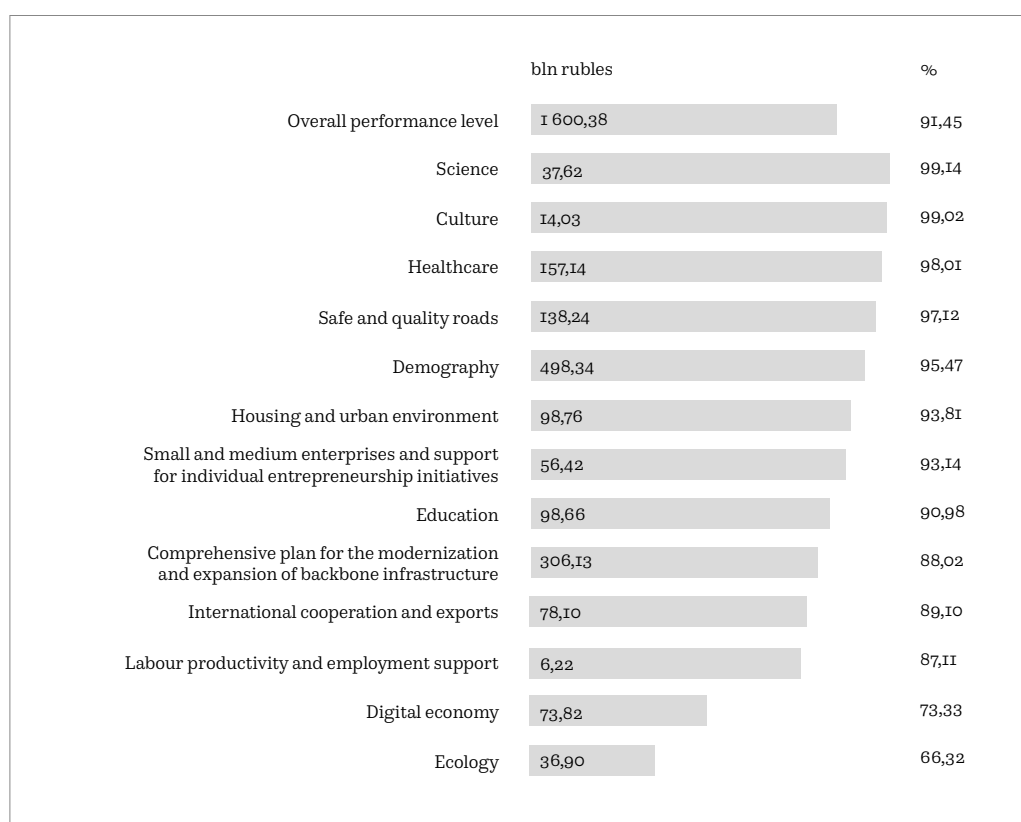
In the last few years, repressive tendencies that contradict basic human rights have been growing in Russia. The authorities responded to the rise of civic and political activism with bans, tougher legislation, and politically motivated criminal cases.

As noted above, the environmental dimension, which underpins the principle of planetary boundaries, is also often neglected in strategic documents. Priority is given to economic growth based on the exploitation of resources.

Financing of the SDGs

External funding, as well as domestic funding of SDG implementation, is one of the universal key factors in achieving the targets set by the Goals. Russia is no exception to the general rule. It should be stressed that due to the absence of a strategy for the implementation of the Goals in Russia, the state budget is not adjusted to the Goals. It lacks an analysis of finances, disaggregated according to the Goals.

Figure 4. 2019 National Projects performance level



14. Кудрин: бюджет нацпроектов в 15 раз больше затрат на здравоохранение. 12 сентября 2019 года. Ведомости. vedomosti.ru

15. В Счетной палате рассказали об освоении средств на нацпроекты. 6 ноября 2019 года. Сайт информационного агентства «ТАСС». tass.ru

16. Нацпроекты освоили лишь половину денег. 7 ноября 2019 года. Сайт «Независимой газеты». ng.ru

If we once again refer to the National Projects of 2019-2024, we can see that, in general, 25.7 trillion rubles are planned to be spent on national projects over six years, while federal resources account for 13 trillion rubles. On average, this is about 10% of the federal budget per year [14]. In 2019, 1.75 trillion rubles were allocated in the budget to the implementation of National Projects. From January to September 2019, according to the Accounts Chamber of Russia [15], only 52.1% of the planned annual budget was implemented. Only 1-2% of some projects were completed. As of 1 January 2020, 91.4% of expenditures had been carried out. An unimplemented budget means unfulfilled plans and unfinished work. The major problem is excessively complicated bureaucratic processes within the public sector [16].

The majority of state investments in Russia are directed towards the extraction of mineral resources, which contradicts the principles of sustainable development. Nevertheless, interest in green investment is gaining momentum in the country. In early April 2019, the Moscow Stock Exchange, with the support of the Ministry of Economic Development, joined the Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) international initiative and opened a special section of sustainable devel-

opment securities in August 2019 [17]. This sector was created to finance environmental and socially important projects.

In recent years, the state has rejected the possibility of foreign funding for the third sector. At the same time, Russia has increased state support for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in order to reduce the government's social spending by sharing responsibility with non-state actors. The largest amount of funding is allocated from the federal budget, while smaller amounts are allocated at local and municipal levels. Since 2017, the Presidential Grants for Civil Society Development Foundation has supported 10,558 socially important projects amounting to over 22 billion rubles. [18]

As for external financing, over the first fifteen post-Soviet years, Russia was mostly a recipient of foreign aid. In the 2000s, Russia altered its position in the international arena and became a donor. The Concept of State Policy of the Russian Federation in the area of International Development Assistance [19] was approved in 2014. This concept combines Russian assistance in the sustainable development of other countries, and the realisation of Russia's national interests. Since 2015, the annual volumes of official development assistance (ODA) provided by Russia have exceeded \$1 billion, with the exception of 2018.

SDG Monitoring and Voluntary National Review

The state of civil society in Russia today can be described as controversial and unstable. On the one hand, the state is ready to transfer many functions to civil society organisations. On the other hand, public authorities exert excessive control over non-profit organisations, hampering the activities of independent human rights and environmental organizations, whose expertise is vital to the achievement of the SDGs. Civil society is virtually deprived of the state's capacity to help it attain the SDGs and meet international commitments on various aspects of the Goals.

At the same time, the 2030 Agenda and SDG awareness among Russian civil society is very low. Increasing awareness of the SDGs is not supported by the state, with the exception of sporadic initiatives in this field organised by the GO NGOs. For example, the National Youth Council of Russia introduced the Russian Youth SDG Ambassadors Programme [22] supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Nevertheless, some public organizations promote the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and disseminate information in Russian. In most cases, such activities are financed by international funds, and organisations engaged in this field have the status of 'foreign agents'. Organisations that regularly receive state support do not pay due attention to SDG issues. The Foreign Agents Law, which requires NGOs to register and declare themselves as foreign

agents, demonstrates a systematic state policy aimed at the destruction of independent civil organisations and groups, and their subsequent replacement by state-controlled loyal NGOs. This situation has been repeatedly addressed by the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Human Rights Watch and the International Federation for Human Rights.

The business sector is deeply involved in working with the SDGs. It is the business community that is actively promoting the 2030 Agenda, incorporating the SDGs into its activities and organizing forums and conferences. This is primarily due to the need to keep up with international requirements, their partners and competitors. Business is also actively supporting NGOs working for the achievement of particular SDGs.

Over the past year, Russia hosted several major events on the Sustainable Development Goals, including some organised with government support. Activity in this area can be associated with the preparation of the VNR and Russia's desire to keep up with the international community on this issue, and be part of the progressive and civilised world. For perhaps the same reason, during the 2014 Winter Olympics and the 2018 FIFA World Cup, the state developed comprehensive sustainable development strategies [23].

Given the low awareness of the 2030 Agenda among both officials and the population, the SDGs in Russia today cannot function as "a social contract between the world's leaders and the people," as former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. Even if citizens demand the implementation of the SDGs at a national or local level, the response of the authorities will be minimal due to a low awareness of the importance of the SDGs, and the lack of a presence of the SDGs in strategic documents.

The existing procedures and forms of public participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of the country's social and economic strategies are mostly ineffective. It is just a formality and simulation. When civil society takes steps on a hard-hitting issue, it encounters an active response from a state that is not ready to accept criticism and seek optimal solutions.

Despite the fact that some civil society representatives are currently sceptical about the possibility of dialogue with the state on the implementation of SDGs in the country, we believe that this review can serve as a starting point for renewed cooperation.

Recommendations

The recommendations of civil society in Russia largely overlap with those of colleagues from other countries:

1. State bodies in Russia should review existing strategic documents for their compliance with the objectives and

17. Московская биржа создает Сектор устойчивого развития при поддержке Минэкономразвития России. 5 августа 2019 года. Сайт Московской биржи. tosex.com

18. 2128 НКО получают президентские гранты на общую сумму 4,35 млрд рублей по итогам второго конкурса 2019 года. Сайт Фонда президентских грантов. президентскиегранты.рф (дата обращения: 03.03.2020).

19. Концепция государственной политики Российской Федерации в сфере содействия международному развитию (утв. Указом Президента РФ от 20 апреля 2014 г. N 259). Сайт МИД РФ. mid.ru (дата обращения: 03.03.2020).

20. Цели устойчивого развития в Российской Федерации. 2019: Крат. стат. сб. / Росстат — М., 2019 — 39 с. gks.ru

21. Ростовская область — движение к целям устойчивого развития. Информ.-аналит. мат. / Ростовстат. — Ростов-на-Дону, 2019. — 202 с. education.southofrussia.ru

22. Молодежные посланники ЦУР России. Положение. Сайт Национального совета молодежных и детских объединений России. youthrussia.ru (дата обращения: 03.03.2020).

23. Отчет об итогах деятельности в соответствии с принципами устойчивого развития. Чемпионат мира по футболу FIFA 2018 в России. img.fifa.com (дата обращения: 03.03.2020).

Chapter by

Nelya Rakhimova —
Open School of Sustainable
Development

indicators of the SDGs, and create a National Plan or Roadmap for achieving the SDGs in the coming decade. The Plan should be devised in an integrated, comprehensive, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral way. The Plan should reflect the main principles of the 2030 Agenda: Leave No One Behind and Planetary Boundaries. It should take into account the three interrelated dimensions of sustainable development. The Plan should be developed in broad cooperation with civil society and other stakeholders to ensure a long-term and sustainable development path through to 2030. Civil society should be engaged at all stages of the planning, implementation and reporting of the process. Civil society will encourage a public commitment from public authorities to the population of the country on the implementation of this Plan.

2. It is necessary to raise SDG awareness among officials at all levels, including municipalities, to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the SDGs. Public sector employees should understand the 2030 Agenda and know how they can contribute to achieving it within their range of responsibilities.
3. Federal ministries and bodies, and regional agencies need to cooperate to ensure the fulfilment of the Plan. The community level plays a key role in SDG implementation, so the voices of local authorities should also be listened to when designing SDG-related activities.
4. It is essential to review the legal framework that impedes the path towards sustainable development. This is particularly true for the Leaving No One Behind and Planetary Boundaries principles listed in the 2030 Agenda, as well as human rights and the transparent and trustworthy cooperation of civic, academic and business communities at the international level.
5. The state can promote a wider dissemination of the 2030 Agenda in the regions and at the local level.
6. Russia's international policy, including ODA allocation, should follow the principles of the 2030 Agenda, including those aimed at strengthening universal peace in conditions of greater freedom.
7. We call on the government to report annually on the progress of SDG achievement at both domestic and international levels. These reports should be available to the public. Civil Society Organisations can be involved in the reporting process to ensure a shared understanding of the progress made and further priorities. The same practice can be replicated at regional and local levels. Civil society and the media should have the powers of independent observers, i.e. the capacity, access and resources to independently assess the implementation of the SDGs at all levels.
8. The people need to be aware of the Goals, and their universal nature and applicability to Russia. A comprehensive training and communication plan will allow the maximisation of public awareness, interest and readiness for action in Russia to achieve the SDGs. National sustainable development events, such as the Common Future Sustainable Development Forum, should be accessible (i.e. free of charge) to a wide audience.
9. Follow-up VNRs should be developed with greater participation from civil society, including all stakeholders, without discrimination by income, sex, age, race, nationality, migration status, disability, sexual orientation, geographic location, and other characteristics.
10. The state should actively engage civil society when working towards the goals of the 2030 Agenda at the international level, which includes the UN framework, so that organisations and associations working at the national level can acquire the necessary knowledge, participate in global events, and take responsibility for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the international level.

1

Russia's Poverty Trap: Old Problems and New Challenges



Positive Trends and Advances from Early 2016

1. Зарплаты бюджетников достигли целей из майских указов лишь в 16 регионах. 17 апреля 2019. Сайт информационного агентства «РБК». rbc.ru

2. Ростот отчитался о росте реальных доходов по итогам 2019 года. 28 января 2020. Сайт информационного агентства «РБК». rbc.ru

3. Силуанов назвал причины роста реальных доходов россиян в 2019 году. 24 декабря 2019. Сайт информационного агентства ТАСС. tass.ru

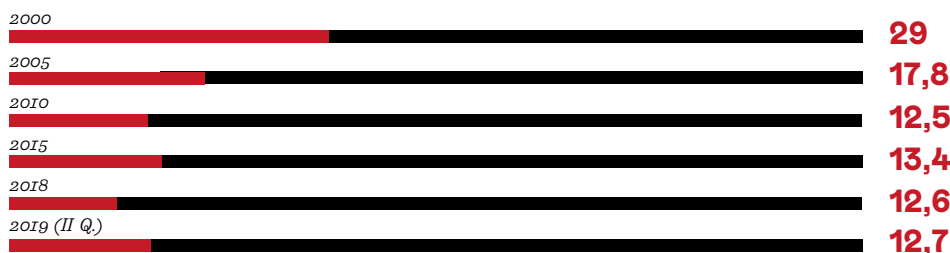
By 2024, the level of poverty in Russia should be reduced by half. Poverty eradication is listed among the priorities of the decree on National Goals and Strategic Objectives signed by President Vladimir Putin in 2018. Since 2016, the number of poor people has been decreasing but their proportion of the population has remained at approximately the same level. According to official data from the Russian Federal State Statistics Service (FSSS), there are almost no people in Russia whose average disposable income per day falls below the \$1.90 poverty line.

The increase in the salaries of public sector employees, especially teachers, university lecturers, employees of cultural institutions and researchers [1], can be considered an achievement in the fight against poverty, as can the expansion of the maternity capital programme. This includes receiving capital certificates for first-borns, additional funds on the birth of a second child, monthly payments for children aged 3 to 7 from 1 January 2020 for families with an income not exceeding the subsistence minimum level per person, as well as 450 thousand rubles for mortgage repayments on the birth of a third child.

We can also highlight the reduction of a negative trend and the growth in real income by 0.8% in 2019 [2]. Household income had been continuously decreasing between 2014 and 2017, and in 2018 demonstrated near-zero growth (+0.1%). The increase in salaries, pensions and allowances, as well as the slowdown in inflation, contributed to the growth [3]. However, due to the significant decline in the years preceding this, the real disposable income of the people in Russia in 2019 remains 7.5% below the level of 2014.

Support for socially-oriented non-governmental organisations (SO NGOs) has also increased. In 2018, the total amount of funds transferred by the constituent entities of the Russian Federation to SO NGOs for the provision of social services to the population accounted for 31.3 billion rubles. This exceeds the results of 2017 by more than 30% (more than 24 billion rubles) [4]. The funds were allocated between 4,400 SO NGOs (7% growth). More than 22 million people used their services, which is 3.6 times higher than in 2017.

Figure 5. Population of Russia with incomes below the minimum subsistence level, %
Source: Federal State Statistics Service



Key Problems and Challenges

4. Участие НКО в оказании услуг в социальной сфере. Специальный доклад Общественной палаты Российской Федерации. orpf.ru (дата обращения: 07.03.2020)

5. Бедность не отступает: в России посчитали малоимущих. 28 августа 2019. Сайт издания «Газета.ру». gazeta.ru

6. Указ Президента Российской Федерации от 02.03.1992 № 210 «О системе минимальных потребительских бюджетов в Российской Федерации»

7. О совершенствовании методологических положений по расчетам индексов немонетарной бедности по итогам выборочных наблюдений по социально-демографическим проблемам. // Росстат. gks.ru

8. Доклад о неравенстве в мире. Основные положения 2018. // WID.world. wir2018.wid.world

The poverty threshold in Russia is based on the minimum subsistence level. Over the past 20 years, the share of the population with an income below this line has changed significantly (see Table 1).

Today, 17.6 million Russians live below the poverty line, which is 13.1% of the population. Families with children constitute almost 80% of all poor households [5]. The situation is extremely difficult for large families with more than three young children. More than 51% of these families are poor. In Russia, broken social elevators have become the bedrock of ‘poverty traps’.

This stagnation emerged after a period of relative prosperity in the 2000s. In May 2018, President Vladimir Putin declared a drastic reduction of poverty by 2024 to be a top priority.

However, such an ambitious task had to face unfavourable economic conditions. Between 2014 and 2017, the real income of the population decreased by more than 8%, only slightly balanced out by its growth by 1% between 2018 and 2019, but offset by the ruble devaluation. Preliminary estimates for 2020, based on continued economic stagnation exacerbated by the coronavirus epidemic, show that a new decline in real income is highly likely to take place this year. This poses major threats to the President’s poverty reduction programme. In particular, the decline in production, mass layoffs, a sharp slump in the number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), together with a continuing decrease in household income and, consequently, the shrinking of household purchasing power: these are all likely contributors to a deepening of poverty.

Poverty in Russia is not homogeneous. Small towns and villages, as well as the national republics of the North Caucasus, are the most trapped in poverty.

It is also necessary to examine how poverty is measured in Russia. The term “subsistence minimum level” was introduced in April 1992 by a decree of President Boris Yeltsin “during the crisis development of the economy” [6] caused by a sharp drop in the real income of the population

after the economic strategy of so-called “shock therapy” was introduced. In 2019, the Russian Federal State Statistics Service prepared a report on the multidimensional measurement of poverty [7], which uses the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), At Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion (AROPE), the Deprivation Index, and the Social Exclusion Index based on European experience. The early implementation of these tools will make it possible to understand the real scale of all forms of poverty in Russia..

Income Inequality

From 1980 to 2016, Russia displayed a spike in inequality bypassing India, China and the United States. [8]. The largest income gap can be observed in the most affluent and densely populated regions of Russia [9].

Federal transfers are of the utmost importance in reducing inequality. Poor regions receive all types of transfers, i.e. subsidies, subventions and grants. However, according to economist Natalya Zubarevich, the state mitigates inequalities between regions rather than people. 75% of social benefits in Russia are not targeted, which means they do not account for the income of their recipients. Only a quarter is allocated to people in need, whose income falls below the minimum subsistence level [10]. Experts are also concerned that the size of federal transfers depends on oil prices. A sharp, prolonged drop in oil prices threatens the socio-economic situation in the regions.

Social Protection for the Poor

The access of the poor to quality services of free basic education and universal healthcare can also contribute to overcoming poverty. However, despite the guarantees provided by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, these important social spheres are not yet adequately financed.

Targeted social assistance is not adequately provided. Only about 20% of the allocated budget funds reach their recipients [11]. It would require 0.39-0.45% of GDP per year to increase this indicator to 60-70%, which would significantly improve its efficiency. These additional transfers can also be co-financed



9. Где находится неравенство. 23 июля 2018. Электронное периодическое издание «Ведомости». vedomosti.ru

10. Уровень бедности в РФ вырос в начале года. 29 июля 2019 года. Интерфакс. interfax.ru

11. Доклад об экономике России. Выпуск № 42. Повышение роли внутренних реформ на фоне ухудшения прогноза мировой экономики // Всемирный банк. 4 декабря 2019 года. vsemirnyjbank.org

by enhancing the performance of existing programmes.

The introduction of the maternity capital programme on the birth of a first child in 2020, as well as the introduction of a childcare allowance for children aged 3 to 7, will alleviate the position of poor families with children.

Economic Growth and Poverty

The advancement of social protection is possible provided that economic growth is restored, combined with a structural adjustment of the economy.

Moreover, economic growth cannot automatically lead to poverty reduction unless public redistribution policies are revised. Tax policy accumulates tax revenues at the federal level, which leads to a constant deficit in most municipal budgets. Thus, the federal government should follow the hands-on management approach to ensure that its financial transfers and subsidies reach every household. Not following this approach contributes to failed targeting and the inefficiency of social assistance. This also hinders the alleviation of income inequality. Measured by the Gini coefficient, income distribution in Russia stands at 0.43, one of the highest indexes in the world.

Another economic factor impeding poverty reduction is the prevalence of informal employment. This sector of the labour market grew from 12.5% of the total number employed in

2001, to 21.2% in 2016. From 2017 to 2018, this percentage did not change significantly, but it started growing again in late 2019. This was due to the downsizing of small enterprises and the migration of entrepreneurs to self-employment due to excessive administrative pressure and corruption. The Russian economy is in the grip of the state.

The 2020 coronavirus pandemic is a challenge for all aspects of social policy in Russia. Optimistically, the state has a chance to successfully avoid detrimental consequences since the Russian National Wealth Fund has accumulated about 10 trillion rubles. The federal budget exhibits a steadfast surplus, and the Central Bank of Russia deposits record-breaking reserves. The only problem might be the government's choice of measures to adequately address the threat.

Building Strategic Mechanisms

Despite the President's objective, set in May 2018, of reducing poverty twofold by 2024, the government has yet to develop a special national project to focus on this challenge. However, according to the Accounts Chamber of Russia, "the current state of national projects will not achieve breakthrough economic development and qualitative transformation in the domains they regulate" [12]. On top of this, confronting over-centralised authorities, local governance and community organisations are unlikely to be able to have a role in solving societal issues.

Recommendations to the State

The only way to reverse these negative developments is to launch large-scale economic reforms that will improve the investment climate, the operation of small and medium-sized enterprises, and create highly paid jobs in other sectors of the Russian economy, not just in the natural resources sector. In this regard, we can offer the following recommendations to the government on behalf of civil society, in order to better facilitate the achievement of SDG 1 in Russia. The government should:

- Integrate SDG 1 into a comprehensive national strategy and seek expertise from civil society, represented by NGOs working with vulnerable groups.
- Establish a National Think Tank, supported by civil society, which will bring together knowledge and experience in the fight against poverty.

- Increase public expenditure on education and health care from the current 8% to at least 10% of GDP.
- Expand the availability of adult educational programmes, designed for people seeking or wishing to change jobs and training for a new occupation
- Provide entities and local governance with the authority to introduce measures of monetary and non-monetary support, supplementing federal support, secured through independent sources of financing.
- Enhance the access of poor and socially vulnerable groups to financial services, including microfinance.
- Provide temporary social housing for those at risk of poverty and homelessness.
- Introduce tax relief programmes (e.g. the elimination of certain taxes, payments and fees) for small and medium-sized enterprises, and the self-employed. Create incentives for informal employees to come out of the shadow economy.
- Implement a grant scheme for NGOs supporting socially vulnerable groups under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Economic Development.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

- Participate in the design of national and regional strategies for poverty eradication, leveraging the knowledge and expertise of other regions, countries and coalitions of NGOs working on the SDGs.
- Participate in regular consultations with public organizations working with socially vulnerable groups, and executive authorities at federal, regional and local levels. Participate in joint actions and establish feedback, including data exchange.
- Build information resources and discussion groups, initiating consultations with the business community and NGO leaders. Coordinate activities with the NGOs targeting other SDGs.
- Enhance local efforts aimed at socially vulnerable households.
- NGOs can encourage people to support themselves.

Chapter by

Eugene Gontmakher —
'European Dialogue' Expert
Group

Vitaly Kartamyshev —
Independent Expert

2

Russia's Food Security in a Changing World



Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. Сельское хозяйство в России. 2019 год // Федеральная служба государственной статистики. gks.ru (дата обращения: 10.04.2020).

2. Таможенная статистика внешней торговли. Экспорт из России. Продукты растительного происхождения, 2018–2019, 2019 // Федеральная служба государственной статистики. stat.customs.ru (дата обращения: 23.04.2020).

According to the Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), in the first quarter of 2019, the number of citizens with incomes below the minimum subsistence level was 20.9 million people (14.3% of the population). More than 200 non-profit charitable organisations provide assistance to vulnerable groups within the population.

Hunger is not a major problem for Russia. Citizens are provided with essential food supplies from the domestic market. The introduction of a food embargo in 2014 constituted an impetus for the growth of agriculture. During the period of counter-sanctions, domestic agricultural production grew by 14.3%, while imports declined by 31.2% (data between 2014 and 2018) [1]. The country has achieved food security in the core areas: grain, vegetable oil, sugar, meat and meat products.

SDG targets on food security, doubling agricultural productivity and increasing investment in rural infrastructure are provided for by the 'State Programme for the Development of Agriculture and Regulation of Agricultural Commodities Markets in 2013-2020', drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation. The Programme was adopted in July 2012 and extended until 2025.

The state also actively supports 'agro-holdings' (consolidated sets of parent and controlled subsidiary agricultural companies). In February 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture

launched the Agricultural Equipment Upgrade Programme. Russian and imported agricultural equipment with no domestic equivalent were granted a lease with zero initial payment for a term of up to seven years.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, in 2019 the country harvested a record 1.2 million tonnes of greenhouse vegetables (compared to 1 million in 2018), as well as oil-bearing crops (20.6-21.2 million tonnes against 19.5 million). In 2019, meat and poultry production grew by 1.8% to 15 million tonnes, and milk production increased by 1.5% to 31 million tonnes.

Russia ensures not only her own food security but also the food security of other countries. For example, Russian exports amount to 15% of imports in Egypt and 12% in Turkey. According to the Federal Customs Service of Russia (FCS), exports of vegetable products in 2018-2019 totalled \$14.5 billion, weighing more than 69 million tons [2].

One of the SDG 2 targets is to maintain plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Russia's expertise in this area is very strong. The genetic diversity of seeds is preserved due to the Vavilov seed bank and Kuban genetic bank of seeds. Russia has the world collection of plant genetic resources, which includes about 400 thousand samples. The Vavilov Institute of Plant Industry (VIR) facilitates the production of hundreds of new species and hybrids annually.

Apart from ending hunger, SDG 2 targets include providing all people with access to

3. Статистический сборник
«Сельское хозяйство в России»,
2019 год // Федеральная служба
государственной статистики.
gks.ru (дата обращения: 18.02.2020).

safe, nutritious and sufficient food, as well the implementation of sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices.

In January 2020, the President approved the Food Security Doctrine of the Russian Federation. This document meets the SDG 2 targets. The Doctrine stipulates a list of national interests, which include, among others, an improvement in the quality of life of Russian citizens through ensuring adequate food provision; supplying quality and safe foodstuffs to the population; and the

sustainable development and modernisation of the agricultural and fishery sectors and domestic market infrastructure.

The Doctrine defines the food security objectives: sustainable development in the production of farm products, commodities and food sufficient for ensuring food independence, based on scientifically proven planning concepts; the creation of strategic food stocks; ensuring the physical and economic availability of safe, quality assorted foodstuffs required for the creation of a healthy diet for every citizen in the country; and ensuring food safety.

Major Problems and Challenges

It is impossible to achieve SDG 2 without enhancing the quality of life of Russian citizens and improving the environment. The former will benefit nutrition and increase life expectancy, while the latter will reduce climate-related risks and natural hazards (storms, hurricanes, droughts, fires, floods, etc), as well as guarantee stable agricultural development.

20.9 million people in Russia are currently in need of diverse, quality food.

According to Rosstat, data up to the second quarter of 2019 shows that 49.4% of household income is spent on food and clothing [3]. The highest proportion of those who cannot afford durable goods is among non-working retirees (58.8%), large families with three young children (56.1%) and single-parent households (53.9%). The largest number of families who only have enough money for food and clothing is concentrated in the Republic of Ingushetia (78.8%), the Chuvash Republic (70.6%), the Nentsy Autonomous Area (69.7%) and Krasnodar Territory (69.2%).

Households which reported that their income is entirely spent on food and clothing remain the largest. 15% of families report that they only have enough money for food. 0.7% families do not have enough money even for food.

Reducing Excessive Food Consumption

Although a number of households spend a significant proportion of their money on food, the use of foodstuffs in Russia is irrational. The Russian Association of Electronic Communications (RAEC) states that 17 million tonnes of food waste (i.e. produced food) are discarded, which amounts to 28% of the total waste going to landfills (70 million tonnes). Production, transportation and processing results in losses of over 20%, while storage and retail account for about 9% of waste. Consumers discard almost 12% of foodstuffs.

It is more cost-effective and legal to dispose of expired products or products at the end of their shelf life in a landfill, rather than to hand them over to those in need or recycle them. Market chains have no right to sell products with an expired shelf life, and donating 'best before' date foods is subject to VAT, with the donor bearing 40% of their cost. Moreover, the return of residual stock, the shelf life of which does not exceed 30 days, has been banned since June 2019, and therefore they are also sent to landfill sites.

A lack of quality food and an unsustainable use of foodstuffs go hand in hand.

The Centre for Environmental Projects states that conscious consumption would reduce food waste by 20% immediately, and by 2050 the



reduction would reach 50% (a goal set by the UN General Assembly).

Reducing spoilage in food production, encouraging the donation of food, as well as lean management in food production, will further reduce the number of unsold products. This will decrease the amount of food waste, and therefore the extent of landfill sites, reduce emissions of methane and other gases, and mitigate the negative impact of landfills on the environment.

No legislative measures are currently being taken in Russia to reduce food waste. There is no labelling of a number of goods that would enable them to be tracked and citizens to be informed about the quality and legality of their production. Moreover, there is no regulation of existing food banks and discounters that would contribute to the reduction of discarded products complying with the Sanitary Regulations and Norms (SanPiN).

Food Security and Nutritional Quality

What hinders achieving SDG 2 is the need to revise the food basket in order to make the diet healthier. The basic food basket in Russia for able-bodied citizens includes bread products (125.5 kg), potatoes (100.4 kg), vegetables and gourds (114.6 kg), fresh fruits (60 kg), sugar and confectionery products (23.8 kg), meat products (58.6 kg), fish products (18.5 kg), milk and dairy products (290 kg), eggs (210 pcs), oil (11 kg) and 4.9 kg of other products (tea, spices, salt).

This food basket was approved by a federal law in 2012. The abundance of sugary foods and bread products does not meet the principles of a healthy diet. Malnutrition results in obesity and overweight, as well as a number of other diseases caused by a lack of microelements and nutrients.

It is possible to attain SDG 2 by increasing the amount of meat, fish, cottage cheese, eggs, and fruits, and reducing starchy foods and high-carbohydrate vegetables. It is also necessary to highlight that full balanced nutrition

is extremely important for the normal functioning of the human body, especially in the period of growth and development. The quality of baby food should be improved and enriched with microelements.

Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture and Traditional Activities

It is possible to mitigate the risks of hunger and ensure food security in the context of climate change and rising hazard levels. Adherence to the Paris Climate Agreement, as well as carbon footprint management, will contribute to this. This requires, inter alia, measuring the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual, organization, event or product.

Meanwhile, as long as Russia lacks a roadmap for the adaptation of agriculture to climate change, the carbon footprint will not be measured in land clearing, the production and consumption of food, fuel, manufacturing and the use of industrial goods, materials, timber, roads, buildings, transport and other services.

Agriculture can have a negative impact on food. Poor quality fertilizers, and their improper selection and dosage, lead to soil degradation and an excessive concentration of harmful substances in food. Sustainable agriculture and farming could contribute to improving the nutrition of Russian citizens, reducing the cost of food and creating new jobs.

The lack of modern technologies and practices, their transfer on affordable terms, and the lack of breeding centres also hinder the development of environmentally friendly production on an industrial scale. A solution to the issue might include improving production factors, transport and warehouse logistics, in particular storage networks and wholesale centres, as well as establishing logistics and distribution centres. Preferential leasing of machinery and equipment could become an impetus for agricultural development. It should also be noted that entrepreneurs engaged in agriculture experience a high loan debt burden and insufficient financing in terms of grants for targeted needs.

Supporting sustainable farming will also contribute to the revival of villages, and generate employment for large numbers of people in a volatile economic environment. The development of traditional activities is the basis for sustaining livelihoods and nutrition in remote areas in the traditional settlements of Indigenous People, especially the Indigenous Small-Numbered Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East.

Civil Society Recommends

- Adopting the legislative amendments ensuring the abolition of taxation for goods and products for charity purposes.
- Supporting food sharing and distribution of foodstuffs with an expiring shelf life.
- Allocating grants for the industrial composting of food waste.
- Supporting funds that assist vulnerable social groups.
- Providing food baskets and budgetary allocations for people below the poverty line.
- Revising the food basket towards a healthy diet, increasing the amount of meat, fish, milk, eggs, vegetables, and fruits in the basket, and reducing starchy food and high carbohydrate vegetables.
- Improving the quality of baby food and enriching it with microelements.
- Legalising food banks and discounters to sell foodstuffs remotely.
- Introducing goods labelling for tracking and informing citizens about the quality and legality of their production.
- Promoting healthy diet practices in schools.
- Providing targeted support to farmers and rural communities, as well as enhancing labour efficiency in agriculture.
- Ensuring public financial support for indigenous communities and entrepreneurs to develop traditional activities.
- Establishing warehouse logistics and the industrial processing of agricultural commodities, the construction of storage networks and wholesale centres.
- Covering the impact of climate change on agricultural production, and including varieties of plants and plant species in the national food security programme.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

- Ensure that vulnerable social groups have access to diverse, quality food.
- Advertise conscious consumption.
- Promote environmentally conscious producers.
- Join working groups and supervisory commissions to monitor the situation with regard to the provision of quality food for citizens.
- Monitor compliance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization and other mandated agencies in the area of healthcare and food security of which Russia is a member.
- Contribute to organizing educational activities on responsible consumption so that food products do not end up in landfill sites and garbage dumps.

Chapter by

Julia Maximova — Center
for Environmental
Projects

3

Good Health and Well-being: Visible Improvements and New Threats



Trends and Advances since early 2016

1. Андреев Е. М., Кваша Е. А., Харьковская Т. Л., Пьянкова А. И., Рамонов А. В., Тимонин С. А., Фаттахов Т. А., Юмагузин В. В. *Смертность, продолжительность жизни и жизнеохранительная политика в России в международном контексте* // В кн.: *Население России 2017: двадцать пятый ежегодный демографический доклад* / Отв. ред.: С. В. Захаров. М.: Издательский дом НИУ ВШЭ, 2019. Гл. 5. С. 274–381.

2. Радаев В. В. *Миллениалы на фоне предшествующих поколений: эмпирический анализ* // *Социологические исследования*. — 2018. — № 3. — С. 15–33.

The National Projects on Healthcare and Demography, adopted in 2018 in the area of Human Capital Development, set targets compatible with those of SDG 3. Government programmes such as the ‘Healthcare Development Programme’ and ‘Road Safety Strategy for 2018–2024’ contain additional support to achieve SDG 3.

Over the past three years, life expectancy in Russia has continued to increase, which may serve as an integral indicator of SDG 3 implementation. Premature mortality caused by non-communicable diseases is declining. That is visible through a decrease in working-age mortality. It should be noted that there are almost no problems with maternal and neonatal mortality in Russia, which means that targets 3.1 and 3.2 are substantially achieved [1].

Alcohol consumption and tobacco smoking are decreasing, and the number of people who follow a healthy lifestyle is growing. The aforementioned tendency is supported by cohort changes in both sexes: good health is more widespread among young people [2, 3]. Road traffic mortality is also dropping [1].

Certain progress has been achieved in the treatment of hepatitis, especially viral hepatitis C, as well as in the treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

The fight against non-certified and counterfeit medicines has been positively improved due to the introduction of medicine labelling.

Infographics present the indicator dynamics

Major Problems and Challenges

However, there are still tangible barriers to the implementation of SDG 3. While achieving targets 3.1 and 3.2 is unlikely to be threatened by anything (only certain catastrophic scenarios might cause their deterioration), the state and civil society have some room for improvement with regard to the other targets

Critical Issues

An objective trend in Russia today is its aging population as a result of the rise in life expectancy. Non-communicable diseases and injuries are strongly associated with older age groups. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that the spread of infections among elderly people is also a challenge. Russia does not currently pay enough attention to the problem of health care for elderly people.

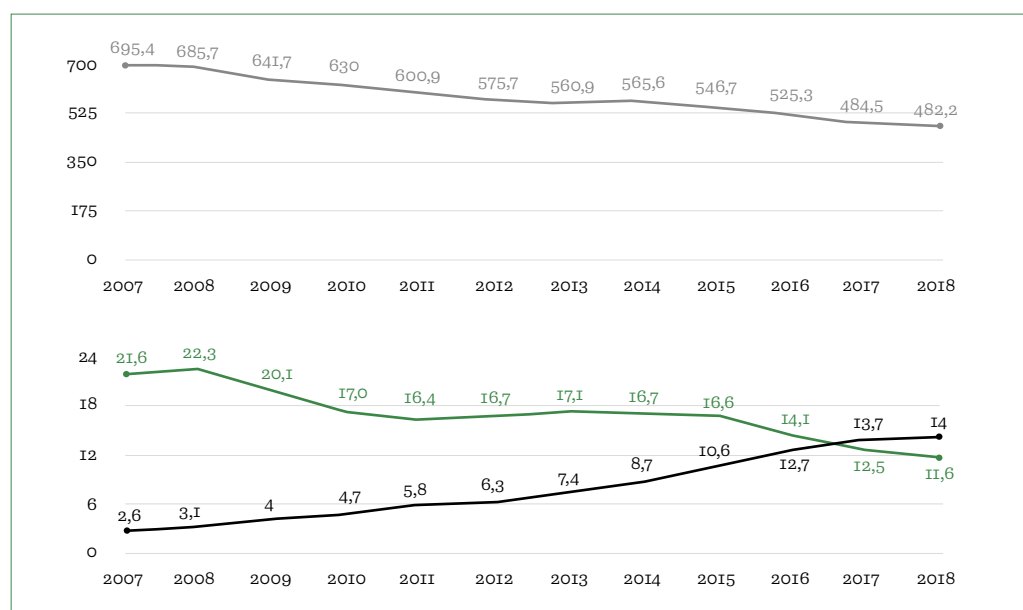
According to the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor), more than 1 million people in Russia currently live with HIV. The HIV/AIDS mortality rate in some regions is gradually exceeding the mortality rate from external causes (homicide, suicide, and alcohol poisoning) [4].

The particularities of Russian legislation hinder educational activities in schools, awareness-raising among people with non-traditional sexual orientations and other risk groups. The high rate of HIV infection threatens to spread rapidly into neighboring states [5].

Despite recent improvements, Russia is still listed among the 30 countries with the most severe level of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis [6].

Figure 6. Working-age mortality rates (per 100,000)

- Working-age mortality rates (per 100,000 people)
- Mortality caused by road traffic injury (per 100,000 people)
- HIV-related mortality (per 100,000 people)



Healthcare System Problems

3. Радаев В. Миллениалы. Как меняется российское общество. — Litres, 2020.

4. Покровский В.В., Ладная Н.Н., Покровская А.В. ВИЧ/СПИД сокращает число россиян и продолжительность их жизни // Демографическое обозрение. — 2017. — Т. 4. — № 1.

Under-financing of the healthcare system is one of the most significant challenges in the implementation of SDG 3. National health development projects and strategies were designed to increase healthcare financing to at least 4% of GDP. However, the consolidated budget up to 2022 does not include such figures.

Inequalities in the healthcare system are mainly regional. In addition, there are vulnerable groups who do not have access to quality medical treatment (migrants, older age groups, patients suffering from rare and orphan diseases, people living in remote and inaccessible regions, etc). Access to drug therapy cannot be addressed by government regulation alone. Drug price regulation leads to shortages of essential drugs, or their substitution by alternatives lacking drug trials and proper testing of their effectiveness.



5. Покровская А. В. и др. Влияние миграционных процессов на ситуацию по ВИЧ-инфекции (аналитический обзор) // Вестник Российской академии медицинских наук. — 2019. — Т. 74. — № 2. — С. 88–97.

6. Drug-resistant TB: global situation. // WHO.

Public discontent with healthcare reform is growing. Protests are emerging among both doctors and patients. The general lack of transparency in the healthcare system and a traditional distrust of it have led, among other things, to a rejection of vaccinations and prescribed medications. The goals of the National Projects have been deemed ambitious, but it is likely that many of them will remain just that: as ambitions that have not been translated into action.

Healthy Living and Well-being

Despite an active campaign against alcohol use, the decline in the consumption of strong alcoholic beverages slowed down in the late 2010s. Experts report an increase in illegal alcohol production. Vodka producers have extensive lobbying capabilities. Excise taxes do not make a distinction between strong beverages and low-alcohol drinks, although the experience of developed countries suggests that such a measure is necessary.

Although the standardised traffic-related death rate in 2016 reached its 1971 level and continues to decline (currently standing at the lowest level yet observed), traffic-related death rate statistics have significant regional disparities, still surpassing those of developed, and some developing, countries.

Recommendations to the State

- Following the NGOs working with older age groups.
- Launching platforms for the exchange of opinions between representatives of the state and civil society.
- Initiating and implementing research projects on public health, concerning international migrants and other relevant topics, in cooperation with civil society.
- Focusing on programmes targeting vulnerable groups.

To address the HIV and tuberculosis epidemic in Russia, it is necessary to:

- Revise the procurement process; follow the WHO 'Guideline on when to start antiretroviral therapy and on pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV'; modernise AIDS centres in the Russian Federation; allocate separate facilities for patients with drug addictions and tuberculosis; train medical staff to work with patients with HIV in any hospital.
- Provide legislative opportunities for awareness-raising activities, especially among teenagers, migrants and other vulnerable groups.

To fight the diseases spreading in Eastern Europe and the Post-Soviet states, it is necessary to:

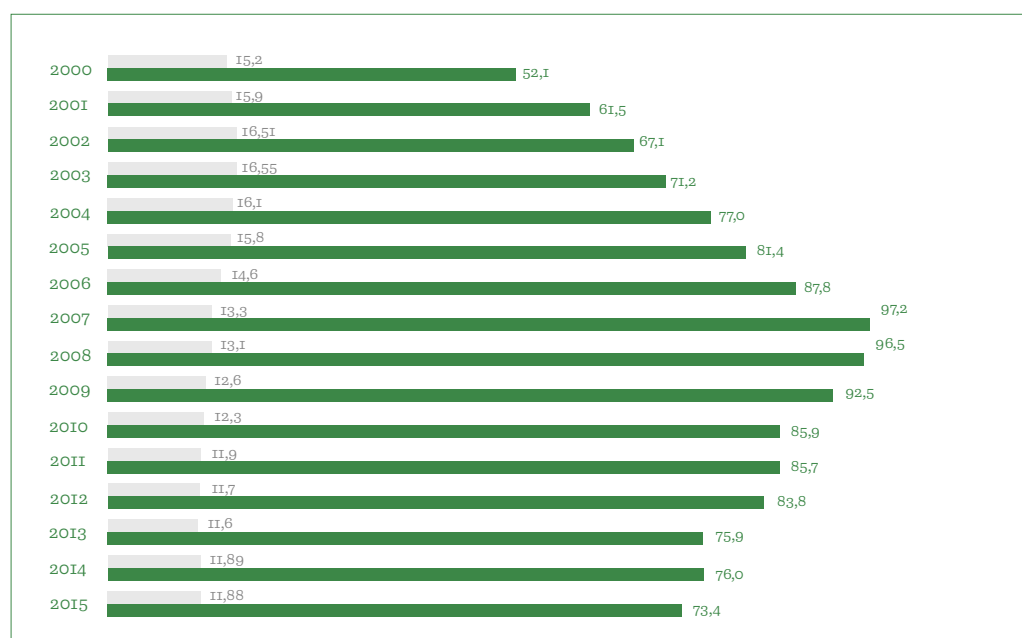
- Revoke the norm that makes HIV-positive foreign citizens unable to stay in the Russian Federation. Ban their deportation and the denial of their entry into Russia. This will ensure that the right of foreign citizens to health care is respected. It is necessary to ensure the effective collection of epidemiological data on foreign citizens actually residing in Russia.
- Ensure that international migrants have access to health services, including HIV and tuberculosis prevention and treatment, and provide funding from the state budget for this purpose.
- Develop cross-country funding mechanisms to provide health services to migrants.

To improve the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, it is important to:

- Eliminate the incorrect coding of causes of death, which is observed in some regions and leads to statistical distortions.

Figure 7. Consumption of alcohol per capita (litres per year)

- strong alcohol
- strong alcohol+wine+beer



- Undertake additional research on the risk factors and impacts of non-communicable diseases; make research databases available to the broader scientific community and their results accessible to the public.
- Increase funding for activities aimed at the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases.

To combat the negative impact of alcohol abuse, it is necessary to:

- Improve legislation to differentiate the market for alcohol beverages with different alcohol contents, with the purpose of giving preference to producers of low-alcohol drinks, in order to eliminate vodka from the alcohol market.
- Strengthen administrative and legislative measures against the illegal production and distribution of alcohol; prohibit the sale of alcohol in shops located within residential units; license the distillation of homemade alcoholic beverages.
- Allocate additional funding for the scientific analysis and monitoring of alcohol intake in the regions of Russia, and the country as a whole.

To reduce the number of fatal road traffic accidents and injuries, it is necessary to:

- Eliminate discrepancies between the statistical data on the number of deaths in road traffic accidents collected by the General Administration for Traffic Safety (GIBDD) and the Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat).
- Continue the fight against driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Increase the control and support of young drivers.



- Strengthen control over traffic safety in small towns and rural areas.

To ensure reproductive health protection, it is necessary to introduce the following measures::

- Introduce nationwide checkups and diagnostics for pregnancy planning, disease detection (including the risk of orphan diseases), and the treatment of diseases before pregnancy.
- Introduce regulation of the price of contraceptives and provide free contraception to young people.
- Promote a culture of contraception, introduce specialised sex education programmes in schools and develop modern education materials.
- Create content and involve ambassadors on social networks in order to provide the necessary information on sex education to vulnerable groups; conduct open online and

offline lectures, and lessons with physicians, including reproductive health specialists.

To increase healthcare and drug coverage it is necessary to:

- Clearly articulate all types of free health care in guarantee programmes.
- Optimise the cost of guarantee programs and introduce targeted solutions.
- Establish a well-defined and consistent legislative framework for vaccination coverage, recommendations for physicians on how to deal with certain situations, and a transparent system of information containing statistics regarding possible complications.
- Elaborate state mechanisms for collecting medicines with an expired shelf life from the population (in pharmacy chains or state institutions).
- Acknowledge the importance of NGOs in providing assistance to older age groups.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

Key priorities of civil society include:

- Organising and participating in working groups and monitoring committees to develop and implement new healthcare solutions, and protect the rights of vulnerable groups.
- Regular monitoring of public needs in terms of healthcare services (especially among socially vulnerable groups).
- Raising awareness of various aspects of health and the healthcare system.
- Participating in research projects on health and health-related issues in partnership with scientific and medical centres.
- Initiating a dialogue among all agents and stakeholders in the implementation of SDG 3.
- Monitoring compliance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization and

other mandated agencies of which Russia is a member, concerning the health care of Russian citizens and migrants.

To attain SDG 3, civil society should:

- Promote the prevention and identification of dangerous infectious diseases (primarily HIV and tuberculosis, and seasonal epidemics) among all social groups, including international migrants. Assist in the training and social support of people through programmes with a social mandate and international cooperation.
- Facilitate doctor-patient dialogue on the prevention and treatment of various non-communicable diseases.
- Consolidate the efforts of the research community in identifying non-communicable disease risk factors.

- Push back against the alcohol lobby through awareness-raising activities aimed at explaining the state policy on alcohol control and accounting. Promote current research findings on these subjects.
- Reach all groups of people through awareness-raising activities to prevent alcohol abuse and smoking.
- Create alternative forms of leisure activity for all groups of people.
- Control alcohol consumption among drivers, and promote compliance with traffic rules in small towns and rural areas.
- Organise special events to support young drivers, providing them with all necessary materials to improve their skills, and introduce mentoring programmes.
- Promote public knowledge about pregnancy planning and foster motivation for early diagnoses of the health status of mother and child.
- Call on the state to improve and upgrade medical facilities across Russia.
- Encourage public discussions to formulate the list of guaranteed services and medicines. Monitor the situation in order to respond quickly to public requests to review the lists of guarantees.
- Monitor compliance with regulations on the availability of health services and medicines, and identify the causes of problems.
- Establish and maintain public and charitable foundations that cover the cost of necessary treatment for vulnerable groups of citizens, in case of a lack of public funds.

4

Quality Education is Vital to a Country's Future



Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. Национальные проекты: целевые показатели и основные результаты. М., 2019. 110 с.

2. «Ключевые направления развития российского образования для достижения Целей и задач устойчивого развития в системе образования» до 2035 г. // Федеральный институт развития образования. edu2035.firo-nir.ru

The modernization of education in Russia is one of the leading ideas of state policy. The education reform aims to improve access to education, and improve its quality and efficiency. At the same time, society's attitude to the future changes is ambiguous; some people welcome the renewal of each component of the educational system, focusing on the best foreign practices, while others advocate maintaining certain outstanding domestic traditions.

At present, along with the 'State Education Development Programme for 2013-2020', the government has adopted the 'Education National Project' (2019-2024), aiming to ensuring global competitiveness and Russia entering the top 10 countries in terms of the quality of basic education [1].

The problem of mass literacy and numeracy was solved in the Soviet period. Primary and secondary education is free and accessible. Educational standards, infrastructure, and school facilities are constantly being upgraded. Pre-primary education is a part of the basic education system. Most boys and girls from the age of three are provided with care, early childhood development and intervention programmes. There is also a high demand for supplementary education. Talent support and development centres are being established in each region (based on the model of the Sirius Centre for Gifted Education in Sochi).

All citizens have access to free vocational and tertiary education on a competitive basis. New university models appear to meet different needs and purposes: national research, federal, and regional flagship universities. One can get a university

degree online. It is planned that the number of foreign students studying in Russian universities will at least double by 2024, Russian universities will employ the best graduates, and new accommodation facilities will be created on student campuses. Continuing Professional Education addresses the concerns of a wide range of employees, as well as the unemployed, migrants and older age groups. Traditions of buddy systems and mentoring are being revived. Russia is expanding its participation in international movements such as WorldSkills (raising the profile and recognition of skilled people) and Abilympics (vocational skills competitions specifically designed for individuals with disabilities). Entrepreneurship and digital economy development programmes are available and career guidance is gaining popularity.

Professional standards were introduced for the following professions: 'Educator (Tutor and Teacher)', 'Specialist in Education and Psychology', 'Specialist in Supplementary Education for Children and Adults', 'Specialist in Vocational Training, Professional Education and (Further) Professional Training', 'Social Work Specialist', 'Physical Education Specialist', and 'Extra Curricular Activities Coordinator'. Educators are trained through Bachelor and Master programmes. The former usually work at schools and the latter are employed at universities.

Russia is implementing the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, the relevant scope of which is included in State Education Standards [2].

Major Problems and Challenges

3. Образование в цифрах: 2019. Краткий статистический сборник. М.: НИУ ВШЭ, 2019. 96 с.

4. Образование для сложного общества. М.: Российский учебник, 2018. 211 с.

5. Как сделать образование двигателем социально-экономического развития? М.: НИУ ВШЭ, 2019. 284 с.

General problems of the educational system

In recent years, Russia's system of education has undergone significant changes, leading to controversial results. The number of schools and universities (especially private ones) is gradually decreasing; they are either being merged or eliminated. The number of students in groups and classes is growing and so are teachers' timesheets. Families have to spend a significant amount of money on private tutors and supplementary education, as well as pay tuition fees (fee-paying programmes are available on a competitive basis) [3].

The university syllabus and the school curriculum mostly meet the needs of the former industrial era. Educators in Russia experience a lack of modern educational solutions and technologies. Leading experts and specialists on new innovations are invited from abroad.

Professional education standards continue to follow the well-known rules of the past, while substantial investment in higher education does not result in tangible breakthroughs in science and technology, nor does it ensure economic growth. The vast majority of state resources support top universities, which already have a good foundation.

While many learning programmes present an illusion of diversity, materials and textbooks are often of poor quality. The interests of certain publishing houses are lobbied on the market. It is quite difficult to publish learning materials and textbooks in native and indigenous languages.

There is no focus on personal and social development, or building flexible skills. Students are mainly trained to pass the final assessment based on standard assignments, and are intently focused on the trappings of university status (diplomas, certificates, extracurricular activities, etc.). Schools, colleges, and universities are indifferent to the demand for mass customisation of education, which results in a decline in student motivation [4].

Education Discrimination

Not all preschool facilities have classes for children under the age of three, which is detrimental to low-income families where both parents have to work. The level of pre-primary education often diverges from the more demanding requirements of school entry.

Access to quality education and vocational training is difficult for certain groups. The lack of targeted support reduces access to education for children with a low social and economic status and for migrants.

Universities provide programmes taught in foreign languages (mainly English), while there are no professional or vocational programmes in the native and indigenous languages of the peoples of Russia (except for the programmes on Native Languages specifically).

As for older age groups, their requests for knowledge appropriate to their needs and capabilities are far from being accommodated, although lifelong learning is one of the key factors towards an active life which contributes to an increased life span.



Education for Sustainable Development

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is mainly outreach (education 'about' rather than 'for' sustainable development) conducted as separate activities of a mostly environmental character. Russia lacks a system of lifelong education for sustainable development, a regulatory framework, and a whole institution approach. The global context is barely presented, reinforcing the cultural gap between Russia and the world.

Problems in the Teaching Profession

The introduction of professional standards has not resulted in a renewal of teaching competencies required for modern education (digital literacy, project work and research activities, social practices, etc.) [5]. Universal requirements are applied to educators, teachers and trainers, without considering the specificities of working with different categories of students. This includes teaching individuals with intellectual disabilities, physical and health impairments, talented and gifted students, and those with Russian as a second language, etc. Teachers are highly dependent on administration, while red tape reinforces the growth of artificial competition for the payment of incentives, and the 'exodus' of talented staff.

Binding teachers' salaries to the average salary in a region creates unfairness, as there are significantly different levels of remuneration for identical, nationally-significant work. Universities tend to reduce staff's timesheets while retaining the same workload and salaries, which creates the illusion of increasing official salaries, but with no real income growth.

The prestige of the teaching profession is low since it is traditionally associated with bureaucratic red tape and an abundance of paperwork.

Civil Society Recommends

- Gradually increasing the share of education expenditure within the consolidated budget. The approximate target is 5% GDP.
- Improving the self-governance of educational institutions. There should be a transition from financial autonomy to management autonomy (an elected administration, an increased role for governing councils, independence of conflict commissions). Educational institutions should switch from state and public administration to public administration.
- Increasing the number of kindergartens, schools, universities and their branches in rural areas as well. Creating organizational and financial conditions for the development of more flexible and demand-driven non-governmental education. Schools and kindergartens should become public, and should be transferred to the jurisdiction of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.
- Calculating the salaries of teaching staff based on the average level of the country (with the introduction of additional regional payments if necessary), according to a uniform rate schedule. Reducing working time to 27 hours per week. Regulating extra-curricular activities. Eliminating unpaid and forced labour, including drafting additional reports initiated by the administration; this should be done on a voluntary basis and for an additional payment.
- Implementing a public discussion of the state and municipal requirements for educational organizations, and per capita standards for financing, alongside drafts of educational standards (not only in the form of online amendments).

- Providing free laptops/tablets with quality Internet access to every student in schools, colleges, and universities.
- Using students' electronic portfolios for independent assessment and analysis of education quality.
- Introducing an electronic document management system, paper-free solutions and eliminating the duplication of requests.
- Institutionalizing the education of older age groups.
- Adopting comprehensive measures to support the physical and mental health of students.
- Developing the 'Concept of Education for Sustainable Development' and the 'National Action Plan for 2021-2030'. Supporting the State Programme 'Education for Sustainable Development for 2021-2030' with appropriate funding. Promoting the concept of sustainable development and SDG 4 within formal, non-formal (compulsory) and informal education. Preparing and introducing educational modules on sustainable development for all levels of education and teacher training courses.
- Introducing ESD as an accreditation indicator, and quality criteria at all levels of education.
- Establishing an Expert Bureau to support civil society initiatives in education (SDG 4 Project Office) with public-private co-financing.
- Increasing state financial support for public initiatives (grants, awards) in education, including ESD.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

Chapter by :

Dmitrii Ermakov — Peoples' Friendship University of Russia

Natalia Koryakina — New School Platform

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Citizens and civil society institutions can:

- Encourage the State to act by addressing the legislative and executive branches of government at all levels and by participating in the democratic political process;
- Monitor the implementation of the State's obligations, and the collection, publication and discussion of statistical data which differs from the State's statistics on education performance;
- Identify hazardous trends and address education problems that are not visible or regarded as posing no threat at the national level;
- Protect each citizen's right to education;
- Implement educational programmes, volunteer initiatives for sustainable development (including those for marginalized groups), and increase mutual trust throughout society.

5

Gender Equality as a Declaration: Still a Long Way Off



Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. «Об утверждении перечня производств, работ и должностей с вредными и (или) опасными условиями труда, на которых ограничивается применение труда женщины». Приказ Министерства труда и социальной защиты Российской Федерации от 18 июля 2019 г. № 512 н. Доступ из справ.-правовой системы «Консультант Плюс».

According to a World Economic Forum study, Russia has narrowed 70.6% of its gender gap so far. Russia ranks 1st in terms of «Health and Survival» and «Educational Attainment». The Russian Federation has taken certain steps towards SDG 5 («Gender Equality»). For example, the list of professions banned for women has been reduced from 456 to 100 jobs [1].

Social insurance and social protection of women have also changed; the Social Insurance Fund has switched to direct payment of

maternity benefits and childcare allowances in 69 constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

Additional monthly benefits have been introduced for the first and second children under the age of three for families with an average per capita income below two minimum subsistence levels [2]. Families with a first and/or second-born or adopted child retain the right to receive maternity (family) capital from the federal budget until 2026 [3]. Russia has adopted the National Action Strategy for Women 2017-2022.

Major Problems and Challenges

2. О внесении изменений в Федеральный закон «О ежемесячных выплатах семьям, имеющим детей». Федер. закон Рос. Федерации от 02 августа 2019 г. № 305-ФЗ. Принят Гос. Думой Федер. Собр. Рос. Федерации 24 июля 2019 г. Одобр. Советом Федерации Федер. Собр. Рос. Федерации 26 июля 2019 г. // Рос. газ. 2006. 10 марта.

The «Gender Equality» status of Russia has been deteriorating over the past 14 years. In 2006, the Global Gender Gap Index [4] placed the country in the 49th position, in 2016 it was ranked 75th, and in 2020, 81st among 153 countries. Russia's positions have worsened in terms of 'Economic Participation and Opportunity' (22nd in 2006 compared to 33rd in 2020) and 'Political Empowerment' (108th in 2006 compared to 122nd in 2020).

Gender Discrimination

The legal prohibition of gender discrimination is declarative in character. Perpetrators are almost never held accountable.

There are no special bodies exclusively dedicated to equality and fighting gender discrimi-

nation. Legal proceedings fail to be an effective mechanism for protecting against discrimination, and there are no special rules that regulate the burden of proof in such cases. The court determines only the fact of discrimination and awards compensation for the injury to feelings in small amounts ranging from 5,000 to 30,000 rubles.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) [5] estimates the 27.9% gender pay gap in Russia is not caused by objective labour market conditions. According to Russian trade unions [6], the gap is 40% on average. The pension gap between men and women increased from 5% in 2016 to 11% in 2018.

The list of 100 professions and occupations banned for women continues to exist. There is a lack of funding for an adaptation and integra-

3. «О дополнительных мерах государственной поддержки семей, имеющих детей». Федер. закон Рос. Федерации от 29 декабря 2006 г. №256-ФЗ. Принят Гос. Думой Федер. Собр. Рос. Федерации 22 декабря 2006 г. Одобр. Советом Федерации Федер. Собр. Рос. Федерации 27 декабря 2006 г. // Рос. Газ. 2006, 31 декабря.

4. The Global Gender Gap Report 2020. weforum.org (дата обращения: 10.03.2020).

5. Global Wage Report 2018/19. What lies behind gender pay gaps // ILO. По.org (дата обращения: 10.03.2020).

6. Конфедерация труда России. www.ktr.su (дата обращения: 30.03.2020).

7. «О некоммерческих организациях». Федер. закон Рос. Федерации от 12 января 2006 г. № 7-ФЗ. Принят Гос. Думой Федер. Собр. Рос. Федерации 8 декабря 1995 г. // Рос. газ. 1995. 24 января.

8. Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. coe.int (дата обращения: 23.03.2020).

9. «Аналитическая записка о проблеме домашнего насилия в России и способах его преодоления». Общероссийская ассоциация женских общественных организаций «Консорциум женских неправительственных объединений». Москва, 2019. wcons.net (дата обращения: 25.03.2020).

10. Информация об отдельных вопросах профилактики семейного (бытового) насилия // Совет Федерации РФ. council.gov.ru (дата обращения: 10.03.2020).

11. Статья 6.1.1 Кодекс Российской Федерации об административных правонарушениях от 30 декабря 2001 №195-ФЗ. Принят Гос. Думой Федер. Собр. Рос. Федерации 20 декабря 2001 г. Одобр. Советом Федерации Федер. Собр. Рос. Федерации 26 декабря 2001 г. // Рос. газ. 2001. 31 декабря.

tion programme for external migrants, of which women are a particularly vulnerable group. The gender focus of state statistics, including migration statistics, is weak.

It has been documented that NGOs promoting gender equality are assigned the status of an 'Organization Performing the Functions of a Foreign Agent' [7], which entails additional responsibilities, restrictions, and administrative and criminal sanctions.

Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

Russia has neither ratified nor signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence [8].

Russia lacks effective mechanisms to prevent and combat domestic violence, although 40% of violent felony offenses are domestic violence [9]. The country has no special law on domestic violence, nor an established mechanism of interdepartmental cooperation, nor a mechanism for victim protection, nor a system of social assistance. There is no unified system for collecting information on domestic violence cases [10].

Battery is decriminalised. Domestic violence is most often qualified as an administrative offence [11], which does not protect the rights of victims and does not prevent violent felony offences. The average penalty imposed is less than 6,000 rubles, and does not constitute commensurate and fair punishment. Criminal prosecution is carried out on the basis of private prosecution, where the victims have to represent the prosecution themselves. Such cases are often terminated due to a reconciliation of the parties involved.

The number of 'honour killings' - murders of women by male relatives to rehabilitate the 'honour and dignity' of the family - is increasing. They are often committed with impunity [12]; the crime is declared to be a 'crime of passion', which significantly reduces the sentence of the perpetrator [13].

There is no specific law aimed at preventing human trafficking, while women and children are the most likely to fall into the hands of traffickers. The international requirement for trafficked persons, that victims of trafficking shall be exempt from liability for violation of migration laws, is not being followed;

There are neither regulations to prevent harassment nor special measures for liability for sexual harassment in the workplace.

In 2019, the Russian government refrained from supporting the adoption of ILO Convention No. 190 'Concerning the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work' and Recommendation No. 206 'On Combating Violence and Harassment at Work' [14].

Female Genital Mutilation and Reproductive Exploitation

Russia still faces the practice of female genital mutilation [15] or 'female circumcision' [16]. No steps have been taken to eradicate it; regional religious organizations openly call for 'female circumcision' [17].

There are regional laws that allow for marriage from the age of 14 upwards if there is a valid reason, usually the bride's pregnancy. Russia lacks national statistics on child marriage. Child pregnancy statistics report that hundreds of minors give birth every year [18].



12. Антонова Ю.А., Сиражудинова С.В. Доклад «Убитые сплетнями». Убийства женщин по мотивам «чести» на Северном Кавказе. Отчет по результатам качественного социологического исследования в республиках Дагестан, Ингушетия и Чечня (Российская Федерация). Правовая инициатива. Москва, 2018. srji.org (дата обращения: 25.03.2020).

13. Сиражудинова С.В. Жертвы сплетен в Ингушетии, 2019. dartar.ru (дата обращения: 25.03.2020).

14. The International Labour Organisation. ilo.org (дата обращения: 11.03.2020).

15. Антонова Ю.А., Сиражудинова С.В. Производство калечащих операций на половых органах у девочек. Отчет по результатам качественного исследования в Республике Дагестан. М., 2016. srji.org (дата обращения: 25.03.2020).

16. Антонова Ю.А., Сиражудинова С.В. Практики калечащих операций в республиках Северного Кавказа: стратегии преодоления. Ридеро, 2018. srji.org (дата обращения: 25.03.2020).

17. Saida V. Sirazhudinova. Attitudes Toward Female Circumcision in Dagestani Society: "Not to be Mentioned!". Anthropology & Archeology of Eurasia. tandfonline.com (дата обращения: 15.03.2020).

18. Федеральная служба государственной статистики. gks.ru (дата обращения: 30.03.2020).

In the North Caucasus, religious marriages between minors are performed by clergy. These marriages are not officially registered.

There is a practice of commercial reproductive exploitation (including forced surrogacy). The victims of this practice are often women from particularly vulnerable groups who have limited access to termination of unwanted pregnancies or are in dire need of money. These women are often criminally prosecuted.

Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights

Russia has no comprehensive national and regional strategies/programmes on the reproductive health of the population. Vulnerable groups of reproductive age, including young people under the age of 18, are being neglected.

Both compulsory and extra-curricular sex education are not integrated into the school curriculum.

There is no system of subsidised or free contraceptives provided to vulnerable groups.

Psychological counselling, ultrasounds, sessions with social workers, psychologists and religious representatives, and other practices of manipulation and intimidation are often imposed on women to prevent them from seeking abortions.

In some regions, the authorities have restricted women's right to abortion by introducing 'days/weeks without abortion' when abortions are not available and/or by reducing the number of health facilities providing these services free of charge.

Unpaid Labour

Women suffer from discrimination as caregivers for children and other family members. Most employers do not implement any policies for employees with family responsibilities, or for the elimination of discrimination and gender-based violence.

Legislation regulates the rights and responsibilities of male and female parents in different ways. Male military and internal affairs personnel are not entitled to childcare leave on an equal basis with women.

Birth and child-rearing allowances remain low. The childcare allowance is 40% of average earnings and is limited to 27,984.66 rubles in 2020.

Public assistance measures in childcare are not sufficiently effective while the level of social services infrastructure remains poor.

Women in Decision-making

Women are excluded from strategic decision-making processes. The share of women on the boards of Russian public companies is one of the lowest – 3.2 times less than in Western European countries [19]. Men account for 91% of board members and 43% of Russian TOP-100 companies do not have women on their boards.

Women are underrepresented within political authorities. In 2019, women accounted for 15.8% of the lower house of parliament and 18.2% of the upper house. The number of women in regional parliaments does not exceed 15% [20].

Civil Society Recommends

19. Сообщество «Женщины в советах директоров». womenonboards.ru (дата обращения: 19.03.2020).

20. «Трансперенси Интернешнл» в России. transparency.org.ru (дата обращения: 19.03.2020).

- Ratifying Protocol No. 12 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Rome, November 4 2000).
- Developing and enshrining in legislation a full definition of direct and indirect discrimination, based on international law, and identifying particular examples of what are considered discriminatory actions.
- Introducing special regulations governing the allocation of burden of proof and facilitating the proof in discrimination cases.
- Establishing a designated public authority responsible for combating discrimination that supporting relevant NGOs working in this area.
- Developing guidance material for judges on protection against discrimination and cases of gender-based violence.
- Identifying gender gap statistics as well as statistics on migration and violent offences against LGBTQ+ persons in the statistics of the Russian Federal State Statistics Service and the Main Directorate for Migration Affairs.
- Eliminating the unjustified differentiation in the legal status of men and women in the field of labour and occupation.
- Imposing a clear-cut legal prohibition on asking questions related to personal life, family status, pregnancy and the presence of children in job interviews.
- Developing and introducing measures to increase the participation of male parents in the upbringing of children; making paternity leave mandatory.
- Expanding the network of forms and facilities for childcare, taking into account the provisions of ILO Convention No. 156. 'On Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment for Men and Women Workers: Workers with Family Responsibilities'.
- Amending the text of Russian Federal Law 135-FZ 'On the Protection of Children from Information Detrimental to their Health and Development' and other legislative acts, eliminating references to «promotion of homosexuality».
- Introducing sex education in the curriculum and syllabus of educational institutions, eliminating negative connotations of sexual orientation, gender identity, and HIV.
- Supporting NGOs that promote gender equality and non-discrimination.
- Introducing a separate channel of funding for an adaptation and integration programme for external migrants into the budget at the federal and regional levels, identifying women as a particularly vulnerable group.
- Developing a comprehensive national strategy/programme for the protection of reproductive health with contributions from civil society experts.
- Including hormonal contraception and emergency contraceptives in the National Essential Medicines List. In order to prevent abortions through the Compulsory Medical Insurance system, it is necessary to provide vulnerable groups with protection against unwanted pregnancies (contraception) free of charge or by partially covering its costs.

Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

- Ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul, May 11 2011).
- Ratifying the ILO Convention No. 190 'Concerning the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work' (Geneva, June 21 2019).
- Adopting the Law on the Fundamentals of the System of Domestic Violence Prevention, which covers the establishment of effective mechanisms for the protection of domestic



violence victims and the prevention of such phenomena, in line with the recommendations of NGOs working in the field.

- Adopting a law that will make it possible to create the necessary coordination mechanisms and elaborate an action plan to combat trafficking in human beings.
- Adopting a specific legislative provision on liability for sexual harassment and harassment in the workplace.
- Criminalising battery and assault in situations of domestic violence and placing these cases under the category of private and public prosecution.
- Introducing measures to protect family members (victims) who have spoken out against

detrimental practices and the liability for encouraging such detrimental practices.

- Making crisis assistance available to women from vulnerable groups who have suffered from gender-based violence.

Women in Decision-making

- Amending the Corporate Governance Code with a recommendation that there be at least one woman on public company boards from 2022, and at least 20% of elected officials should be women starting in 2025; requiring that annual company reports disclose information on the gender balance in the workplace and the average wages of women and men at all management levels.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

- Ensure that NGO and trade union representatives are included in advisory bodies to government institutions and working groups for the drafting of laws and regulations.
- Monitor the implementation of recommendations from international agencies; conduct public research into state social programmes, including a study of budgets through a gender lens.
- Provide working parents with additional guarantees in collective agreements and

local acts on behalf of employers and trade unions, as well as encouraging a paternal role among employees.

- Implement joint programmes between NGOs, trade unions and employers to combat violence and stereotypes against women; fight against the stigmatization of vulnerable groups of women: women living with HIV, women, who experienced forced migration or labour migration, incarcerated women, prostituted women, LGBTQ women, and fight stigmatization by government officials.

Chapter by

Julia Ostrovskaya — Center
for Social and Labor Rights



6

The Country's Water Resources: Clean Water and Sanitation for All



Trends and Advances since Early 2016

Russia ranks second in the world by volume of renewable water resources. The total stream discharge into the sea is estimated at 4,258.6 km³/year. Most of this is generated in Russia. Water availability amounts to 30,200m³ per capita per year. In terms of this indicator, Russia is ranked 28th in the world [1].

Water management in Russia is regulated by the Water Code. This document establishes basin districts and basin councils (a basin-based approach). In 2013, the Federal Agency for Water Resources developed a 'Scheme of Multipurpose Use and Protection of Water Bodies' (SKYOVO) for 63 basins and sub-basins. Theoretically, the SKYOVO should improve the ecological status of water bodies as well as assist in the elaboration and implementation of basin plans (i.e. a document on the development and protection of water resources and ecosystems of the entire river basin, sea or other water body, whose territory may include different municipalities, subjects and even countries).

According to the 'Water Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period until 2020' [2], new treatment facilities for domestic and industrial wastewater have been commissioned in Kaliningrad, Rostov, Kuzbass, Komi, Moscow region and other locations.

The regions of the Russian Federation should make an inventory of floodplains by 2021. These areas are at risk of water pollution, so their systematization will help reduce it.

In 2019, the government launched the National Project 'Ecology' [3]. The Project aims to provide 90.8% of the Russian population, including 99% of the urban population, with quality drinking water from the centralized water supply by 2024. It also provides for the reduction of polluted wastewater discharges into Lake Baikal and the Volga River, as well as the ecological restoration of water bodies.

There are singular examples of technologies applied to reduce the pollution of water bodies: UV disinfection of drinking water and wastewater, disinfection with bipolar membrane electrolysis, animal waste processing, the biological treatment of domestic wastewater, and the introduction of dry composting toilets.

International cooperation on transboundary waters includes bilateral agreements with Abkhazia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Estonia, Finland, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Ukraine. Such agreements help investigate the state of transboundary river basins and jointly plan pollution protection and restoration measures.

1. Государственный доклад «О состоянии и использовании водных ресурсов РФ в 2016 г.» (дата обращения: 20.02.2020)

2. Об утверждении Водной стратегии Российской Федерации на период до 2020 года и плана мероприятий по ее реализации (с изменениями на 17 апреля 2012 года) от 27 августа 2009 года N 1235-р (дата обращения: 12.02.2020).

Major Problems and Challenges

3. Паспорт национального проекта «Экология». Утвержден президиумом Совета при Президенте РФ по стратегическому развитию и национальным проектам (Протокол от 24 декабря 2018 № 16) / (дата обращения: 10.02.2020).

Access to Drinking Water and Sanitation

As of now, 81.55% of Russia's population and 88.83% of urban inhabitants have access to quality drinking water [4]. 12.3 million Russians do not have access to the centralised water supply. 11.5 million of these people use water from non-centralised sources. 800,000 people have to resort to water trucking to obtain drinking water. [5]

Regions with a low water supply include Stavropol Territory, Kursk Region, Kurgan Region, Tambov Region, Chelyabinsk Region, and the Republic of Kalmykia.

The depreciation of the overwhelming number of water treatment plants exceeds 90%.

Moreover, there are often no water protection zones close to water sources or they are not properly maintained.

In 2018, 77.4% of the population in Russia had access to centralised sanitation services (22.6% had no such access). At the same time, 95% of rural settlements lack sewage treatment facilities [4].

Pollution of Surface and Groundwater

The share of insufficiently treated wastewater in Russia is about 88.4% [4, 6].

More than 5,900 sites of groundwater contamination have been identified, including 3,400 at drinking and domestic water withdrawal. In 2018 according to the Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet) [7], experts registered 2,743 cases of high and extremely high levels of contamination of water bodies. The basins of the Ob, Volga and Amur Rivers have been identified as the most polluted. They account for more than 78% of all high and extremely high cases of pollution.

The results of the 'Protection of Lake Baikal' Federal Project in 2019 revealed that treatment of polluted wastewater discharged into Lake Baikal and other water bodies in the Baikal Designated Natural Area had not been provided.

The sources of surface and groundwater pollution are most often municipal and industrial wastewaters. Diffuse source water pollution in floodplains increases the volume of pollutants released into water bodies.

Changes in the Hydrological Regime

The impact of climate change is visible through changes in seasonal flood patterns and floodplains caused by long wet seasons. These phenomena exacerbate surface water pollution from ground sources in flood areas.

The construction of reservoirs for hydroelectric power plants (HPP), especially cascades (the Volga, Kama, Angara, Verkhniy Yenisei, Irtysh, and Ob Rivers) and the regulation of runoff through dams, disturbs the natural hydrological regime and leads to water scarcity during the navigation season. In late autumn and winter, it leads to an excess of water in the lower ponds of HPPs and in the lotic areas of the river. These anthropogenic 'floods' disturb the river ecosystem, leading to low water exchange, slow current velocity, reduced self-purification of water and tide height, which used to provide annual 'sanitary cleansing' of rivers. The growing number of shallow waters and intensive heating of the surface water induces the spread of blue-green algae, 'algal bloom' and a deterioration of water quality.



4. Отчет «Мониторинг хода реализации мероприятий национального проекта «Экология», в том числе своевременности их финансового обеспечения, достижения целей и задач, контрольных точек, а также качества управления». Счетная палата Российской Федерации, 2020. (дата обращения: 04.02.2020).

5. Обеспечение питьевой водой населения России. А. П. Демин, д.г.н., Институт водных проблем РАН. Национальный портал «Природа России», 2019. (дата обращения: 23.02.2020).

6. Доклад на заседании Коллегии Росводресурсов «Об основных итогах работы федерального агентства водных ресурсов за 2016 год и задачах на 2017 год», В. А. Никаноров, врио руководителя Федерального агентства водных ресурсов. (дата обращения: 10.03.2020).

Water Resources Management

The existing model of water resources management does not fully address water problems. The Water Code does not cover the key tasks of water resources protection. Many amendments made to water legislation in recent years do not benefit it, but instead reflect the interests of a small group of people involved in the operation of water bodies. The Water Code has not provided a legal basis for preventing the 'clandestine' privatization of water bodies, and therefore we see multiple examples of unregulated water use and pollution.

The separation of powers of federal and regional authorities on water resources management is not always effective; regional institutions lack the authority to improve the condition of water bodies under federal jurisdiction.

The existing basin management policies of the Federal Agency for Water Resources (Rosvodresursy) do not contain tools to influence the administrative management of territories (regions and municipalities), and fail to facilitate cooperation between authorities within one basin as well as the planning and

implementation of interrelated measures of territory development, which would incorporate the water resources protection of the basin. The present SKYOVO does not introduce any comprehensive action plans recommended for all administrative entities, and is not equal to the Basin Plans.

Society is not actively engaged in water resources management and is unaware of its value, leading to irresponsible use of water resources.

The situation with regard to water resources goes beyond local, regional and sectoral problems, and affects the quality of life of the entire population and the economy of the country. The system of water resources management is deteriorating due to the ongoing reorganization of state environmental protection agencies, relaxed state control and monitoring of water bodies, the absence of comprehensive basin programs, reduced budget funding for scientific research and project work, sectoral water resources management, and the poorly engineered construction of dams on flat relief rivers.

Recommendations to the State

- Ensure access to water resources for all.
- Revise the Water Code to enable integrated water resources management, conservation and restoration of water ecosystems.
- Ban the transfer of leased water bodies into the lessee's ownership with further restrictions on citizens' rights to access water bodies.
- Adopt and apply in practice the river basin-based management approach.
- Delineate the roles of federal and regional water management bodies to avoid legal conflicts, and transfer the responsibility for improving the environmental condition of water bodies to regions and municipalities.
- Exercise close control over the use of financial resources transferred to the regional budget for the purification of water bodies and the elimination of accumulated environmental damage, in order to strengthen the auditing and accountability framework for these actions.
- Secure legal guarantees for the involvement of local authorities and communities in the process of elaborating and implementing the Basin Plans.
- Improve state monitoring of water bodies: expand the network of observation stations and the list of pollutants measured (persistent organic pollutants (POPs), microplastics, heavy metals), and ensure the results of the state monitoring of water bodies are available to the public

- Monitor water bodies in cooperation with research institutes that are financed only through donations from non-profit organizations.
- Minimize domestic and municipal water consumption. Switch from the disposable use of fresh water to closed loop water systems.
- Introduce special management regimes for potential flood zones in order to protect water bodies from contamination.
- Prevent deforestation and land plowing near the water line. Restore forests in catchment areas to ensure the sustainable hydrological regime of water bodies.
- Prevent the draining of raised bogs. Preserve and restore them.
- Develop a system of aquatic protected areas.
- Reduce the negative impact of hydraulic structures on water resources. It is necessary to 'ecologize' runoff regimes at reservoir cascades and introduce the practice of dismantling dams and other hydraulic structures after their exploitation is over. Stop the further construction and development of HPPs with dams and resort instead to renewable energy sources.

Critical Measures to Ensure Access to Drinking Water of Proper Quality

- Create safe sanitary protection zones for water supply facilities and water withdrawal facilities, and ensure compliance with the rules of operation.
- Constantly monitor the quality of water withdrawal from the basin, paying particular attention to potential pollution risks.
- Improve the sanitary and technological reliability of water supply facilities and networks, as well as practices to save water. This is a short-term measure that does not require significant costs.
- Change technologies and practices of water and sanitation management into a long-term measure.
- Replace double chlorination of water by innovative safe water treatment methods.

How to Reduce Natural Water Pollution

- Make an inventory of wastewater discharges, cesspools, diffuse runoff, abnormal storage and disposal of animal waste, and snow dumps at the municipal level.
- Eliminate untreated wastewater and remediate landfills.
- Equip settlements with domestic wastewater treatment facilities and reconstruct facilities that do not provide proper treatment.
- Introduce individual treatment stations or dry composting toilets (the cheapest solution) in isolated settlements and detached homes. This is intended to promote technologies of alternative biological systems of wastewater treatment for small stand-alone units and settlements.
- Introduce technologies for processing manure and poultry droppings, and avoid storing them in open lagoons or on non-sealed sites. Ensure the transition to closed biogenic loop systems on farms. Incorporate effective animal waste utilization technologies, which will guarantee the protection of water bodies for pollution, into the list of best available technologies (BAT).
- Reduce the biogenic load from domestic wastewater and agriculture on natural water resources at the level of basins, municipalities and enterprises, including both point and diffuse sources of pollution.
- Remove all potential pollutants from water protection zones, floodplains and areas bordering springs, streams and small rivers.
- Adapt water bodies to climate change at the basin level.

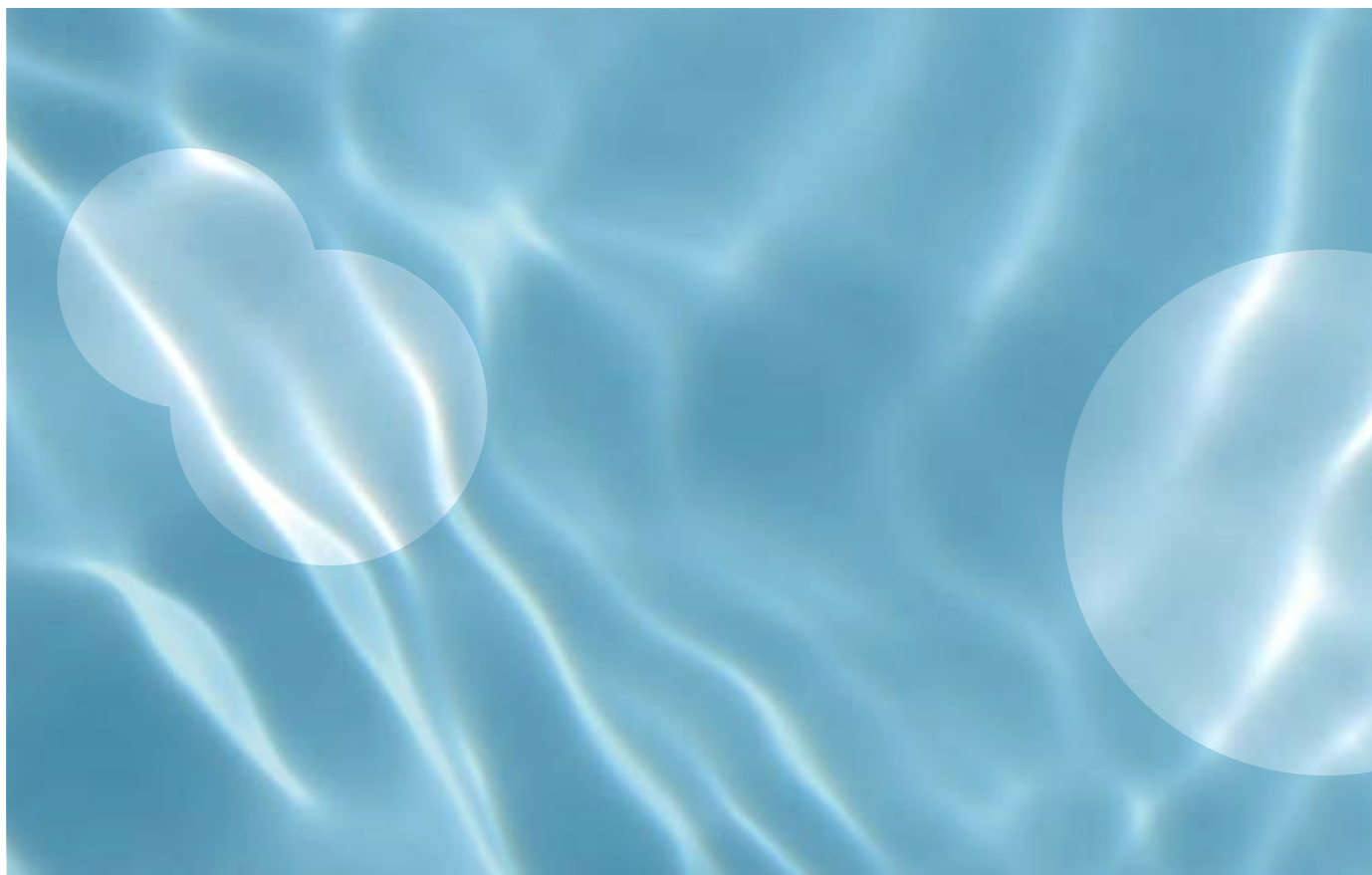


How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

7. Обзор состояния и загрязнения окружающей среды в Российской Федерации за 2018 год. Москва, 2019 (дата обращения: 24.02.2020).

8. Река Луга и бассейн южного берега Финского залива. Программа «Природа и человек» в Год Экологии. 11 января 2019 (дата обращения: 24.05.2020)

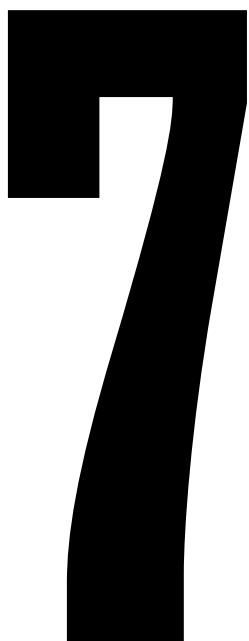
- Conduct expert evaluation of changes in the Water Code and the 'Scheme of Multipurpose Use and Protection of Water Bodies' (SKYOVO), and participate in the project assessment.
- Participate in the work of basin councils, in preparing and organizing public consultations.
- Organize mass public outreach and environmental campaigns (e.g. 'United Days of Action for Rivers', 'River Ribbon Campaign', initiated by the Save the River Coordination Centre (Nizhny Novgorod), attended by around 600,000 people in 30 regions of Russia).
- Implement public monitoring, control and surveillance of natural water resources (rivers, lakes, and springs), as conducted by the public River Watch Network, which involves hundreds of volunteers, school groups and local communities in the Russian part of the Baltic Sea basin (Friends of the Baltic from St Petersburg and Green Planet from Kaliningrad).
- Take care of water bodies.
- Initiate the conclusion of public agreements for the protection of water bodies, such as the public agreement on the protection and restoration of Meshchersky Lake in the Nizhny Novgorod Region.
- Initiate the adoption and amendment of new legislation in cooperation with subjects entitled to the legislative initiative at the local, regional, inter-regional or federal levels.
- Establish voluntary water partnerships and Water Basin Councils that would bring together all stakeholders (e.g. the Public Advisory Council of the Luga River Basin, located in five municipalities [8]).
- Develop local and regional water basin plans and projects to improve the condition of water bodies, as well as transboundary and cross-sectoral cooperation in water-related projects.
- Organize the public certification of water bodies.
- Facilitate public inspections of water bodies.
- Promote raising environmental awareness and education in the field of water-related ecosystems, fostering a careful attitude to water as well as to water conservation.



Chapter by

Olga Senova — Friends of
the Baltic, Russian Social-
Ecological Union

Elena Kolpakova — Help
the River Initiative, Dront
Eco-Center, Russian Social-
Ecological Union



Is Clean Energy an Ambitious Goal or Just a Fantasy?



Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. Данные по показателям ЦУР.
// Росстат.

2. Рейтинг стран Европы по доступности электроэнергии для населения. 24 июня 2019. РИА Новости.

3. Министерство экономического развития РФ. Государственный доклад о состоянии энергосбережения и повышении энергетической эффективности в Российской Федерации (2019).

Electricity in Russia is available to 100% of the population [1], although residents of some communities isolated from the Unified Energy System have access to electricity for only a few hours a day. Electricity in Russia is relatively inexpensive. On average, a Russian household pays less than 5 euro cents for 1 kWh. The figure in Europe is 2-6 times higher. In terms of the amount of electricity available for the average salary, Russia ranked 12th in Europe among 54 countries in 2019 [2].

In comparison with other countries, the Russian power industry is relatively 'clean' in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. The share of coal, the dirtiest energy source, in primary energy consumption fell from 19% to 16% between 2015 and 2018, mainly due to the increased use of natural gas. Natural gas is the key pillar of the Russian energy sector. In 2018, it accounted for 60% of primary energy consumption [3].

In recent years, Russia has made an effort to launch a renewable energy sources (RES) sector. In 2013, a system was adopted to support renewable energy on the wholesale electricity and capacity market, under which renewable energy facilities, in addition to the market proceeds for electricity produced, also receive a fixed monthly fee that covers the costs of investors and provides a return of 12-14% per annum. This system covers solar, wind and small hydro-power facilities.

Between 2014 and 2019 this scheme supported the construction of 1 GW renewable energy power plants [4]. By 2025, this indicator will reach 5.4 GW in total, which will be less than 2.5% of the total installed capacity in the country and will allow for the production of about 1% of the total electricity through RES. In 2019, it was decided to extend the support of RES on the wholesale electricity and capacity market for the period up to 2035. The support scheme itself will be adjusted and approved in 2020. The construction of new renewable energy facilities up to 10 GW is planned.

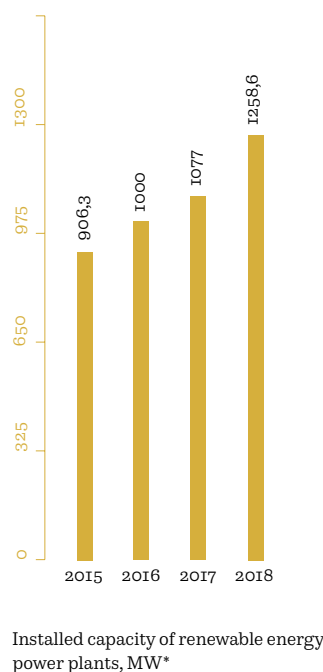
In the coming years, the process of encouraging a voluntary demand for electricity may be actively pursued. In 2019, the government passed a law on microgeneration [5], allowing individuals to connect their generation facilities to the grid with a capacity of up to 15 kW (mainly solar panels on the roofs of detached homes) and sell the excess energy. In the past, microgeneration facilities in Russia could operate only in an autonomous mode. In some cases (with tariffs starting at 10 cents per 1 kWh), the transition of small and medium enterprises to renewable energy is becoming economically viable.

Major Problems and Challenges

4. ЦФР. Отчет о ходе реализации отобранных инвестиционных проектов участников ОРЭМ — генерирующих компаний в рамках ДПМ ВИЭ и ДПМ ТВО за 2019 год (2020).

5. Федеральный закон от 27 декабря 2019 г. N 471-ФЗ «О внесении изменений в Федеральный закон «Об электроэнергетике» в части развития микрогенерации».

Figure 8. RES development in Russia between 2015 and 2018



* excluding hydropower plants with installed capacity exceeding 25 MW

Source: Federal State Statistics Service (2019).

Technological development of economy sectors.

Despite these positive trends, the implementation of SDG 7 in Russia is slow.

Poor Level of Government Support

Russian energy policy is conservative and focused on the extraction, consumption and export of fossil fuels. Russia is one of the global leaders in terms of fossil fuel subsidies: in 2017, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) ranked subsidies in Russia to be third in the world (after Iran and Saudi Arabia), estimated at almost \$30 billion per year [6]. In comparison, all power delivery contract programmes for renewable energy on the wholesale market of electric power and capacity account for \$22 billion for the period 2015–2040 [7].

Lagging Behind in Energy Efficiency Indicators

Russia does not intend to give up any fossil fuels. Russia failed to achieve the goal of reducing the energy intensity of GDP by 40% by 2020, compared to the level in 2007. The goal to develop renewable energy sources, and achieve a 4.5% share of RES excluding large hydro in the country's total power generation by 2020, met with the same result. The energy intensity of Russian GDP currently exceeds the average world level by 46% [8].

In terms of energy efficiency and RES development, Russia lags behind other countries by decades. Russia's existing regulatory framework does not allow for the creation of conditions for expanding energy efficiency and increasing RES in the country's energy balance.

Ineffective Incentives for Energy Efficiency

As for energy efficiency, some state support measures in Russia are a mere formality. For example, since 2012 companies investing in the construction of highly energy-efficient

buildings have been able to receive an investment tax credit [9]. However, in practice, it is impossible to take advantage of this benefit for commercial property. Moreover, a new rule came into force on January 1, 2018, according to which this benefit is only available in those regions where the relevant law is adopted.

Low Share of RES in the Country's Energy Sector

The share of RES, excluding large hydropower plants, in the generation of power in Russia remains so low as to be almost negligible. According to the Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), this indicator amounted to 0.24% in 2018 (Figure 1). The installed capacity of renewable energy power plants (excluding large hydropower plants) is also insignificant - 1.26 GW or 0.5% of the total installed capacity of the country in 2018 [10].

In the sphere of heating and cooling, as well as in the transport sector, the use of RES is neither regulated by the state, nor encouraged. Practically all of the state support of RES in Russia is limited to support of the sector on the wholesale electricity and capacity market. In 2019, the cost of 1 kWh produced by wind energy was estimated by the Market Council to be 18 cents, and the cost of 1 kWh produced by solar energy was estimated at 39 cents. In comparison, the global values of these indicators average between 2.8 and 5.4 cents [11]. The high cost of renewable energy generation on the wholesale and capacity market in Russia is explained by high capital costs, related to the mandatory localization of RES equipment production in Russia, the high cost of capital and the absence of incentives to increase capacity. When using foreign equipment (mostly from China), the price of 1 kWh of solar power generation in Russia already exceeds 7 cents.



6. IRENA. *Energy subsidies: Evolution in the global energy transformation to 2050* (2020).

7. «ВЫГОН Консалтинг», НИУ ВШЭ, ЦСР. *Анализ системных эффектов программы поддержки ВИЭ 1.0* (2020).

Consumers are not Ready to Pay More for Clean Energy

People in Russia are not ready to implement SDG 7. In 2019, Greenpeace Russia and Romir Research Holding conducted a survey which showed that 58% of respondents favoured a transition to renewable energy, while 55% expressed the desire to save energy and introduce energy-saving technologies. However, 82% of interviewees were not ready to pay more than 5% extra when switching to renewable energy sources [12]. This means that, in general, Russians support the transition to renewable energy and the development of energy-efficient technologies, but at the same time, they are not always ready to act when extra costs are required.

High Electricity Prices in Isolated Areas

Since some settlements in Russia are isolated from the Unified Energy System, they have to produce electricity through diesel fuel combustion. Due to difficult weather and landscape conditions, diesel fuel (the so-called 'northern supply') can take more than 1 year to arrive, and fuel has to sometimes be delivered by helicopters. As a result, the production cost of 1 kWh may exceed €3, and most of this cost is covered by the state budget. Some of these communities have been equipped with dozens of solar and wind power plants, which operate in the same system as diesel generation. However, RES power generation has not yet appeared in all the communities that need it, while solar-diesel and wind-diesel power systems are frequently not efficient enough.

Impact of SGD 7 Implementation and the Attainment of other Goals

Slow progress on SDG 7 impedes the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the implementation of SDG 13 ('Climate Change'), as well as the achievement of SDG 9 ('Industrialization, innovation and infrastructure') and goals related to the conservation of marine (SDG 14) and terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15).

Civil Society Recommends

Energy-efficient green technologies and renewable energy should become an emerging trend in Russia. The following steps will facilitate this process.

- Eliminating subsidies for conventional energy and redirecting them to RES and technologies relating to energy efficiency. First and foremost, it is necessary to support R&D, the development of infrastructure, and demand in these sectors.
- RES and national energy efficiency goals. It is necessary to establish a new national goal for improving the energy efficiency of the Russian economy for the period up to 2030. Reducing the energy intensity of Russian GDP by 40% compared to the 2007 levels might become a new goal (i.e. by 2030, Russia should achieve the 2020 energy efficiency goal which has not been attained). It is also necessary to develop and adopt targets to achieve a certain share of RES in all sectors of the energy industry by 2030. It is recommended to set this proportion to at least 20% in the electric power sector, excluding large hydropower plants, and at least 10% in the transport and heating, and cooling sectors, excluding traditional biomass.
- Emerging role of regions and cities. Russia's regions and cities should take the lead in the transition to energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies. To achieve this, it is recommended that regions and cities establish their own RES and energy efficiency policies, as well as develop plans to meet them.
- The State should develop policies to support RES in the transport and heating, and cooling sectors.

8. Министерство экономического развития РФ. Государственный доклад о состоянии энергосбережения и повышении энергетической эффективности в Российской Федерации (2019).

9. Налоговый кодекс РФ, пп. 5 п. 1 ст. 67.

10. Технологическое развитие отраслей экономики (2019) // Росстат.

11. Lazard. Levelized cost of energy analysis — Version 13.0 (2019).

12. Romir. Отношение населения к изменению климата, возобновляемым источникам энергии и энергосбережению (2019).

- Updating energy saving and efficiency indicators suitable for state programs at the federal, regional and industry levels.
- Enhancing state support for improving energy efficiency. It is necessary to extend the investment tax credit for highly energy-efficient commercial property and ban the requirement for regional regulation of this tax benefit.
- RES support in the wholesale electricity and power market. During the second stage of RES implementation through the Power Delivery Contract Program for 2025-2035, it is necessary to switch to a competitive selection of RES projects on the basis of single-rate price, which takes into account capital and operating costs, and the cost of capital and capacity, not just capital costs as in the current situation. It is also preferable to substitute fines for a failure to meet localization requirements with incentives for meeting these requirements. This would open up Russia's RES market to foreign investors.
- Voluntary demand for RES. Russia should develop a regulatory framework that would allow energy companies to offer green tariffs for individuals and organizations, and enable them to fully or partially switch to RES. It is also recommended to introduce a net metering system when calculating electricity payments for households, with renewable energy microgeneration connected to the grid.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

Civil society can and should disseminate reliable and relevant information about the importance of energy conservation, the real cost of renewable energy technologies, and the environmental and social advantages of RES, amongst others.

- Russian civil society should clearly call on funds, banks and other financial organizations to divest money from the traditional energy sector, via a massive divestment campaign, for example.
- Non-profit organizations and individuals can use RES and improve the energy efficiency of their equipment and buildings. They can promote them, and organize workshops and excursions for those who want to visit.

Chapter by

Tatiana Lanshina — RANEP, Goal 7, SDSN Russia

8

Russian Labor Market: From the Shadows to Decent Work and Earnings



Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. Уровень безработицы в разбивке по полу, возрасту и признаку инвалидности (8.5.2)
Данные Росстата.
fedstat.ru
(дата обращения: 10.03.2020).

Special projects and programmes have been launched in the main areas of SDG 8 ('Decent work and economic growth'), including the 'Small and Medium-Sized Businesses' and 'Support for Individual Entrepreneurs' National Projects; the 'Labor Productivity and Employment Support' National Project; the 'State Energy Efficiency Programme until 2020'; the 'Bases of the State Youth Policy until 2025'; The Federal Target Programme 'Development of Domestic and Inbound Tourism in the Russian Federation for 2019-2025' and the 'Tourism Development Strategy until 2035'; the 'Strategy for Improving Financial Affordability in the Russian Federation for 2018-2020', and others.

In the period covered (since 2016), the unemployment rate has decreased (from 5.5% in 2016 to 4.6% in 2019) [1]. Financial accessibility has significantly increased for the population (for example, growth of the use of remote banking services, and the development of means of accessing financial services for people with disabilities). There is also the successful development of digitalization and optimization of the provision of state and municipal services. Since 2019, the minimum wage has met the cost of living. The amount of unemployment benefits have also increased, and benefits for the first and second child under 3 years old have been introduced.

Major Problems and Challenges

2. Социологи РАНХиГС: треть россиян причастна к «теневому» рынку труда. 15 октября 2019.
РАНХиГС
газета.ру

In this chapter, we will consider the most pivotal issues for civil society that require priority attention.

Employment for All

A high level of informal employment remains one of the most acute problems of the Russian economy. According to independent experts, 32.5% of the economically active population in Russia (about 25 million people) are involved in the shadow labor market in one form or another [2]. Official statistics do not take into account the scale of the 'informal economy', since the 'official' criteria of informal employment - the absence of an employer's state registration as a legal entity - contradicts ILO Recommendation

No. 204 'On Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy'.

The area of labor law regulation is narrowing in Russian legislation. For instance, a draft law developed in 2018 by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Russian Federation [3] excludes workers who are hired by individuals (not individual entrepreneurs) from the scope of labor legislation, and reduces the guarantees for individuals working with individual entrepreneurs. The introduction of the category 'self-employed' did not lead to a widespread withdrawal of workers from the shadows, but rather facilitated the transition of a large number of workers to this category, who at the same time were now no longer entitled to social guarantees.

32.5% of the economically active population in Russia (about 25 million people) are involved in the shadow labor market in one form or another.

3. Проект Федерального закона «О внесении изменений в Трудовой кодекс Российской Федерации (в части совершенствования правового регулирования трудовых отношений отдельных категорий работников)». regulation.gov.ru

4. Концепция долгосрочного социально-экономического развития Российской Федерации на период до 2020 года, утвержденная Распоряжением Правительства РФ от 17.11.2008 №1662-р Собрание законодательства РФ, 24.11.2008, №47, ст. 5489.

5. Неравенство и бедность. Дифференциация оплаты труда работников. Индикаторы достойного труда, доля работников организаций с низким уровнем заработной платы (ниже 2/3 медианы почасового заработка). Rosstat.gks.ru

6. Реальные денежные доходы населения. Rosstat.gks.ru

Moreover, the general (composite) unemployment rate indicator does not reflect regional distribution. In Moscow, the unemployment rate was 1.4% in 2019, while it was 27% in the Republic of Ingushetia. Over this period of time, the problem of an excessive concentration of jobs in large cities has not been solved, despite the existence of this goal in the Concept of Long-Term Social and Economic Development of the Russian Federation until 2020 [4].

One of the most pressing issues remains the problem of employment for people with disabilities. Despite job quotas, employers avoid hiring people with disabilities. The rules on the obligation of the employer to create special jobs, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Law on Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities, do not work. Instead of adapting jobs, employers prefer to dismiss people with disabilities, explaining this as due to a lack of suitable work for them.

There are no mechanisms in Russia for the protection of labor migrants who stay on Russian territory without permission, do not have permits for work, or have expired documents. They are not covered by labor legislation, which contradicts the Protocol to the ILO Forced Labor Convention No. 29, ratified by the Russian government in 2014. The State Labor Inspectorate does not check the working conditions of such persons but does communicate information about violations to the migration services in order to use administrative measures (including deportation). The assistance of migrants who have violated their tenure by public organizations may qualify as ‘facilitating illegal migration,’ which makes such human rights activities unsafe.

It is difficult to assess the forced labor situation due to a lack of statistics, but some practices may qualify as forced labor, for example, the ‘voluntary-compulsory’ involvement of teachers in the final state certification.

Wage Rates

Wage rates are low. In the period covered, there has been a slight increase in real average monthly wages. The percentage of employees of organizations with low wages (below two-thirds of median hourly earnings) in 2015 was 27.3%; in 2017, it was 26.4%; and in 2019, it was 24.7% [5]. Between 2015 and 2019, there was either a decrease in the real income of the population or very insignificant growth (94% compared to the previous year in 2016, 98.9% in 2017, 99.9% in 2018, and 101% in 2019) [6], along with a slight increase in real wages. This situation indicates that the state is insufficiently indexing social payments, benefits, etc.

The minimum wage is low. The decision to bring minimum wage to the level of a living wage did not solve the problem of working poverty but rather simply equated minimum wage with the poverty level. The minimum wage was made dependent on the cost of living, calculated on the basis of the consumer basket. In turn, a significant proportion of the consumer basket consists of food expenses, which do not correspond to real consumer spending and are disproportionate to other expenses. The calculation of the consumer basket excludes family members.

Current regulations allow employers to pay almost all employees the minimum wage, regardless of their skill level, position and working conditions.

Inequality and Discrimination

Russia is a country with one of the highest levels of income inequality, and this is even more pronounced in terms of property. The richest 10% own more than 80% of the assets created after the transition to a market economy (see SDG 4).

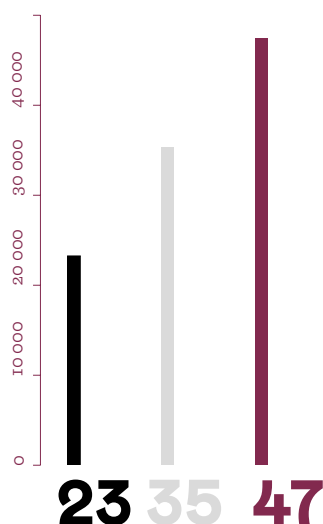


Figure 9. Correlation between average, median and modal wages in 2019 (RUB)

- average wage
- median wage
- modal wage

Civil Society Recommends

The unemployment rate in 2019:
Moscow — 1.4%
Republic of Ingushetia — 27%

The average wage for men and women remains unequal across all sectors of the Russian economy (see SDG 5).

There are no general criteria for determining the value of labor. Inconsistency remains in the remuneration systems used by employers in various industries. Russian legislation contains no regulations on the maximum ratio of fixed and variable parts of wages, which allows employers to manipulate payments and arbitrarily determine the total amount to be paid.

The legal definition of discrimination is incomplete and does not reveal the essence of the phenomenon. As a result, law enforcers cannot always identify it. There are no non-judicial mechanisms for resolving discrimination disputes.

Protection of Labor Rights

The powers of state labor inspectors are limited. Inspectors lack the resources to reach out to employers. Priority is given to checking documents provided by the employer, rather than going to the enterprise itself. Field inspection requires additional conditions.

Under Russian legislation, the procedure for holding strikes is complex and accompanied by a large number of restrictions, as international experts have repeatedly pointed out [7, 8]. Workers and trade unions face violations of the right to freedom of association. Discrimination against union members, for instance, is a common practice.

Employment for All

- Align the methodology for employment monitoring in the informal economy with ILO Recommendation No. 204 'On Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy' (2015).
- Change the norms of the Labor Code of the Russian Federation, not allowing for the possibility of dismissing a disabled person with the wording 'lack of suitable work', but only if there is a reason such as an inability to adapt the workplace.
- Deliberate the signing and ratifying of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.
- Deliberate the Draft Federal Law 'On Combating Human Trafficking', which was developed in the early 2000s, and create a working group to finalize it. In order to create a full-fledged infrastructure to combat human trafficking and the use of forced labor, appoint a national coordinator and create a national action plan.
- Provide migrant workers with the opportunity to stay in Russia for the time necessary to protect their labor rights.
- Strengthen liability for the seizure of identity documents (Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Offenses, 19.17).
- Recognize citizens in need of social services, such as those involved in human trafficking, labor and sexual exploitation, or illegal imprisonment for the purpose of forced slave labor.

7. NORMLEX. Information System on International Labour Standards. Report in which the committee requests to be kept informed of development — Report № 333, March 2004. Case № 2251. ilo.org

8. Information System on International Labour Standards. Report in which the committee requests to be kept informed of development — Report No 365, November 2012, Case No 2758 (Russian Federation). ilo.org

Wage Rates

- Ratify ILO Convention No. 131 'On Minimum Wage Fixing, with Special Reference to Developing Countries'.
- Change the calculation procedure of the cost of living and align the cost structure incorporated in the consumer basket calculation with the real average cost structure for the country.
- Bring back the definition of the minimum wage, indicating the need to pay it for unskilled labor under normal conditions.
- Increase the minimum unemployment benefit for the whole population to the level of the cost of living.

Inequality and Discrimination

- Introduce progressive income and property taxes.
- Introduce a norm on the limiting ratio of fixed and variable parts of wages.
- Develop and enforce in legislation a full definition of discrimination, regulate a wider range of issues relating to certain types and manifestations of discrimination, including in the workplace, on the basis of international law and using the experience of foreign countries.
- Organize further education courses in the field of anti-discrimination for law enforcement officials.

Labor Rights Protection

- Align the provisions of Russian legislation governing the powers and status of the State Labor Inspectorate with ILO Convention No. 81 'On Labor Inspection in Industry and Trade'. Provide state labor inspectors with the powers necessary for prompt and effective protection of workers' rights (empower them to conduct investigations, including in cases of the recruitment of employees without an employment contract, and to file a lawsuit to protect workers' rights). Increase the level of material support and service prestige for inspectors.
- Provide the State Labor Inspectorate with the right to consider complaints concerning discrimination in labor relations or to refer these issues to the competence of a special anti-discrimination agency.
- Expand the powers of legal and technical labor inspectorates of trade unions, in order to increase control over the observance of workers' labor rights.
- Provide trade unions with the right to appeal against the local regulations of an employer in court, including wage regulations.
- Develop a system of out-of-court settlement for labor conflicts, which would ensure the stability of labor relations and unburden state bodies.
- Implement the recommendations of the Governing Body of the ILO in cases No. 2758, No. 2216 and No. 2251. Remove restrictions on strikes (reduce the list of categories of workers prohibited from exercising the right to strike, simplify the procedure for declaring a strike, and expand the scope of recognition of the right to strike).



How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

- Set down in Paragraph 7 of Article 1 of the Federal Law 'On Non-Profit Organizations' that trade unions, as well as employers' associations, cannot be recognized as non-profit organizations acting as foreign agents.

Along with interaction within the framework of social partnerships, SDG 8 could be more actively implemented through the following initiatives:

- Participation in research projects in the field of labor market research and related fields.
- Public monitoring of the observance of labor rights, as well as the public examination of the effectiveness of state programmes in the social sphere.
- Participation in working groups on the development of regulatory legal acts in the social sphere.
- Monitoring the implementation of the International Labor Organization recommendations and other international labor institutions.
- Organization of public hearings and open platforms for discussion.
- Organization of educational events aimed at explaining state social policy, etc.

Chapter by

Fatima Suleimanova — Center
for Social and Labor Rights



9

Industries, Innovation and Infrastructure in Russia: Pursuing New Solutions

National Plan and its Implementation	2.88
Participation of Regional and Local Authorities	2.72
Information Availability	2.08
Civil Society Participation	2.00

Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. Указ Президента РФ от 7 мая 2018 г. №204 «О национальных целях и стратегических задачах развития Российской Федерации на период до 2024 года» // Президент России. kremlin.ru

2. Распоряжение Правительства РФ от 30 сентября 2018 г. № 2101-р «Об утверждении комплексного плана модернизации и расширения магистральной инфраструктуры на период до 2024 года» // Правительство России. government.ru

¹ Полное название показателя: «совокупный объем официальной международной поддержки (официальной помощи в целях развития (ОПР) и других потоков официального финансирования (ПОФ), направляемой на инфраструктуру».

In 2018, the following initiatives were prepared in order to achieve the National Goals of Russian Development, outlined in Presidential Decree No. 204, dated May 7, 2018, on Infrastructure Development [1]: 'A Comprehensive Plan for the Modernization and Expansion of Trunk Infrastructure for the Period until 2024' [2] and the National Project 'Safe and Quality Roads' [3]. Other SDG 9 targets ('Industries, Innovation and Infrastructure') are reflected in a number of other strategic documents.

According to official data, Russia saw a decrease in the volume of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP between 2015 and 2017. The level of international support for infrastructure increased in 2018. The length of public roads also grew annually [4].

Since the summer of 2019, roaming within the country has been legally abolished in Russia. Since 2016, the share of Russian households with broadband Internet access has increased [5] (in 2018, it was 73.2%). Russia ranks 8th in

the world in terms of the number of Internet users, numbering 109.5 million according to data for the beginning of 2019. Russia is one of the countries with the cheapest unlimited Internet, mobile Internet and cellular connections. In recent years, Russia has been one of the world leaders in digital banking, including mobile banking [6].

The country occupies a leading position in the development of its scientific and technological potential. In 2017 it was ranked second among the OECD countries in terms of the number of Masters, Candidates and Doctors of Science, numbering 425.8 thousand people [7], fourth in terms of researchers with 359.8 thousand people, and eighth in R&D expenditure at \$38 billion [8].

Russian business leaders are gradually implementing the SDGs in their strategies and business models [9], [10].

Major Problems and Challenges

Despite the existence of a number of positive trends, there are many barriers to the practical implementation of SDG 9 in Russia.

3. Паспорт национального проекта «Безопасные и качественные автомобильные дороги» (утв. президентом Совета при Президенте РФ по стратегическому развитию и национальным проектам, протокол от 24.12.2018 №15) // Правительство России. government.ru

4. Основные итоги развития транспорта // Росстат. gks.ru

5. Доля домашних хозяйств, имеющих широкополосный доступ к информационно-телекоммуникационной сети «Интернет» // ЕМИСС. fedstat.ru

6. «Инновации в России — неисчерпаемый источник роста». Июль 2018 года // Центр по развитию инноваций McKinsey Innovation Practice. mckinsey.com

7. Международная стандартная классификация образования 2011 (7 и 8 ступень) // Данные ОЭСР. stats.oecd.org

8. Внутренние расходы на НИОКР. // Данные ОЭСР. data.oecd.org

9. Виноградова Е., Витковская С. Как бизнес ищет устойчивость // Ведомости. 2 октября 2019 года. vedomosti.ru

10. Какие инструменты может внедрять бизнес, чтобы двигаться к ЦУР? Ответы дали на Форуме сотрудничества // FSC Россия (вебсайт). 19 февраля 2020 года. ru.fsc.org

11. Инфраструктурные проекты: карта коррупционных рисков // Экспертный совет при правительстве Российской Федерации (вебсайт). 6 августа 2015 года. open.gov.ru

² Процент населения в возрасте от 18 до 64 лет, являющегося нарождающимися предпринимателями и владельцами вновь созданного бизнеса [27].

The Country's Infrastructure

Major infrastructure changes are taking place in Russia, unevenly and inconsistently. A significant amount of budget funds allocated for infrastructure development are spent inefficiently [11].

Some problems of infrastructure development are common to most regions of Russia. For example, there is a shortage of ready-to-launch projects, a lack of specialists in the field of project financing, and a vision of infrastructure development which only takes into account the near future [12].

There is an urgent need to increase the share of modern housing stock in the country. New housing is being built in abundance, compared to other developed countries, but quite often old buildings are not demolished [13].

Urban development does not meet modern standards of quality with regard to the urban environment and housing. Concrete multi-storey buildings and neighborhoods are being built outside high-speed public transport systems and without access to recreational opportunities. Russia is also falling behind in the implementation of the advanced communication standard of 5G. The reason is the Ministry of Defense's reluctance to transition to mobile operator frequencies within the range of 3.4-3.8 GHz, which were supposed to be used for the deployment of cellular communications.

Sustainable Industrialization and Small Businesses

Russia is characterized by an imbalance in the development of various industries; the hypertrophied military-industrial complex is combined with an underdeveloped sector for the production of consumer goods and services [14]. Russia is lagging behind in the development of innovative industries focused on the modern service economy.

Falling demand due to declining incomes, frequent changes in legislation that constrain investment in industry, and the suboptimal regulation of investment itself are hindering development and change in industrial structures.

Natural climate and institutional costs increase the cost of Russian products [15] and limit the potential of production, while the dominance of the oil and gas sector inhibits the development of non-resource industry [16]. In Russia, it is more profitable to engage in trade than production.

The low level of development of customs infrastructure (in 2019 Russia ranked 99th in the 'International Trade' rating of Doing Business 2020 amongst other countries) also hinders the development of the country's economy.

A lack of funding is one of the key factors limiting the development of small businesses in Russia. In 2019, rates on loans for a period of 1 year or more for the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector were 1.17% higher than the market average [17] (according to this indicator, in 2017, Russia ranked 26th among the OECD countries [18]). Due to the high rate of loan non-repayment in the SME sector, and several other factors, loan rates in Russia are high and it is difficult to get them. The SME sector in Russia is poorly developed; in 2018 its share of GDP was only 20.2%, with 34% of micro and small firms engaged in trade, which accounts for about 60% of the total turnover. Early entrepreneurial activity in 2018 was 5.6% (43rd place out of 48). Other problems for small businesses include insufficient demand, high taxes, the uncertain economic situation, and administrative pressure.



12. Аналитический обзор *InfraONE Research «Инфраструктура России: индекс развития — 2019»* // *InfraOne*. infraone.ru

13. Полиди Т.Д. Строим мы аномально много по сравнению с другими развитыми странами // *Институт экономики города (веб-сайт)*. 12 декабря 2019 года. urbanecconomics.ru

14. Акиндинова Н.В., Бессонов В.А., Ясин Е.Г. *Российская экономика: от трансформации к развитию. Доклад к XIX Апрельской между-народной научной конференции по проблемам развития экономики и общества*. М.: Изд. дом Высшей школы экономики, 2018.

15. Заусав В.К., Кручак Н.А., Бежина В.П. Новая модель роста Дальнего Востока // *Всероссийский экономический журнал «ЭКО»*. 2015, №2(512). С. 27-35.

16. Гуриев С., Сонин К. *Экономика «ресурсного проклятия»* // *Вопросы экономики*. 2008, № 4. С. 61-74.

Russian businesses have a poorly developed culture of respect for the environment and commitment to the SDGs. There are a lot of low-profit businesses in the country which view switching to more expensive technologies that are environmentally friendly to be an unprofitable option. It is more profitable for Russian businesses to pay a fine for environmental pollution than to make their production 'green'. Small and medium-sized businesses are not well-informed about the SDGs.

Innovation and Science in Russia

The state policy for the development of science and innovation in Russia has not been consistent. Not enough funds have been allocated for science over the past 10-15 years, which is why the gap between the leading countries in R&D and innovation has been growing. The number of researchers per 1,000 employed persons (5.7 researchers) and the share of research and development expenditures in terms of GDP (1.1%) in Russia are significantly lower than in other developed countries (27th and 31st places among OECD countries) [19]. The number of people employed in R&D has been declining since 2000 [20]. The main problems are the weak integration of science and business, and a shortage of engineering and technical personnel competent in relevant scientific and technological areas.

Small innovative enterprises face an unfavourable business climate, a lack of developed venture financing, insufficient protection of property rights, and a lack of demand for private sector R&D. According to StartupRanking [21], only 585 innovative startups were created in Russia (19th place in the world), while in the US there are about 48 thousand innovative startups, 7,436 in India, and 5,191 in the UK.

Scientific research in most regions of Russia is usually of quite a low quality, and the share of innovation is very low [22, 23]. Research activities are mainly concentrated in Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Tomsk and several other regional centers, as well as in science cities.

Recommendations to the State³

³ It should be noted that certain recommendations mentioned in this chapter are already being implemented in Russia in one form or another by both state and non-state actors..

To develop high-quality and reliable infrastructure, it is necessary to:

- Pursue a consistent state infrastructure policy. Delegate the choice of priorities for infrastructure development to the regions [24]
- Publish open data that reveals the content of work on the construction of state infrastructure facilities and the amount of their financing. Increase the transparency of procedures for allocating state contracts for infrastructure-building, and perform open examinations of the construction of infrastructure facilities.
- Adopt the draft law 'On the Renovation of Housing in the Russian Federation', submitted to the State Duma [25].
- Enter into life-cycle contracts for construction with subsequent maintenance, so that contractors have incentives to perform work efficiently.
- Develop efficient public-private partnership mechanisms that are profitable and safe for business.
- Develop public transport. Create incentives for the population to abandon personal vehicles.

17. Данные Банка России.
cbr.ru

18. *Financing SMEs and
Entrepreneurs 2019: An OECD
Scoreboard* // Данные ОЭСР.
doi.org

19. *Gross domestic spending on R&D* //
Данные ОЭСР. data.oecd.org

20. Численность персонала, заня-
того научными исследованиями и
разработками // Росстат. gks.ru

21. Сайт «Startup Ranking».
startupranking.com

22. Земцов С., Мурадов А., Уэйд
И., Барина В. Факторы инно-
вационной активности регионов
России: что важнее — человек или
капитал? // Форсайт. 2016, №10(2).
С. 29-42.

23. Барина В.А., Земцов С.П., Царе-
ва Ю.В. и др. Национальный доклад
«Высокотехнологичный бизнес в
регионах России». Выпуск 3. М.:
РАНХиГС, АИРР, 2020.

24. Стратегическое планирова-
ние на муниципальном уровне:
эффективные практики, пробле-
мы и пути их решения // Совет
Федерации Федерального Собрания
РФ (вебсайт). 12 марта 2020 года.
council.gov.ru

25. Законопроект № 825313-7 «О
реновации жилищного фонда в
Российской Федерации».
sozd.duma.gov.ru

26. Проект федерального закона
«Об экологическом аудите и эколо-
гической аудиторской деятельно-
сти». regulation.gov.ru

27. *Global Entrepreneurship
Monitor 2019/2020 Global Report*.
*Global Entrepreneurship Research
Association, London Business School*,
2020.

For the development of Russian industry, it is necessary to:

- Expand state support for high-tech industries. Implement industrial policies allowing compa-
nies to:
 - Integrate into global value chains and promote the building of production chains within the
country. Develop digital platforms as a mechanism to connect end-users and manufacturers.
Increase the openness of the military-industrial complex and its conversion.
 - Automate production. Implement R&D achievements to reduce the cost of products.
- Introduce tax incentives and preferential rates on loans for SMEs in non-resource industries.
Create venture finance institutions (small business investment companies).
- Increase business interaction with universities and research organizations. Expand the prac-
tice of related grants, etc. Implement professional development programmes for employees
with technical specialties in order to expand the introduction of new technologies into produc-
tion.

*To implement the principles of sustainable development
in industrial enterprises, it is necessary to:*

- Implement the SDGs at the level of strategic planning for the development of industrial enter-
prises at all stages of production.
- Develop a unified methodology for assessing the sustainability of production and an enterprise.
Finalize and adopt the draft law 'On Environmental Audit and Environmental Audit Activities'
[26].
- Introduce preferences for those whose business operates on alternative energy sources, using
energy-efficient technologies.
- Support specialized NGOs and youth environmental movements that promote sustainable de-
velopment in society. Hold festivals on sustainable development. Promote successful practices
regarding how a business can implement sustainability principles while remaining profita-
ble. Distribute collections of recommendations (guidelines) containing clear instructions for
entrepreneurs on how to implement the principles of sustainable development in business
processes.

To activate scientific research, it is necessary to:

- Increase funding for basic science in the budget. The state can finance R&D costs for private
businesses (allocate grants and subsidies).
- Encourage the development of entrepreneurial initiatives. Cooperation with businesses con-
tributes to the effective development of science. It is necessary to create an environment for
the development of entrepreneurship and for the implementation of scientific achievements in
innovative developments and products.
- Create programmes that teach school children and students the profession of the entrepre-
neur. Strengthen interaction between companies, research organizations and universities. This
process would be facilitated by the allocation of grants for joint projects and by the creation
of departments in universities supervised by companies. Update the universities' theoretical



base for engineering specialisms. Reorient technical universities to practice-oriented training. Introduce elements of the dual training system

- Encourage Russian companies to participate in international research partnerships and initiatives that develop breakthrough technologies.

To increase public access to information and communication technologies and ensure universal and affordable access to the Internet, it is necessary to:

- Provide Internet access to all schools, libraries, and hospitals in the regions.
- Speed up the implementation of the advanced 5G communication standard. Ensure technological neutrality in the allocation of radio frequencies. Carry out the conversion of military bands. Expand the frequency and power ranges available for use without obtaining licenses and permits.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

- Spread the ideas of sustainable development. Broadcast successful business practices that share the principles of business sustainability and environmental friendliness. Promote the development of independent mechanisms for the public monitoring of business sustainability and environmental friendliness. Draw the attention of business entities to the need to improve the efficiency of resource use and to the wider use of clean and environmentally friendly technologies and industrial processes.
- Perform open examinations and monitor the implementation of infrastructure projects. Conduct public surveys before launching infrastructure projects and transmit the results of surveys to government representatives and the public. Perform regular independent monitoring of the environmental situation in the country.
- Perform monitoring, including analysis and visualization of open data published by state organizations (government agencies, state corporations, etc).
- Support the state policy ('soft protectionism') on the import substitution of foreign goods and technologies with Russian ones, aimed at the formation of a domestic technology market and its further readiness for competition.
- Promote entrepreneurship, especially when it is innovative and socially significant (conduct relevant events, discussions, demonstration projects). Pay particular attention to the promotion of entrepreneurship among young people. Popularize science and increase the digital literacy of the population

Chapter by

Yulia Tsareva, Stepan
Zemtsov — Gaidar Institute for
Economic Policy



10

Social Inequality in Russia: The Most Vulnerable Citizens and their Protection

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Information Availability	1.88
Civil Society Participation	1.81

1. Доступность яслей в России за четыре года выросла почти на треть. 16 апреля 2018 г. Сайт телеканала RT. russian.rt.com (дата обращения: 03.04.2020).

2. Голикова: Более 120 тысяч детей не обеспечены местами в яслях. 3 июня 2019 г. Сайт «Российской газеты». rg.ru (дата обращения: 03.04.2020).

Trends and Advances since Early 2016

3. Очереди в детские сады сократились после их уплотнения. 29 марта 2018 г. Сайт «Независимой газеты». www.ng.ru (дата обращения: 05.03.2020).

4. Государственная программа Российской Федерации «Доступная среда». Сайт Министерства труда и социальной защиты. rosmintrud.ru (дата обращения: 07.03.2020).

5. Правительство одобрило госпрограмму «Доступная среда» до 2025 года. 15 февраля 2020 г. Сайт МИА «Россия сегодня». ria.ru (дата обращения: 07.03.2020).

B This chapter will focus on one of the key targets outlined by SDG 10: 'By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status'. The issues of poverty and gender equality, vital for achieving SDG 10, are discussed in the chapters on SDG 1 and SDG 5 respectively. People with disabilities, migrants, LGBTQ+ people, religious minorities, Indigenous Peoples and children are among the most vulnerable groups in Russia. Their problems are often ignored by the state and society, or not fully addressed. Let us take a closer look at these groups.

B etween 2014 and 2018, the availability of day nurseries for children from 2 months to 3 years increased from 51.86% [1] to 83.6% [2]. The availability of preschool for children between 3 and 7 years increased from 91.4% [3] to 98.89% [4]. Parents were given more opportunities to work and lead an active social life.

The 'Accessible Environment' programme ensuring the integration of people with disabilities and limited mobility into society has been relatively successful. By 2025, the programme envisages [5] an expansion of the system of comprehensive rehabilitation and habilitation of people with disabilities in the regions of Russia, of the share of people with disabilities who have undergone rehabilitation and/or habilitation, and the proportion of employed working-age people with disabilities. By the end of 2020, 100% of children with disabilities should be provided with [6] the opportunity to attend pre-schools and schools.

Since 2017, more than 226,000 people have returned [7] to Russia via the state programme to resettle compatriots living abroad. Most of them have moved to regions facing demographic, social and economic challenges.

The adoption of the Law on Social Entrepreneurship (July 26 2019, No. 245-FZ [8]) created the conditions for state support of companies that help tackle social problems. According to experts' estimates, several years ago the number of social enterprises was [9] between 5,000 and 50,000; today it has reached [10] 70,000.

In spring 2019, Russia recorded [11] the highest level of support for equal rights for LGBTQ+ people in the past 14 years (47% of respondents were in favour).

Major Problems and Challenges

6. Названо число вернувшихся в Россию по программе переселения соотечественников. 29 марта 2019 г. Сайт газеты «Известия». iz.ru (дата обращения: 07.03.2020).

7. «О внесении изменений в Федеральный закон «О развитии малого и среднего предпринимательства в Российской Федерации» в части закрепления понятий «социальное предпринимательство», «социальное предприятие» (от 26.07.2019 N 245-ФЗ). Сайт компании «Консультант-Плюс». consultant.ru (дата обращения: 03.03.2020).

8. Право на определение: как закон о социальном предпринимательстве поможет его развитию в РФ. 23 октября 2018 г. Сайт информационного агентства ТАСС. tass.ru (дата обращения: 03.03.2020).

9. Выгода и общество: как развивается социальное предпринимательство. 13 декабря 2019 г. Сайт информационного агентства plus.rbc.ru (дата обращения: 04.03.2020).

10. Почти половина россиян за равные права для ЛГБТ. Но большинство геев не любит. 23 мая 2019 г. Сайт Русской службы Би-Би-Си. www.bbc.com (дата обращения: 07.03.2020).

11. Эксперты КГИ предложили реформу системы господдержки инвалидов. 28 мая 2019 г. Сайт информационного агентства «РБК». www.rbc.ru (дата обращения: 07.03.2020).

12. Почему инвалидам в России трудно устроиться на работу. 26 июня 2019 г. Электронное периодическое издание «Ведомости». vedomosti.ru (дата обращения: 06.03.2020).

13. Инвалиды на рынке труда: мифы и реальность. 18 апреля 2019 г. Сайт Общественной палаты Российской Федерации. oprfr.ru (дата обращения: 07.03.2020).

People with Disabilities

Despite a comprehensive policy of integrating people with disabilities into society, the issue still directly affects [12] 23% of the population, i.e. one in five families in Russia. A total of 8.4% or 12.1 million people have the status of a person with a disability.

People with disabilities list their major problems as loneliness (24% live alone), a low financial status (28% of families with disabilities barely have enough money for food and clothing), and a lack of employment. According to the law, companies are obliged to employ people with disabilities: the quota suggests hiring from 2% to 4%, depending on the total number of employees. In 2018, this standard was observed [13] by only 70% of companies. This was the result of ineffective inspections, low fines, difficulties in organizing the working environment, the stereotype that people with disabilities work less efficiently than healthy employees, and the lack of domain experts among people with disabilities.

Another important problem is the absence of an inclusive environment. A poll of the population showed that the areas of public transport (46%), leisure and recreation (28%), and grocery stores (26%) were considered the most inaccessible.

The system of health and medical assessment and rehabilitation of people with disabilities should undergo drastic reforms. The classification and criteria for diagnosing and assessing disability do not comply with international practices. Many people with disabilities lack access to health and medical assessment services while the results of the assessment are difficult to appeal.

Migrants

Since 2016, Russia's population has been decreasing [14]. At the end of 2019, it decreased by the largest amount in 11 years (minus 259,600 people). This shortage of human resources can be addressed by receiving migrants. Every year about 16.5-17 million

migrants come to Russia [15], with 3 million of them travelling illegally.

Almost 30% of those who come to Russia have to work without the possibility of being legally employed, according to [16] experts from the Higher School of Economics and the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. The labour rights of migrants are regularly violated [17] while employers treat the newcomers as slaves.

Addressing the problem of migration complicates the negative attitude of Russians to migrants. The independent Levada Centre [18] reports that 72% of Russian citizens believe that the government should limit the flow of foreign nationals who come to the country to work.

Other difficulties on the path towards creating a comfortable environment for migrants include legislation which is often unclear for migrants and administrative hurdles (bribes and informal fees that occur during the process of legalisation).

LGBTQ+

One of the challenges for LGBTQ+ people is [19] the implementation of domestic policy aimed at promoting the heterosexual family as the only acceptable norm. Government rhetoric incites public harassment of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people, and other minorities.

The adoption of the 'gay propaganda' law (Russian Federal Law 135-FZ 'On the Protection of Children from Information Detrimental to their Health and Development') has worsened the position of LGBTQ+ people. This law has been repeatedly used [21] against peaceful protests, social network users, teachers, website administration and public groups on social media.

LGBTQ+ hate crimes (fake dating [22], battery and assault, blackmailing, etc. [23]) are very rarely investigated and in most cases the police do not investigate or process complaints. Representatives of the LGBTQ+ community



14. Естественная убыль россиян стала рекордной за 11 лет. 13 декабря 2019 г. Сайт информационного агентства «РБК». rbk.ru (дата обращения: 06.03.2020).

15. Подсчитаны масштабы притока мигрантов в Россию. 28 января 2020 г. Сайт «Лента.Ру». lenta.ru (дата обращения: 06.03.2020).

16. Миграционная политика: диагностика, вызовы, предложения. Центр стратегических разработок. hse.ru (дата обращения: 06.03.2020).

17. Мигранты в России. 17 декабря 2019 г. Сайт Русской службы «Радио Свобода». svoboda.org (дата обращения: 07.03.2020).

18. Более 70% россиян выступили за ограничение потока трудовых мигрантов. 20 сентября 2019 г. Плюс Один (+1). plus-one.ru (дата обращения: 07.03.2020).

19. Такие ценности Россия носит только на выход. 24 апреля 2018 г. Сайт издания «Новая газета». novayagazeta.ru (дата обращения: 07.03.2020).

20. «О внесении изменений в статью 5 Федерального закона «О защите детей от информации, причиняющей вред их здоровью и развитию» и отдельные законодательные акты Российской Федерации в целях защиты детей от информации, пропагандирующей отрицание традиционных семейных ценностей» (от 29 июня 2013 г. N 135-ФЗ). 2 июля 2013 г. Сайт «Российской газеты». rg.ru (дата обращения: 08.03.2020).

21. В России блокируют ЛГБТ-паблики. 9 октября 2019 г. Сайт международной правозащитной организации Human Rights Watch. hrw.org (дата обращения: 08.03.2020).

22. Руководитель ЛГБТ-группы «Сти-мул» — о подставных свиданиях, на которых грабят гомосексуалов. 2 апреля 2020 г. Сайт издания «Такие дела». takiedela.ru (дата обращения: 09.04.2020).

23. Криминальная активность ультраправых. Преступления ненависти и противодействие им в России в 2019 году. 4 февраля 2020 г. Доклад информационно-аналитического центра «Сова». sova-center.ru (дата обращения: 09.04.2020).

and human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch, report an increase in attacks and killings across the country. The situation in Chechnya is extremely distressing [24]. Since 2017, defenders of human rights have been reporting on anti-gay purges and gay people who have been illegally detained, beaten and humiliated by police officers. LGBTQ+ women in the North Caucasus are subject to physical, psychological, sexual and economic abuse, as well as honour killings [25].

About 15% of representatives of sexual minorities in Russia are exposed to physical and/or sexual violence, and more than half of them are psychologically affected. LGBTQ+ people face discrimination in their places of study, work, healthcare facilities, stores, and when looking for accommodation [26].

Religious Minorities

The counter-terrorism law N 374-FZ, passed on July 6 2016, [27] and the separate law N 375-FZ [28], regulating additional counter-terrorism and public safety measures, known together as the 'Yarovaya law', have resulted in the persecution of religious organizations. Over the years, among the most persecuted were followers of Christian denominations other than those of the Eastern Orthodox Church, as well as Muslims, who were neither seen inciting violence nor committing violence. Members of the Council for Human Rights [29] and human rights defenders [30] have repeatedly spoken out against restrictions on missionary activities and warned that the law violates the constitutional right of citizens to freedom of conscience and assembly.

In April 2017, the Russian Supreme Court declared Jehovah's Witnesses to be extremists and banned their activities in Russia. In 2019, Human Rights Watch estimated that at least 285 Jehovah's Witnesses had been convicted or were under investigation or on trial in Russia. As of May 2020, the Memorial Human Rights Centre has identified [31] 252 political prisoners persecuted for their religious beliefs.

Indigenous Peoples

The status of the 'Territory of Traditional Natural Resource Use' (TTNRU) has not yet been determined or enshrined in legislation.

The resources of these territories are of pivotal importance for the Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East. These territories are only marked on local maps and schema. Most of them are allocated on the left-over principle, while being reduced in favour of license holders for the industrial development of resources.

The state should guarantee the reconciliation of the interests of Indigenous Peoples with those of companies that exploit natural resources on the land of Indigenous Peoples, and should monitor and protect the environment in zones of industrial development, respecting the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). However, in recent years, significant efforts have been made in Russia to discourage the activities of advocates of Indigenous Peoples who are trying to prevent pollution in their places of residence. This includes the extensive use of administrative pressure, dismissals from work, negative media reports, threatening emails and messages via social media, attempts to prevent them from participating in international events, and on the other side, entry bans for foreign experts visiting Russia [32, 33]. Indigenous Peoples have to pursue their right to their traditional activities through the Public Prosecutor's Office and even the Constitutional Court [34]; it is not only their lands that have been seized, but also their fishing gear and extracted resources. Indigenous Peoples have suffered persecution, criminalization, intimidation and other violations of human rights [35]. Many environmental and Indigenous Peoples' organizations have been forced to cease or reduce their activities because they have been listed as foreign agents and their leaders have been subject to administrative or criminal prosecution by law enforcement agencies.

Children's Rights

Since 2019, the Russian Parliament has been discussing the universalization of the 'Dima Yakovlev Law' (Russian Federal Law No. 272-FZ of December 28 2012) [28]. It should be noted that Article 4 of the Law introduced a ban on the adoption of Russian children by US citizens. Article 6 provides for the extension of this instrument to other countries.

Experts believe that the law is discriminatory, and its possible extension is unacceptable and

24. Россия: Новая волна преследований геев в Чечне. 8 мая 2019 г. Сайт международной правозащитной организации Human Rights Watch. [hrw.org](https://www.hrw.org) (дата обращения: 08.03.2020).

25. Отчет по результатам качественного исследования насилия над лесбиянками, бисексуальными и трансгендерными женщинами на Северном Кавказе в Российской Федерации (2018). Неправительственная организация «Фонд имени Генриха Белля». globalphilanthropyproject.org (дата обращения: 09.04.2020).

Recommendations to the State

26. Количественные данные мониторинга дискриминации в отношении ЛГБТК+ людей (2020). Отчет Российской ЛГБТ-сети. lgbtnet.org (дата обращения: 09.04.2020).

27. «О внесении изменений в Федеральный закон «О противодействии терроризму» и отдельные законодательные акты Российской Федерации в части установления дополнительных мер противодействия терроризму и обеспечения общественной безопасности» (от 06.07.2016 N 374-ФЗ). Сайт компании «КонсультантПлюс». consultant.ru (дата обращения: 09.03.2020).

28. «О внесении изменений в Уголовный кодекс Российской Федерации и Уголовно-процессуальный кодекс Российской Федерации в части установления дополнительных мер противодействия терроризму и обеспечения общественной безопасности» (от 06.07.2016 N 375-ФЗ). Сайт компании «КонсультантПлюс». consultant.ru (дата обращения: 09.03.2020).

29. «Закон Яровой» предложили отделить от религии. 25 января 2017 г. Электронное периодическое издание «Ведомости». vedomosti.ru (дата обращения: 09.03.2020).

30. Заявление Постоянного комитета Форума свободной России против политических репрессий. 8 февраля 2019 г. Сайт Форума Свободной России. forumfreerussia.org (дата обращения: 09.03.2020).

infringes on the rights of orphans. Over the past seven years, the number of orphans in Russia adopted by foreigners has decreased by 9 times [29], while at the same time the number of real adoptions within the country continues to fall.

The falling number of orphans, by more than 35% (from 74,000 in 2012 to 47,000 in 2018), is caused by [30] the growth of custody allowance on the one hand and poor statistics on the

other. These statistics do not cover children in state care (i.e. 30% of the total number of orphans) nor those recently identified by Child Protective Services or orphans who have come of age.

According to the Arithmetic of Good Foundation, 80% of orphans are children with disabilities or those aged 10 and older. These children were mostly adopted by foreigners rather than Russians.

People with Disabilities

- Develop inclusive infrastructure standards for homes, social institutions, different types of public transport and urban spaces.
- Shift the system of health and medical assessment from the auspices of the Ministry of Labour to the health care system. Establish a centre for applied research on health and the medical assessment and rehabilitation of people with disabilities. Medical boards should be made responsible for diagnosing and assessing disabilities.
- Improve the transparency and efficiency of Employment Funds for people with disabilities, especially concerning the use of the resources of employers who could not allocate job offers to people with disabilities. Set a goal for companies to develop a mentoring system for employing people with disabilities.
- Retain disability allowances for those who enter the workforce, including retirees. Develop distance employment, training and retraining programmes for domain specialists and professions in high demand.
- Amend the National Healthcare Project with a section on preventing disabilities.

Migrants

- Create a state information system for the registration of migrants, whose users will be able to receive state services online and stay in Russia without limitation during education, treatment and other legal cases.
- Simplify the legalization programme for migrants from visa-free countries.

- Increase supervision over compliance with migrants' rights, especially in the areas of construction, housing and communal services.
- Organize awareness-raising campaigns to support migrants and improve their status among local communities.

LGBTQ+

- Conduct a federal investigation into the facts collected by human rights activists about the persecution of men suspected of homosexuality and bisexuality in Chechnya.
- Repeal the amendments to Article 5 of the 'gay propaganda law': Russian Federal Law 135-FZ of June 29 2013 'On the Protection of Children from Information Detrimental to their Health and Development' and other legislative acts of the Russian Federation.
- Monitor cases of violence and murders of members of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Cease blocking access to LGBTQ+ websites and groups, primarily the website of the 'Deti-404' Project ('Children-404'), which provides moral and psychological support to LGBTQ+ teenagers.

Religious Minorities

- End unjustified persecution of all religious minorities and release their members illegally convicted on extremism charges.
- Restore the constitutional right to freedom of assembly and religion for all Rus-



31. Список политзаключенных, преследуемых за религию. Правозащитный центр «Мемориал». memohrc.org (дата обращения: 27.05.2020).

32. Защитник прав народов Севера обвинил пограничников в порче паспорта. 24 сентября 2014. Электронное периодическое издание «Ведомости». vedomosti.ru (дата обращения: 09.04.2020)

33. «Нас просто выдавливают из страны...». 21 апреля 2018. Медиа-проект «Сибирь.Реалии». sibreal.org (дата обращения: 09.06.2020)

34. Конституционный Суд РФ провозгласил Постановление по делу о проверке конституционности положений статьи 19 ФЗ «Об охоте и о сохранении охотничьих ресурсов и о внесении изменений в отдельные законодательные акты РФ». 28 мая 2019. Сайт консалтинговой компании Arctic Consult. arctic-consult.com (дата обращения: 10.06.2020)

35. Отчет о нарушениях прав коренных народов России «Примеры давления, криминализации и других видов деятельности с целью предотвращения правозащитной активности коренных народов Российской Федерации». 9 сентября 2019. Сайт консалтинговой компании Arctic Consult. arctic-consult.com (дата обращения: 10.06.2020)

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

36. «О мерах воздействия на лиц, причастных к нарушениям основополагающих прав и свобод человека, прав и свобод граждан Российской Федерации» от 28.12.2012 N 272-ФЗ. Сайт компании «КонсультантПлюс». consultant.ru (дата обращения: 09.03.2020).

37. «Закон Димы Яковлева» могут дописать. Газета «Коммерсантъ» №219 от 28.11.2019. kommersant.ru (дата обращения: 09.03.2020).

38. Много проблем и мало решений: что изменилось спустя семь лет после «закона Димы Яковлева». 4 октября 2019 г. Блог-платформа TJ. tjournal.ru (дата обращения: 10.03.2020).

sians, regardless of their religious views and beliefs.

- Abolish laws restricting missionary activities.

Indigenous Peoples

- Improve the list of places of traditional residence and traditional economic activities of Indigenous Small-Numbered Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East, taking into account their real need to protect their traditional areas of residence and way of life, and to develop traditional fishing, hunting, herding, gathering and other traditional economic activities.
- Develop a state programme for the development and support of a nomadic lifestyle, including a state order for the products of traditional economic activities and commercial reindeer husbandry; providing credit mechanisms, preferential taxation, and price policy, stimulating the development of traditional industries.

- Pass a law on the regulation of ethnological expertise for strategic planning to assess the impact of industrial development of the territories and the environmental changes to Indigenous Peoples' lands, respecting the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

Children's Rights

- Repeal the 'Dima Yakovlev Law', first and foremost Articles 4 and 6.
- Revise the draft law establishing adoption quotas, mandatory psychological examinations for would-be foster parents and guardians, as well as members of their families; and the necessity of obtaining permission from Child Protective Services to change the place of residence. The revision process should involve the expert community.
- Strengthen measures to prevent social orphanhood, aimed at reducing unemployment, preschool fees and the shortage of preschool education, and fighting drug

- Promote the interests and support measures of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups (people with disabilities, migrants, LGBTQ+, religious minorities, Indigenous Peoples, etc.) in interactions with the government, institutional NGOs, international organizations, business and other actors.
- Raise the awareness of government, business and society with regard to inequality issues and their possible solutions using the best international practices as an example.
- Organize charitable and outreach events to support the most vulnerable groups (crowdfunding campaigns, concerts, flash mobs, races, exhibitions, special projects in the media, etc.).
- Monitor the government's efforts to reduce inequality and prepare recommendations to increase the openness and accountability of government bodies.

Chapter by

Alexander Titov, +1
(plus-one.ru)



11

Sustainable Cities and Communities: Human, Environment, Infrastructure

<i>National Plan and its Implementation</i>	2.33
<i>Participation of Regional and Local Authorities</i>	2.48
<i>Information Availability</i>	1.95
<i>Civil Society Participation</i>	2.05

Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. О внесении изменений в Федеральный закон «Об охране окружающей среды» и отдельные законодательные акты Российской Федерации в части создания лесопарковых зеленых поясов: Федеральный закон от 3 августа 2016 г. N 353-ФЗ // Собрание законодательства РФ. — 2016. — № 27 (часть II, 4 авг.). — С. 4286.

2. ОНФ подготовил рейтинг «зеленых щитов» России // ОНФ: сайт. 7 февраля 2019 года. onfr.ru (дата обращения: 15.04.2020).

Cities and other communities and their development are gradually being included in public and state agendas. Most of the targets relating to urban sustainability are fragmented through National Projects and development programmes at various levels of governance. At the federal level, the National Project 'Housing and Urban Environment' has been approved. Some of the targets of this Project are consistent with the goals of SDG 11 ('Sustainable Cities and Communities'), to provide access to safe and affordable housing, and create public spaces.

Many Russian cities have developed long-term strategies for social and economic development. Some of these strategies contain ideas for sustainable development.

A positive trend is the application of the international standards of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the International Telecommunication Union to 'smart' sustainable cities. In 2018, Moscow began cooperating with the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of key performance indicators for 'smart' sustainable cities, following the initiative 'United 4 Smart Sustainable Cities' (U4SSC). The 'Smart City' project is being implemented as a part of the Federal Program for the digitalization of the economy.

Steps are being taken to provide housing for the population: mortgage programs with state

support are being adopted, and dilapidated housing is being replaced.

The proportion of buildings certified by the BREEAM and LEED environmental standards is growing (mainly in commercial real estate). The practice of voluntary self-regulation in accordance with the principles of 'green' construction is gradually developing.

Public, expert, and professional communities come together to share experiences, find like-minded people, and develop solutions in various areas of urban development (for example, the Russian Green Building Council (RuGBC), the crowdsourcing platform 'Too City Leaders', and the National Initiative 'Living Cities').

Until 2017, an environmental rating of cities was conducted in Russia. The environmental component is now reflected in other independent ratings that are being developed: the quality of the urban environment, the quality of the living environment, the sustainability of urban development, etc.

Since 2017, Russia has been operating a new natural resources management regime — forest park green belts [1]. These are the natural borders of cities, including forests, rivers, coastlines, lakes, and ponds. Today, they exist in 41 regions [2].

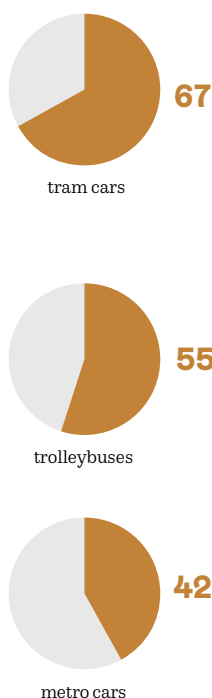
Major Problems and Challenges

3. Голикова заявила о сокращении населения малых городов на 1,5 млн человек // РБК: ежедн. интернет-изд., 4 июля 2019 года. rbc.ru (дата обращения: 26.04.2020).

4. Статистические показатели жилищных условий населения в 2018 г. // Федеральная служба государственной статистики: сайт. gks.ru (дата обращения: 15.04.2020).

5. Статистические показатели аварийного фонда на территории Российской Федерации // Фонд содействия реформированию ЖКХ: сайт. reformatkh.ru (дата обращения: 26.04.2020).

Figure 10. Urban public transport which is more than 25 years old, %



¹ Figure 10. Urban public transport which is more than 25 years old, %

The population of small cities in Russia has decreased by almost 1.5 million people over the past 15 years [3]. At the same time, the number of residents of large cities is growing, and the infrastructure of these cities is not ready for the scale of migration from small and medium-sized cities.

The provisions of federal strategic documents create conditions which exacerbate problems of regional inequality and population outflow. Features of individual territories are often ignored.

The country lacks full legislation for urban development activities. Russia's Town Planning Code is considered in the context of streamlining legislation in the field of construction, and not as a tool for 'subordinating' developers to the interests of territorial development and the requirements of 'green' standards.

The status of normative legal acts in the field of urban planning and land use is not fully defined. On the one hand, they are considered as a tool for improving the efficiency of the construction complex and protecting the interests of users of the territory; on the other hand, they are considered to be a source of administrative barriers.

Existing urban planning regulations allow for the development of territories in subdistricts with a high population density without high-quality transport and social infrastructure, with a shortage of public spaces and a lack of a full-fledged inclusive environment.

The aggregation of official statistics related to SDG 11 is undertaken either for the country as a whole, or for the constituent entities of Russia. Only a few indicators are defined by localities or by socio-demographic groups of households.

Providing Affordable Quality Housing and Public Transport

The population still does not have access to high-quality and affordable housing in Russia. According to data from 2018, only 67% of all accommodation space is equipped with a water supply, sewerage, heating, hot water, and gas. There is a significant difference in the quality of housing depending on the type of locality: 79% of all accommodation space in urban areas and only 34% in rural areas [4] are equipped with the necessary living conditions. This indicator has hardly changed since 2016.

According to data for 2020, more than one million people [5] in Russia live in dilapidated housing. The rate of relocation from such housing is decreasing. In 2018, 72,000 people were relocated; in 2017, it was 179,000, and in 2016, it was 169,000. [6] This situation is compounded by the fact that every year more buildings are recognized as unsuitable and dangerous to live in.

Many Russians live in cramped conditions. On average, there are 26.3 square meters per person [7], which is less than in many European countries, the USA and Canada. The rate of construction of residential buildings lags behind the rate of population growth [8].

Mortgage interest rates are gradually decreasing. This is a key factor in housing affordability for Russians. But in this area, more dynamism and a continuation of the positive trend is needed, despite the conditions of the 2020 economic crisis.

Urban public transport is rapidly becoming outdated. According to the Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), 67% of tram cars, 55% of trolleybuses, and 42% of metro cars are more than 25 years old.

There are significant barriers to access to the transport infrastructure for people with disabilities. Only a part of transport has conditions for barrier-free access [9].

Public e-mobility and bicycle infrastructure, which mitigate urban air pollution, are developing slowly. Bicycle infrastructure is often not included in the transport development system. Many cities experience a shortage of both public transport within walking distance and efficient route networks.

A High Level of Urban Pollution

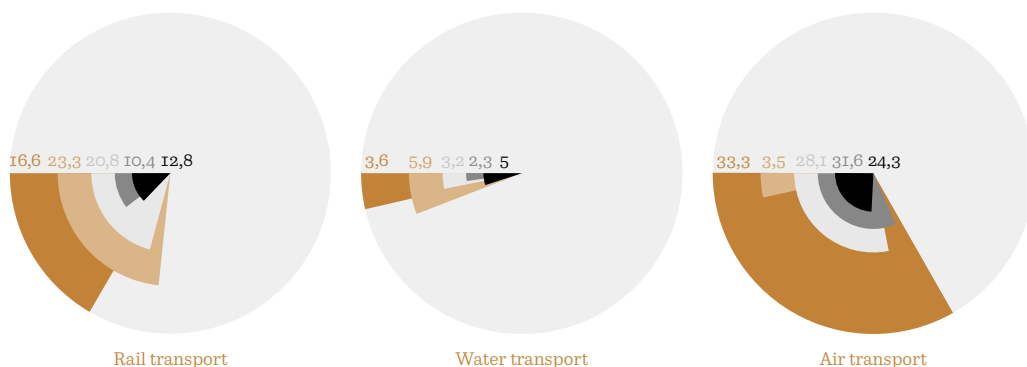
Only 24% of Russian cities remain favorable for living [10]. In 2018, 56 million people in 143 cities breathed polluted air (exceeding one parameter of the maximum permissible concentrations (MPC) of harmful substances), and in 37 cities (12.6 million people) the values for 10 MPC were exceeded [11]. In the same year, 62.3% of the country's residents were exposed to chemical, biological, or physical (sanitary) factors.

The amount of new sources of urban pollution is growing: sound, light, and electromagnetic, for example.



Figure 11. Conditions for barrier-free access, %

- Special technical accessibility equipment
- including for the visually impaired
- including for the hearing impaired
- including for people with motor disabilities
- sanitation facilities



6. Статистические показатели числа граждан, проживающих в аварийном жилищном фонде, переселенных в 2018, 2017, 2016 гг. // Единая межведомственная информационно-статистическая система (ЕМИСС): база официальной статистической информации. fedstat.ru (дата обращения: 15.04.2020).

7. Статистические показатели общей площади жилых помещений, приходящейся в среднем на одного жителя // Единая межведомственная информационно-статистическая система (ЕМИСС): база официальной статистической информации. Fedstat.ru (дата обращения: 25.06.2020).

8. Статистические показатели соотношения темпа ввода в действие жилых домов к темпу роста населения в 2018 г. // Единая межведомственная информационно-статистическая система (ЕМИСС): база официальной статистической информации. fedstat.ru (дата обращения: 07.04.2020).

9. Статистический сборник «Транспорт России» // Федеральная служба государственной статистики: gks.ru (дата обращения: 07.04.2020).

10. Среда для жизни почти 77% городов России признана неблагоприятной. 1 ноября 2019 года. РБК: ежеднев. интернет-изд. rbc.ru (дата обращения: 10.04.2020).

11. Государственный доклад «О состоянии и об охране окружающей

The growth dynamics of waste in production and consumption remain high. Russia's Garbage Reform, taking place with delays, is being implemented unevenly across the country, and is accompanied by protests against the new tariffs for garbage collection. An assessment of the quality of urban air, water, soil, etc. is mainly produced according to sanitary-hygienic indicators, which give only a conditional general picture of the state of the urban environment, without differentiation by city districts and natural systems. In addition, health standards are based on the impact on the human body, and do not take into account the impact on urban biota.

Preservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage in Cities

Since 2009, the 'French' model of monument protection has been operating in Russia, with greatest effort being aimed at preserving the most pre-eminent. In the case of Russia, this means monuments of federal significance.

In total, the Russian Unified Register of Cultural Heritage Objects contains 144,411 objects, among them 69,299 objects of federal significance: 54,233 monuments, 14,897 ensembles, and 169 places of interest [12].

At the same time, the powers to preserve them were transferred to the regions, along with subventions from the federal budget, which are significantly lacking. 20 regions indicated this in 2015 and 2016, while 23 did so in 2017 [13].

As a result, 35% of the monuments (more than 24 thousand objects) are in poor condition, including about 5,000 in critical condition, and 879 in ruins. The situation with monuments of regional and local importance is even worse. As for the conservation of natural heritage in cities, it is not possible to find generalized statistics on this. This is probably due to the fact that the management of the Green Fund has in fact been transferred to the municipal level. In Russia, there are several legal protective statuses for such territories: specially protected natural territories of local importance, or water protection zones, for example. In addition, 'green shields' are being formed around major cities, which in the future can incorporate all the environmental statuses of the city.

Urban Sustainability Agenda and Civil Participation

The SDG urban agenda is not reflected in the activities of local authorities. Municipal programmes for social and economic development do not contain specialized objectives for achieving SDG 11, but may overlap with regard to some targets. Local governments do not report on the achievement of the SDGs and do not participate in the collection of indicator data. At the same time, cities are gradually being included in initiatives and partnerships that meet the goals of SDG 11. For example, more than 100 settlements are part of the world organization 'United Cities and Local Governments', which is a partner of the UN in implementing the SDGs on the ground [14]. However, this practice cannot be considered sufficient.

среды Российской Федерации в 2018 году» // Министерство природных ресурсов и экологии РФ: сайт. gosdoklad-ecology.ru (дата обращения: 08.04.2020).

12. Бюллетень Счетной палаты РФ №6 (июнь) 2019 года // Счетная палата Российской Федерации: сайт. [C. 88. audit.gov.ru](http://C.88.audit.gov.ru) (дата обращения: 08.04.2020).

13. Бюллетень Счетной палаты РФ №6 (июнь) 2019 года // Счетная палата Российской Федерации: сайт. [C. 82-83. audit.gov.ru](http://C.82-83.audit.gov.ru) (дата обращения: 08.04.2020).

Participation by residents in the discussion of urban issues is low. This is probably due to the non-public nature of city development plans, the incomprehensibility of official documents for residents, and the lack of requirements for a mandatory consideration of citizens' opinions. In fact, all forms of participation are limited to those who have reached the age of majority, and do not allow teenagers to be included in discussions of urban development.

The lack of an effective format for public participation in urban development has led

to the fact that the most acute problems are caused by protest actions, since these are the only opportunities for residents to influence the decisions of the authorities.

Some cities are creating interactive services relating to various issues of urban life: filing appeals and complaints, conducting electronic surveys and collecting opinions. However, many users note the inefficiency of these services and talk about the possible manipulation of the results.

Civil Society Recommends

14. Евразийское региональное отделение всемирной организации «Объединенные города и местные власти»: сайт. euroasia-uclg.ru (дата обращения: 10.04.2020).

- Fully integrating SDG 11 and its targets into national policies and urban development strategies. Increasing the opportunities for local communities to participate in setting priorities and making decisions on urban development.
- Organizing professional development for managers at the regional, city and municipal levels in the field of sustainable development and sustainable urban development.
- Preserving and supporting small and medium-sized cities, ensuring their strategic development based on the potential of local communities.
- Developing and modernizing standards of quality, safety and accessibility of the urban environment in order to increase the social responsibility of developers.
- Applying the requirements of 'green' construction standards and ecological construction technology to the construction of real estate and social infrastructure facilities.
- Ensuring the fulfillment of the obligations of state bodies to collect, update, and provide open data for each Russian city on the platforms of the Russian Federal State Statistics Service and the Unified Interdepartmental Statistical Information System. Creating a unified system of collection and regularly updating this data. Creating a transparent and accountable decision-making system for urban development at all levels of government. Reporting on the achievement of the SDGs at the city level.
- Actively engaging the expert community and non-profit organizations (NGOs) to implement measures to achieve SDG 11.
- Increasing the availability of housing by reducing the waiting list for obtaining social housing, increasing the rate of relocation from dilapidated housing, and building housing rented from the state.
- Increasing investment in urban infrastructure, including through public-private partnerships.
- Improving the quality and safety requirements for public transportation and making information about them more accessible, including for persons with disabilities. Updating public transport using e-mobility. Including bicycle infrastructure in the development of the urban transport network.
- Using environmental monitoring parameters to assess the state of the environment. Developing a federal law on the protection and enforcement of green spaces, while establishing a special committee to manage green spaces.



- Providing for an increase in federal subventions for the protection of cultural heritage sites.
- Involving citizens (including minors) in decision-making concerning city devel-

opment and the implementation of city projects. Making use of the principles of 'partnership' and 'delegation of authority', instead of 'information' and 'consulting'.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

- Include SDG 11 in the strategy and agenda of its activities. Promote the objectives of SDG 11 through the media.
- Participate in the development of indicators for sustainable urban development. Collect and monitor data on achieving SDG 11.
- Develop the potential of local communities. Involve residents in identifying problems, defining development vectors, and developing and implementing urban development strategies.
- Conduct civil control of public transport services.
- Monitor the quality of the implementation of urban planning decisions. Monitor compliance with construction standards and regulations. Promote 'green' building standards (eco-development).
- Carry out systematic monitoring of the quality of the city environment. Expand the set of integral criteria for urban environment assessment through landscape and ecosystem parameterization.
- Conduct public campaigns for the preservation of cultural heritage sites.
- Involve NGOs, professional communities, and urban stakeholders in the development and formation of green spaces (including in the format of multi-faceted project management offices).
- Provide legal assistance in cases which violate a citizen's right to a favorable urban environment, the right to housing, and other rights implemented at the city level.

Chapter by

Maxim Cherepanov, Maria
Oborina, Denis Samoylov —
GRANY Center

Irina Shmeleva — ANO
Institute of Sustainable
Development Strategy, ITMO
University Institute of Design
& Urban Studies



12

Transition to Sustainable Production and Consumption: Potential and Obstacles

<i>National Plan and its Implementation</i>	2.27
<i>Participation of Regional and Local Authorities</i>	2.33
<i>Information Availability</i>	1.73
<i>Information Availability</i>	2.22

Trends and Advances since Early 2016

Recently, activities aimed at achieving SDG 12 ('Sustainable consumption and production') have increased. The state is adopting a number of measures and documents to move towards more rational models of production and waste management.

In 2014, federal legislation enshrined the need to use the best available technologies (BAT) and follow the priorities of state policy in the field of waste management. Priority was given to maximizing the use of raw materials, preventing and reducing waste generation, and waste recycling before disposal and incineration. In 2019, the Federal Project 'Comprehensive System of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management' was launched as part of the 'Ecology' National Project. A number of major retailers have intro-

duced plastic bag fees since 2017. They offer customers a reusable bag and give them the opportunity to make purchases with their own bag.

Non-financial reporting and corporate social responsibility tools are being developed in the commercial sector. By mid-2019, 176 companies were registered in the National Register of Non-Financial Reports created by the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and 924 reports were registered. A set for environmental certification is being developed. The national Type I Vitality Leaf ecolabel is becoming increasingly popular, serving as a goods safety marker throughout an entire life cycle, from raw materials to package recycling. At the beginning of 2020, 209 products and one service had the Vitality Leaf ecolabel.

Major Problems and Challenges

The crucial problem is that many of the aforementioned plans and initiatives are not being adhered to by the state. The dominance of the raw materials export model of development, together with the insufficient development of the manufacturing industry and non-resource sectors of the economy, hinders the progress in attaining SDG 12.

г. Проект энергетической стратегии Российской Федерации на период до 2035 года (2019).
mineenergy.gov.ru

The Resource Economy of Russia

The share of fossil fuel in the energy balance of Russia consistently accounts for approximately 85% [1], and the hydrocarbon-based energy industry has traditionally had the strongest support in the form of direct and hidden subsidies, both at the stage of energy production and at its consumption. In 2017, direct subsidies at the production stage amounted to approximately 0.44 trillion rubles (about 2.5% of federal budget expenditure).

Oil companies avoiding full financial responsibility for environmental pollution resulting from oil spills, subsidies for coal transportation by rail, and other similar cases do in fact serve as hidden additional funding for the industry. At the stage of energy consumption, subsidies amounted to about 1.21 billion rubles in 2018.

A negative trend is tax incentives for oil production and other benefits for investors planning to implement new oil production projects in the Arctic territories.

In addition, funds for the development of wind power generators and small hydroelectric power stations were transferred to five incinerators with energy recovery through a Capacity Supply Agreement.

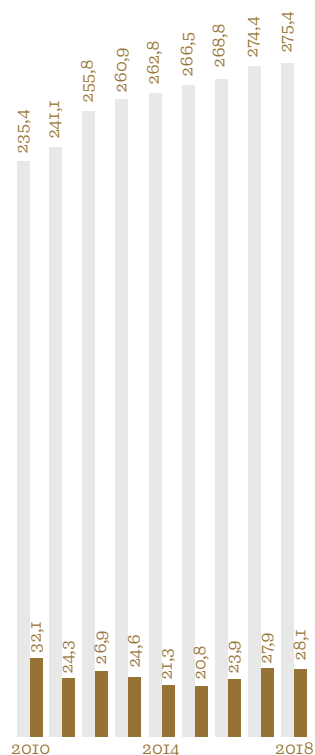
Waste Reduction and Recycling

In the field of municipal solid waste management, no practical measures are being taken to implement state policy priorities for the reuse of waste, and the reduction and prevention of waste generation at the federal or regional levels (there are implementation mechanisms or targets). Instead, the development of the incineration industry (including a feed-in tariff) is being actively lobbied for by the state, while the industry itself is far from being the highest priority in law. Construction of at least 30 incinerators is already planned. The next stage of waste reform, which started in early 2019, has not yet brought about the necessary results. There are examples of the destruction of efficient infrastructure for separate waste collection during the implementation of the reform.

In terms of waste management, the 'Ecology' National Project does not contain targets to reduce and prevent waste generation, nor for its separate collection. It only provides for the construction of facilities for the sorting and processing of mixed MSW. In this form, the 'Ecology' National Project violates the main direction of state policy in the field of waste management and leads to inefficient spending of budget funds.

The adoption of amendments to the Federal Law No. 89-FZ on industrial and consumer waste at the end of 2019 equates waste incineration with recycling (so-called waste-to-energy). The risk is that these amendments encourage the incineration of the waste remaining after sorting at environmentally hazardous enterprises, producing expensive energy and increasing greenhouse gas emissions. In such conditions, the level of material recycling - when new goods are produced from waste - will not grow. The prevention of waste generation will not become a priority, and the level of social tension will continue to grow rapidly as a result of this equivocation. Today, Russian citizens already protest against the appearance of any waste management facilities in their regions due to a distrust of the actions of the authorities. In general, there is a widespread consensus among society that the waste reform has failed, as well as a high level of distrust of the new waste management system, further exacerbated by a lack of transparency and communication.

Little attention is paid to the elimination of accumulated environmental damage and the disposal of hazardous waste, most of which is industrial waste. Every year, the country gen-

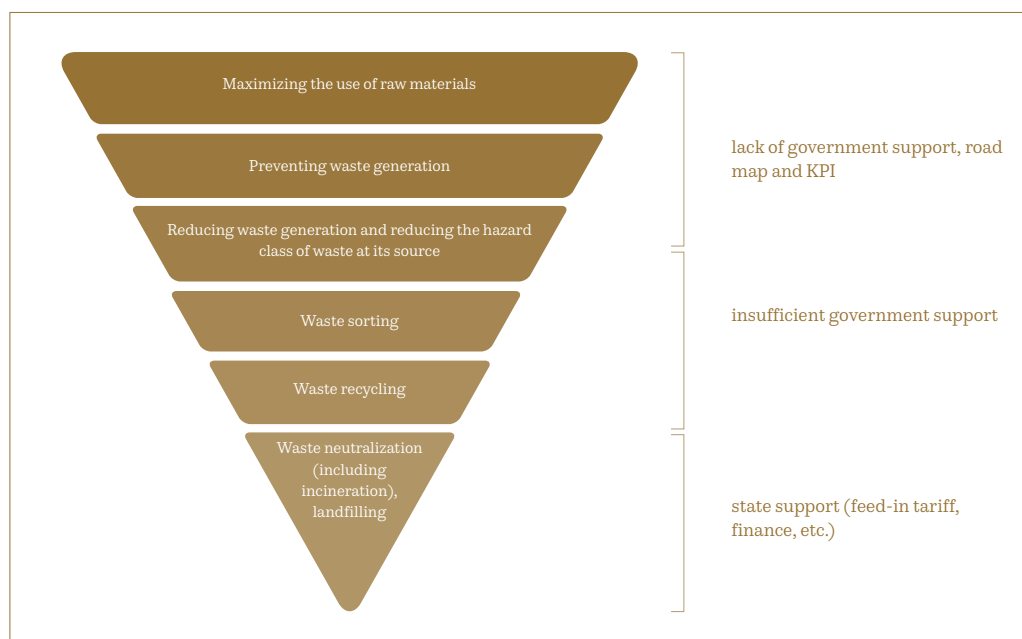


Dynamics of MSW utilization in Russia (mln m³)

● Total amount
● incl. to waste treatment plants



Figure 13. Main directions of state policy in the field of waste management as prioritized



2. Блоков И.П., Таргулян О.Ю., Усов Е.И. Накопленный вред окружающей среде: разрушение здоровья и бюджетов. Доклад Greenpeace, 2020. greenpeace.ru

erates about 100 million tons of hazardous waste, while 40 to 100 billion tons have already been accumulated [2]. A significant part of such waste is not treated or disposed of because this area is poorly regulated by law, and the enterprises responsible for waste generation avoid responsibility for waste disposal.

Green procurement and sustainable tourism

The main obstacle to the spread of green public procurement is the lack of legal regulation that makes it mandatory. A serious obstacle is the lack of a single list of characteristics that allows for a clear definition of the 'sustainability' of certain solutions, as well as a lack of relevant knowledge among staff.

An obstacle to the development of sustainable tourism is the lack of support for objects and subjects of small and medium-sized enterprises in this field, and for functioning models of interaction between authorities and local residents in order to create effective economic mechanisms for development in accordance with the targets of sustainable production and consumption, increasing the income of local communities while reducing the environmental damage. In particular, Russia's specially protected natural areas (SPNA) face financial, infrastructural, and personnel difficulties when trying to organize separate waste collection.

Recommendations to the State

Russia needs to radically change the country's raw materials export model of development in order to transition to a post-industrial society and benefit human and intellectual capital.

To achieve significant results in the implementation of SDG 12, the main focus should be on:

- The development of the manufacturing industry, including modern, highly efficient production facilities.
- The rational use of primary and secondary resources.
- The development of efficient and clean technologies, and institutions of eco-certification and eco-labeling.
- Increasing energy and resource efficiency, minimizing waste generation, and increasing the responsibility of industrial companies to mitigate the cumulative damage caused.

To achieve this, the state authorities are recommended to:

- Ensure the development and implementation of programmes and activities that will reduce food loss.
- Create favorable conditions for the creation and operation of food banks.
- Make appropriate amendments to the legal acts prohibiting the burial and destruction of food fit for consumption.
- Develop a set of measures, including financial ones, to encourage the prevention and reduction of waste generation and establish waste reuse as the highest priority method of waste management in accordance with Item 2 of Article 3 of Federal Law No. 89-FZ, including R&D in the relevant areas.
- Stop state support for waste incineration and redirect it to the creation of infrastructure for waste prevention and recycling.
- Take comprehensive measures to develop a system for the separate collection of hazardous waste and food waste produced by the population and legal entities in all regions of Russia, providing the population of the regions with the necessary infrastructure and setting regional targets to increase recycling.

- Review the technical regulations of the Customs Union in order to create conditions for the implementation of the highest priorities of state policy in the field of waste management, including increasing the service life of durable goods (CU TR 'On package safety', 'On safety of toys', 'On safety of motor vehicles', etc.).
- Introduce a ban on the use of non-recyclable and hard-to-recycle containers and packaging, and replace them with reusable or easy-to-recycle alternatives.
- Introduce a requirement to increase the service life of durable goods in order to achieve targets for the reduction of waste generation.
- Oblige commercial (including the FMCG sector and retail chains) and state-owned companies to disclose and publish information concerning the rational use of resources, including waste generation and plastic pollution, and to publish goals, action plans and indicators concerning sustainable production methods (including the reduction and prevention of waste generation).
- Improve legislation in order to prevent manufacturing companies from abandoning their responsibility to eliminate the damage caused (as is happening at the moment). This requires amendments that would prevent abandoning accumulated waste while organizing or liquidating the company. Ensure the provision of financial reserves for the removal of cumulative damage at the stage of enterprise design. Establish a system of environmental insurance and other financial leverages for the elimination of cumulative damage. Strengthen the liability of individuals and legal entities for the failure to meet the requirements for cumulative damage mitigation.
- Ensure that all innovations in waste management are reported through the media at the national and/or regional levels.

To implement sustainable public procurement practices, it is recommended to ensure:

- Political commitments, goals, a national action plan for the implementation of green public procurement (GPP), stronger



legal regulation, a requirement for the mandatory inclusion of environmental criteria in public procurement (in particular, the priority of products with recyclable materials), monitoring and evaluation of compliance with the GPP rules/legal acts.

- The availability of developed environmental criteria and specifications.

It is necessary to ensure large-scale mass information and education of Russian residents of all ages about sustainable development, a lifestyle in harmony with nature, sustainable consumption and waste management through social advertising, educational campaigns, the media, the Internet and any other available tools and channels.

For the development of sustainable tourism, it is recommended to:

- Make it mandatory for civil society to discuss the targets set in the Tourism Development Strategy, and involve the non-profit sector in achieving them (according to the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 398 of 08.08.2016).
- Establish principles of social and environmental responsibility in the field of tourism and related activities.
- Establish an investment tax deduction in the field of sustainable consumption and in the field of sustainable tourism in cases of interaction with NGOs.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

Civil society organizations have extensive experience in the successful implementation of practical projects and initiatives, as well as tools, techniques, and expertise for almost all SDG 12 targets.

The main recommendations for civil society are the following:

- Develop an institution of public environmental control and projects for independent assessment and monitoring of the state of the environment.
- Replicate and scale successful projects and effective methods for SDG 12 implementation as well as develop cooperation with business, media, and authorities to solve problems in the public interest at the national level.
- Launch new programmes, projects and initiatives that contribute to the development of ecological education and improve the environmental culture of Russians as well as advance the implementation of circular economy principles, the zero waste concept, and the development of environmentally sustainable tourism.
- Create and develop coalitions and alliances between civil society organizations in order to implement the SDG 12 targets.
- Expand the global partnership network for SDG 12 and participate in the work of international associations and coalitions to achieve SDG 12.

Chapter by

Tatyana Chestina —
Interregional Environmental
Non-Governmental
Organization ECA

Antonina Evteshina —
Greenpeace Russia



13

Climate Change in Russia: the Importance of the Issue is Growing



Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. Доклад о климатических рисках на территории РФ, Климатический центр Росгидромета. Санкт-Петербург, 2017. 106 с. (дата обращения: 26.04.2020).

2. Названы две главные опасности для России от изменения климата. 10 марта 2020. РИА Новости (дата обращения: 26.04.2020).

In September 2019, Russia joined [1] the Paris Agreement, becoming a fully-fledged participant. In January 2020, the government adopted the National Action Plan for the First Phase of Adaptation to Climate Change for the period up to 2022 [2].

In early April 2020, a new draft bill on state regulation of greenhouse gas emissions and absorption was submitted to the government.

In mid-March 2020, the Ministry of Economic Development presented the Long-term Low Carbon Development Strategy until 2050, to be reviewed by the ministries and industry [3]. The draft strategy aims, by 2030, to reduce Russia's emissions by 33% compared to the levels in 1990, including the land use and forestry sectors (LULUCF). In the near future, it will be legislated and submitted to the UNFCCC by Russia as a party to the Paris Agreement. The latest figures from 2017 show that Russia's emissions have fallen by 32% compared to the 1990 levels, excluding land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF), and by 49% when LULUCF is taken into account.

Several Russian regions have been monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions or developing adaptation strategies to climate change for many years (Moscow, St. Petersburg, the Russian part of the Barents Region, the Kaluga Region, the Sverdlovsk Region and others). Moscow was the only Russian city to join the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. Russia's capital had already hosted three Climate Forums of Cities [4] which addressed emission reduction and adaptation to climate change at the subnational level. Established in 2015, the Climate Partnership of Russia brings together businesses concerned about climate change and climate regulation mechanisms. They consolidate their efforts in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change is the topic of the day in Russia. Universities are amending their syllabi, non-government organisations (NGOs) conduct outreach and awareness-raising activities, and develop educational programmes and climate plans for schools. Media outlets, as well as new

3. Постановление Правительства России от 21 сентября 2019 года № 1228 (дата обращения: 26.04.2020).

media represented by bloggers and social networks, bring this matter to people's attention. The number of public initiatives, movements and organisations facilitating awareness of this topic keeps growing.

A national survey entitled 'Attitudes of the Population to Climate Change, Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Conservation', conducted by ROMIR in November 2019, showed that 76% of respondents notice climate change. 35% recognize climate change as a real threat, and 56% admit that climate change is caused, among other things, by human activities. 55% say that climate change increases the frequency, duration and intensity of weather-related hazards, and 48% mention the burning of coal, oil and gas as the cause of climate change.

Major Problems and Challenges

Adaptation to Natural Hazards

The Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet) estimates [6] that the level of global warming in Russia is 2.5 times the global average. From 1976 to 2016, average temperatures rose by 0.45 °C every 10 years. Between 1990 and 2000, Roshydromet reports, Russia annually recorded between 150 and 200 extreme weather events that caused damage. In the succeeding years, their number increased to 250-300 annually, and since 2007, the average number of high-impact weather events has exceeded 400 once every two years. Over the past two decades, they have been more violent and destructive than ever.

Russian scientists predict that the damage to the Russian economy caused by the permafrost melting will amount to 8.5% of GDP by 2050 [7]. "Russian research on the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the country's economy through to 2030 forecast an average annual GDP decline of 1-2%. At the same time, in some territories this indicator could be significantly higher and reach up to 4-5% of regional GDP" [8].

Russia has taken her first steps in the direction of adaptation. For example, under the approved National Action Plan for the First Phase of Adaptation to Climate Change for the period up to 2022, the country will develop regional and sectoral adaptation plans (including a risk assessment analysis and a review of needs).

Climate Mitigation Strategies

'A just transition' is a topical issue in Russia. This involves the adaptation of certain regions whose economies are based on the extraction of fossil fuels towards the changing global energy landscape.

The introduction of a socially-oriented 'carbon price' would contribute to a more equitable distribution of revenues from the energy sector, including those directed towards the social and economic development of local communities and environmental protection.

It is also of utmost importance for the Russian Federation to align her climate policy priorities and objectives with other plans and strategies for social and economic development, including the energy sector, agriculture and forestry, healthcare, transport and construction. It is also vital to develop long-term strategies for the substitution of fossil fuels at both the national and regional levels. Finally, the key issue for Russia as the world's largest producer and exporter of fossil fuels is reducing the dependence of the country's economy on the



4. Проект Стратегии долгосрочно-го развития Российской Федерации с низким уровнем выбросов парниковых газов до 2050 года (дата обращения: 26.04.2020).

5. Распоряжение от 25 декабря 2019 года № 3183-р (дата обращения: 26.04.2020).

6. Риска потерять до 2% ВВП из-за изменения климата, Россия планирует развивать «зеленую» экономику // Мосты. Аналитика и новости о торговле и устойчивом развитии, 03.07.2015 (дата обращения: 26.04.2020).

7. Российское партнерство за сохранение климата (дата обращения: 26.04.2020)

8. III Климатический форум городов, Москва, 4–5 сентября 2019 года (дата обращения: 26.04.2020).

extraction and export of coal, oil and natural gas. In particular, the decarbonisation of other countries' economies (as required by the nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement and domestic carbon mitigation measures) may also threaten the future of the Russian economy, the welfare of its citizens and prospects for the sustainable development of extractive regions.

Climate Change Awareness-Raising

There are still very few public awareness programmes on climate change implemented at the state level in the Russian Federation. The compulsory school curriculum lacks topics relating to climate change. Courses on the physical basis of climate change and on response actions, and mitigation and adaptation measures are optional in specialised secondary educational institutions and universities for students who are not majoring in climate studies.

Given the global scale of the problem, support for the development and implementation of educational programmes (including public engagement) on climate change is proposed for educational institutions at different levels. Support for educational programmes for specialists in various spheres is also proposed, including public authorities, the municipal administration and the housing and utilities sector.

Some media outlets deny that climate change poses a problem, which is why representatives of civil society suggest establishing a dialogue with new media representatives, and conducting educational training on climate issues for journalists and bloggers.

International Cooperation

The Russian Federation makes voluntary contributions to the Green Climate Fund. In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, Russia supports disaster resilience projects to develop early warning systems, address post-disaster recovery efforts, and increase adaptation opportunities for Pacific Small Island Developing States.

The Russian public calls on the government to increase its assistance to developing countries on climate-related issues, including educational, scientific and technical cooperation. Establishing an effective 'citizen diplomacy' is proposed with regard to climate mitigation, climate change adaptation, and raising awareness of the problem.

Recommendations to the State:

- Revise the 2030 emission reduction target and adopt a more ambitious target, excluding LULUCF. Adopt a separate target for carbon sequestration through forest ecosystems and wetlands. Keep a record of forests, unmanaged and unaccounted for (on agricultural land, urban forests, etc. - more than 60 million hectares).
- Increase the ambition of the National Long-term Low Carbon Development Strategy up to 2050 by selecting 1.5°C as the benchmark.
- Pass the federal law 'On state regulation of greenhouse gas emissions' which encourages robust action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the early introduction of a mandatory emission monitoring and reporting system for companies and the regions, and the later introduction of a carbon tax.

- Devise and adopt a set of rules and regulations for establishing and implementing climate plans, including both low-carbon development and adaptation in the regions of the Russian Federation and municipalities. Arrange regional working groups with community participation to elaborate and implement adaptation plans.
- Support environmental insurance programmes, including those concerned with the adverse impact of climate change.
- Ban large infrastructure construction projects in permafrost regions, the operation of which will lead to changes in the permafrost regime or will cause significant greenhouse gas emissions. Prohibit the location of such sites on or in close proximity to particularly valuable and vulnerable natural areas, as well as territories connected with the traditional natural resource use of Indigenous Peoples.
- Initiate a National Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (for each region), and regional and municipal inventories (for each company and enterprise).
- Support research institutions in conducting climate change research.
- The country should not only aspire to make certain enterprises climate-friendly and green but to 'ecologize' the economy and lifestyles of residents of Russia.
- It is necessary to introduce decision-making mechanisms that would accommodate the opinions of all stakeholders in the Russian Federation. This should cover:
 - the overall energy development strategy in Russia,
 - the implementation and evaluation of climate change adaptation programmes,
 - monitoring of the energy sector's social and environmental impact,
 - the execution of compensation and rehabilitation measures, and the planning, operation and decommissioning of power facilities,
 - allowing civil activists to hold demonstrations, marches and protests to draw public attention to the climate crisis.
- Facilitate climate-related education, and awareness-raising formal and informal educational programs on the impact of climate change. Draw public attention to climate change through a fair portrayal of the issue in state-controlled media. Foster climate education programmes, and incorporate them into educational curricula and standards.
- Design a state programme to assist the groups who are most vulnerable to climate change, with a focus on the Arctic region and the Indigenous Peoples of the North. Work on the climate-change adaptation of regions, with a particular interest in the needs of low-income groups and those living in high-risk areas.



How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

Civil society can and should help the state to achieve SDG 13.

We suggest the following forms of participation:

- Participation of grassroots groups (registered public associations, non-registered initiatives, representatives of Indigenous Peoples, youth, etc.) in outlining priorities, implementing and monitoring climate policy, including the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptation and emergency response measures.
- Public monitoring of the impact of climate change at the local level. Engagement of civil society representatives in drafting expert reviews and recommendations.
- Launching educational and awareness-raising programmes on climate change for different groups of people through cooperation with NGOs. Collaboration with the state education system in order to include this component in educational programmes.
- Promotion of a climate-friendly low-carbon lifestyle (energy-efficient, energy-saving, consumer choice) at personal and local levels.
- Strengthening the cooperation between the civil society representatives of the Russian Federation and other countries on international climate issues. Exploring and disseminating the best practices and lessons learned from other countries and communities.

Chapter by

Angelina Davydova — Office
of Environmental Information



14

Russia's Role in Preserving the World Ocean and its Inhabitants



Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. В центральной части Арктики запретили ловить рыбу. 4 октября 2018. «Гринпис» в России.

2. Международный кодекс для судов, эксплуатирующийся в полярных водах (Полярный кодекс)

3. АНТКОМ создаст самый большой морской охраняемый район в мире. 28 октября 2016. Комиссия по сохранению морских живых ресурсов Антарктики.

The 'Ecology' National Project covers areas crucial for the achievement of SDG 14 ('Life Below Water'), e.g. effective waste management in the manufacturing and consumer sectors, a reduction of air pollution in large industrial centres, and the environmental rehabilitation of water bodies.

Russia is actively working at the international level to implement SDG 14. In 2018, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and the United States decided not to start commercial fishing in the central Arctic Ocean (CAO). The treaty is expected to be valid for 16 years. According to the document, an area of the central Arctic high seas, about 2.8 million square kilometers, will be protected (comparable to the area of the Mediterranean Sea). The treaty was introduced as a preventative measure; there is currently no commercial fishing taking place in the central Arctic Ocean [1]

The International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code) came into effect in 2017. The Code also applies to Russian vessels. The Polar Code is intended not only to improve navigation safety but also to seriously reduce the environmental footprint in remote and vulnerable polar areas [2].

In 2016, under the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CAMLR Convention), Russia agreed on the creation of the world's largest marine protected area, in the Ross Sea off Antarctica, to protect its unique ecosystem [3, 4].

Russia is also a party to the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), adopted in 2016, aiming to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. It prevents vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches [5].

Since 2016, it has been prohibited to harvest Pacific salmon and trout with drift nets or the so-called 'death nets', which are about 30 meters wide and up to 12 meters high. The nets hindered the migratory patterns of tuna, salmon, whales and other migratory animals. Fry, which passed through the drift nets, died from their injuries [6].

Among the positive developments, it should be noted that Russia will expand the natural protected areas and aquatic protected areas in Arctic territorial waters [7].

The number of scientific expeditions conducted in seas of Russia and key areas of the World Ocean has substantially increased [8].

The public outcry and pressure from media outlets led to the release of ailing beluga whales and orcas from the 'Whale Jail'. The latter was listed in the Red Book of Russia [9].

Moreover, the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service (Rosprirodnadzor) has not adopted catch quotas for marine mammals [10] applied in oceanariums and dolphinariums.

Passed in late 2018, the 'Law on Responsible Treatment of Animals' banned mobile dolphinariums [11].

Major Problems and Challenges

4. Керри поблагодарил РФ за создание крупнейшего морского заповедника в море Росса. 12 ноября 2016.

5. Деятельность ФАО по достижению ЦУР 14. Сохранение здоровья океанов для обеспечения продовольственной безопасности, питания и жизнеспособности общин // ФАО.

6. Доклад о человеческом развитии в Российской Федерации. Цели устойчивого развития ООН и Россия // Аналитический центр при Правительстве Российской Федерации.

7. Минприроды: площадь особо охраняемых природных территорий в Арктике будет увеличиваться. 29 марта 2017. Сайт информационного агентства ТАСС.

8. Добровольный национальный обзор об осуществлении Повестки дня в области устойчивого развития на период до 2030 года // Аналитический центр при Правительстве Российской Федерации.

National projects do not address SDG 14 directly; it is only implicitly affected through the 'Ecology' National Project. The 'Executive Order on National Goals and Strategic Objectives of the Russian Federation through to 2024' does not include measures to improve the environmental sustainability of marine natural resource use among its top priorities [12]. Marine resource use in Russia is managed in accordance with an industry-based approach, which envisions each market participant as seeking maximum profit and does not take into account either the ecosystem or possible risks associated with loss or damage to marine ecosystems [13]. With the increasing anthropogenic impact from the oil and gas sector, navigation, fishing, and tourism, the conservation of the most valuable and vulnerable aquatic areas, the protection of biodiversity and marine ecosystems are of pivotal importance. The functions of state marine activity management in Russia are distributed among a number of ministries, and none of them considers conservation and the rational use of oceans, seas and marine resources to be a priority [14].

Marine Pollution in Russia

The main pollutants of water bodies in Russia are phenols, oil products, different metal compounds (iron, copper, zinc, magnesium, aluminum and manganese), sulfates, chlorides and methanol. Contamination with nickel, cadmium, lignosulfonates, fluorides and dithiophosphates has also been detected. Water pollution statistics show that the Threshold Limit Value (TLV) of these substances exceeds the norm by 10-30 times [15].

Many plants use outdated treatment facilities that cannot cope with the amount of waste water. Oil production, as well as radioactive waste disposal, poses additional threats.

A dangerous radioactive situation occurred at the nuclear test site in the Kara and Barents Seas, where many containers, 17 reactors, several nuclear submarines and a three reactor compartment from the Lenin icebreaker were decommissioned [16].

Scientists have also detected that the Russian Barents Sea is polluted with microplastics. Samples taken in the vicinity of Spitsbergen showed 10,000 particles per square kilometer against 1,000,000 particles near Novaya Zemlya. For comparison, in the subtropical areas of the World Ocean, where gyres form entire islands of microplastics, the concentration has reached 1,300,000 particles per square kilometer. This means that the concentrations in the Barents Sea are comparable to the most polluted territories on the planet [17].

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

The problem of IUU fishing is most acute in the Russian Far East. Statistics from the border authorities confirm that in 2014, 77 Russian and foreign vessels were apprehended in Russian territorial waters for violating fishery regulations and the conservation of aquatic bioresources, 72 of which were seized in the far-eastern fishing region. In 2014, 2,541 thousand tons of aquat-



9. Команда Кусто поблагодарила Дмитрия Кобылкина и Правительство России за включение плотоядной косатки в Красную Книгу РФ. 20 апреля 2020. Минприроды России.

10. Росприроднадзор не одобрил квоту на вылов дельфинов и белух. 28 сентября 2019. Сетевое издание «Сахалин и Курилы»

11. Федеральный закон от 27 декабря 2018 г. № 498-ФЗ «Об ответственном обращении с животными и о внесении изменений в отдельные законодательные акты Российской Федерации»

12. Kolmar O., Sakharov A. (2019) Prospects of Implementation of the UN SDG in Russia. *International Organizations Research Journal*, vol. 14, no 1, pp. 189–206 (in English)

13. Доклад о человеческом развитии в Российской Федерации. Цели устойчивого развития ООН и Россия // Аналитический центр при Правительстве Российской Федерации.

14. Распоряжение Правительства РФ от 30 августа 2019 г. № 1930-р «О Стратегии развития морской деятельности РФ до 2030 года»

15. Статистика загрязнения вод.

16. Захоронение РАО и ОЯТ в морях 30 августа 2002. Беллона. 17. Замусоренность Баренцева моря оказалась сравнима с самыми загрязненными акваториями Земли. 6 марта 2020. Сайт информационного агентства ТАСС.

17. Замусоренность Баренцева моря оказалась сравнима с самыми загрязненными акваториями Земли. 6 марта 2020. Сайт информационного агентства ТАСС. nauka.tass.ru

18. Проблема незаконного, несообщаемого, нерегулируемого (ННН) промысла водных биоресурсов в России // Политическое образование.

ic biological resources (ABR) were seized from illegal traffic in fishing areas, Russian ports, and during coastal fishing inspection raids (including on fishing sites) with 2,417 thousand tons (95%) removed in the Pacific region (in 2013, 91%, and in 2012, 76%). Of the 344 criminal cases filed in 2014 under Article 256 of the Criminal Code 'Illegal Extraction (Catch) of Aquatic Biological Resources' and Article 253 'Violation of the Legislation of the Russian Federation on the Continental Shelf and the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation', 185 cases were initiated in the Pacific region [18]. Since 2013, a large number of poaching ships from North Korea have invaded Russian territorial waters in the Far East (exclusive economic zone) [19].

Generally speaking, Russia loses up to \$1 billion a year due to illegal seafood fishing [20]. The stocks of red king crab, cod, halibut and others in certain basins of the Russian zone have been disrupted [21].

Another problem is the catching of marine mammals for 'entertainment' purposes, i.e. for circus shows, oceanariums, etc. Not a single government body exercises control over the process of catching and transporting marine mammals.

Invasive Species

Biological invasions caused by human impact are a global environmental problem and pose a serious threat to Russia's environmental security. The alien invasion of the red king crab in the Barents Sea serves as a striking example. As an omnivore, the red king crab effectively destroys local species by preying on shellfish, echinoderms (sea urchins), and large mussels. This gives rise to concerns from environmental organizations. A growing population of red king crab is ruining the local flora and fauna of the Barents Sea at an astonishing rate. The crab damages fishing gear, which hinders fishing [22].

Sensitive Data and Cooperation

Russia operates a Unified State System of Information on the Situation in the World Ocean (ESIMO). Although the ESIMO is operated by 20 data centers, it is difficult to find objective information on the current state of affairs.

According to the recommendations of international experts, by 2030, 30% of the world's oceans should become marine protected areas, and the remaining 70% should be managed on the basis of an effective and sustainable approach. The World Ocean constitute 71% of the planet's surface. 45% consists of high seas, a part of the World Ocean that is outside the jurisdiction of the coastal nations. This is why the SDG 14 targets can only be partially achieved within national jurisdictions, while most efforts should be focused on the global arena.

However, achieving SDG 14 involves many different stakeholders, ranging from national governments to multinational corporations, local and international NGOs, small communities, and many others. It is quite challenging to make all these stakeholders work together at the right time and place in order to address the complex issues of ocean warming and acidification, overfishing, tackling pollution, and establishing an international network of MPAs that would ensure the rehabilitation of marine ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity [23].

Recommendations to the State

19. *Exclusive: Investigating how North Korean fishermen plunder foreign waters.*

20. *ННН-промысел на Дальнем Востоке сократился, но не прекратился. 7 октября 2016. Остановим кривую мафию.*

21. *Роль Российской Федерации в борьбе с ННН промыслом. ВНИРО.*

22. *Камчатский краб [Электронный ресурс]. - Режим доступа: sevin.ru (дата обращения: 30.04.2020).*

23. *Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water // Ocean Unite.*

To attain SDG 14, it is necessary to designate or establish a government body and/or department for the conservation and sustainable management of oceans, seas and marine resources that would bring together many different stakeholders and reach compromises.

To meet SDG 14, it is also crucial for Russia's Maritime Strategy until 2030 to focus on issues of the conservation of oceans and seas within the territorial waters of Russia and in the open ocean [24].

To mitigate and prevent marine pollution, it is necessary to:

- Fulfil the commitments of the 'Ecology' National Project.
- Ban microplastics in all types of goods.
- Treat wastewater to retain microplastics.
- Take measures to clear the rivers of garbage and ensure the seas are not polluted afterwards..
- Strictly monitor waste and sewage management in all means of water transport, both in the territorial waters of Russia and in the open ocean.
- Ensure a consistent switch to industrial, agricultural and domestic applications in green chemistry.
- Fulfil the Paris Climate Agreement commitments to prevent ocean acidification.
- Develop voluntary certification schemes for fisheries.
- Improve the national system for monitoring the legal origin of goods.
- Ensure the collection and disposal of marine debris and discarded fishing gear.
- Support the establishment of a network of marine natural parks and marine protected areas, both within the territorial waters of Russia and on the high seas. Ensure that, by 2030, 30% of the world's oceans and, in the near future, 35% of the Southern Ocean are under strong protection.
- Review and update oil spill prevention and cleanup standards, taking into consideration climate change.
- As part of Russia's efforts under international conventions (CITES, Bonn, IWC and others) to strengthen measures to combat poaching and IUU fishing, support proposals to improve protection measures for marine

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

- Proactive awareness-raising campaigns among the population, business and government representatives.
- Expert presentations throughout the discussion and elaboration of the unified state approach and programme on SDG 14 implementation in Russia.
- Ensuring the presence of observers at international meetings which involve decision-making essential to achieving SDG 14.

Chapter by

Elena Zharkova — Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition

15

Russia's Land Ecosystems are not Capital but the Basis of Life



Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. Ежегодник состояния экосистем поверхностных вод России (по гидробиологическим показателям), 2016 / под научной редакцией В. М. Хромова — М., Росгидромет, 2017. — 191 с.

2. Блоков И. П. Окружающая среда и ее охрана в России. Изменения за 25 лет. — М.: ОМННО «Совет Гринпис», 2018. — 422 с.

The natural resource potential of Russia - its fresh water reserves, forests, and intact ecosystems with endemic species making up 20% of its wildlife - is of global significance. There are over 2.5 million rivers and 2 million lakes in the country, the surface of which exceeds 350,000 square kilometres. [1]. A traditional and effective form of biodiversity conservation is the system of Specially Protected Natural Areas (SPNA). Their total size in Russia is 241.2 million hectares. Their number is about 12 thousand, and it is growing [2]. The area covered by forests on lands of all categories is 890 million hectares, 22% of which are intact forests — the benchmark for species and ecosystem diversity. There are plans to preserve them as a national heritage [3].

In 2013, the country adopted the State Forest Policy Framework. Tenant companies play a key role in it. The area of certified forests under lease exceeded 48 million ha [4]. The legislative amendments aimed at establishing a timber accounting system, the protection of forests from pests and diseases, fire control, the establishment of forest green belts, the use of non-timber resources, and integrated recreational and ecosystem services. Assessment of the ecosystem services of terrestrial landscapes in Russia costs \$28-\$240 per hectare each year [3].

According to the Strategy of Environmental Security until 2025, measures are being taken for the rational use of land resources. In particular, work is being done on the reclamation of degraded lands, the rehabilitation of territories, and the restoration of animal and plant populations [5]. The Rare Species Conservation Strategy until 2030 and its Action Plan are important for the preservation of biodiversity. The regions of Russia are developing Schemes for the placement, use and protection of hunting grounds, conducting an inventory of land, assessing their capacity and the rules of protection. The law imposes harsh penalties for the illegal extraction and sale of rare animals and derivatives [6].

Much attention is given to the study of biological invasions — one of the main threats to regions with high biodiversity. These include the mountain forests of the Caucasus, the fauna of the Baikal region, and the flora and fauna of the Ussuri taiga. Urban forests and green areas, where invasive species displace local ones, require special attention. Russia fully complies with its international obligations to control alien species under the 1992 Convention. Scientific research is conducted, a list of the 100 most dangerous invasions has been created, and GIS technologies have been developed in order to monitor them. The database 'Alien Species in Russia' is included among the main international databases. In a number of regions, there are programs to control the most famous invasive species — Sosnowsky's hogweed [7].

Major Problems and Challenges

3. Постановление Правительства РФ «Об утверждении государственной программы Российской Федерации «Развитие лесного хозяйства на 2013–2020 годы» от 15 апреля 2014 года № 318 (ред. от 31.03.2017) // Собрание законодательства Российской Федерации. — 2014. — Выпуск № 18. — Ст. 2164.

4. Основы государственной политики в области экологического развития Российской Федерации на период до 2030 года. Утв. Президентом Российской Федерации 30 апреля 2012 года // Президент России. (дата обращения: 02.10.2018).

5. О Стратегии экологической безопасности Российской Федерации на период до 2025 года.

6. Проект Государственного доклада «О состоянии и об охране окружающей среды Российской Федерации в 2017 году» // Минприроды России, НПП «Кадастр». — 2018.

7. Гниненко Ю. И. Инвазии чуждых видов в лесные сообщества // Экологическая безопасность и инвазии чужеродных организмов. Сборник материалов Круглого стола Всероссийской конференции по экологической безопасности России (4–5 июня 2002 г.). М.: ИПЭЭ им. А. Н. Северцова, IUCN (МСОП), 2002. С. 65–74.

Forest and Land Protection

Between 2006 and 2008, attempts were made to improve the situation concerning the use of natural resources, and the basic codes for urban planning, land, forest, and water were revised. However, the transfer of resource management authority from the federal level to regions (forests, wildlife) and municipalities (agricultural land), while retaining the center's rights to distribute resource rents, had the opposite effect. Structures of corruption were strengthened, and economic pressure on valuable natural complexes increased. Society's efforts to preserve the achievements of the 1990s in the sphere of regulation and the development of institutions were not initiated by the authorities. The decisions of the authorities either distorted this idea or led to opposite results [2].

The government's attempts to develop wood processing by increasing export duties on roundwood and create priority investment projects had mixed results [8]. Processing volumes increased slightly, but most project operators, under the guise of care, were engaged in destructive felling in protected and intact forests. Instead of being processed, roundwood continued to be exported to China [9]. With the increase in duties, the country lost a number of markets, and in the forests themselves, mass violations of the rules began to cause fires, the scale of which is underestimated by official statistics (by 2–6 times, according to Greenpeace) [10].

At the current time, there is no legal mechanism for forest management on abandoned agricultural land, although such forests constitute 12% of Russia's forest area. Attempts to optimize the system of payments for environmental pollution in recent years have always led only to a weakening of acceptable thresholds (increasing MPE and MAC) [11].

An effective tool for protecting terrestrial ecosystems and water resources is a system of sanitary protection and protection zones around industrial sites: mining and processing. However, the government's attempts to replace the old standards with departmental standards, technical conditions, and technical regulations have led to a weakening of the already weak system of state control over the impact on natural complexes. In Russia, there is neither a state strategy nor a special institution to deal with biological invasions. The Quarantine Act does not cover the control of species that are already spreading [7].

In 2019, a process was launched to improve the procedure for obtaining approvals for environmentally hazardous enterprises from numerous resource and supervisory agencies. This was the system project of Integrated Environmental Permits (IEP). However, it has in fact been confronted by fierce opposition from the environmental community and powerful business associations opposing them. As a result, the process was delayed up to the spring of 2020, and there are serious concerns that business arguments after the economic difficulties during the pandemic could significantly weaken the entire complex system of environmental control in the country. This was explicitly stated in April by the top management of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

Territories of Advanced Development (TAD) and Specially Protected Natural Areas (SPNA)

For 20 years, industrial pressure on Russia's Specially Protected Natural Areas has been developing into a serious threat. A lack of funds for the cadastral registration of SPNAs has led to the distribution of areas for cutting, development, mining and elite hunting within their boundaries, as shown by various cases and trials [12].

At the end of the noughties, the law on TADs in the Far East was adopted with a set of preferential regimes that were later extended to the entire country. TADs approved by the government, with



8. Сведения о защите лесов за 2017 год // Федеральная служба государственной статистики (Росстат). Главный межрегиональный центр. — 2018.

9. Проект постановления Правительства Российской Федерации «О внесении изменений в постановление Правительства Российской Федерации от 13 февраля 2019 г. № 143 «О порядке выдачи комплексных экологических разрешений, их переоформления, пересмотра, внесения в них изменений, а также отзыва». (Рабочий документ ОС МПР РФ — май 2020).

10. Охрана лесов от пожаров в 2018 году: задачи, проблемы и пути их решения // Совет Федерации Федерального собрания РФ. — 2018.

natural complexes included within them, have become not only attractive for investment, but also an example of environmental uncontrollability [13].

In strategic and regulatory documents, the government limits itself to declarations on the need to take social and environmental factors into account in the development of territories. In fact, these declarations are not supported by any economic and legal incentives.

To implement SDG 15 in Russia, it is worth paying attention to the following problems:

- The lack of effective tools for citizens to influence the process of developing and making environmentally and socially significant decisions.
- The unspoken priority of the Civil and Land Codes over resource laws (forest, water, wildlife and subsurface) leads to the plundering and destruction of valuable elements of ecosystems in the interests of corporations, environmental disasters, the impoverishment of villages and hamlets, the embezzlement of EMERCOM funds, and the replacement of the population of a territory by migrants.
- The lack of a watershed planning system for territories.
- The lack of federal programmes to support, study and conserve endemic species of animals and plants, developed on the basis of scientific institutions with the participation of NPOs and civil society. Existing programmes do not have the necessary funding.
- The lack of reliable data on the population size and well-being of many animal species, including endemic ones. For example, the lack of recent data on the population of the unique Baikal seal, the only mammal in Lake Baikal, has repeatedly led to unsubstantiated proposals from the government authorities to reimpose a hunting quota of the endemic. Civil society and NPOs stood up to them. Today, a program for the study and conservation of the Baikal seal is being developed with the support of the Lake Baikal Charity Fund and requires the participation of the government.
- Indigenous Peoples are denied the legal formalization of a constitutional guarantee for the protection of their traditional lands of residence and ways of life, that is, the transfer of land and natural resources necessary for traditional natural resource use.
- The crucial lack of knowledge or even total absence of all resource inventory data and the use limits thereof in the State Land Cadastre System. This leads to a broad swathe of violations of other resource laws and codes in the use of each resource, mainly mineral and forest.

Recommendations to the State

- Revise the tax and resource codes and laws in order to direct more resource rents to local residents and municipalities, and render them at the disposal of regional governments.
- Exclude intact and especially valuable forest ecosystems from economic use. Develop sustainable forest management in already developed territories. Develop effective protection of forests from fires. Preserve wetlands as natural regulators of carbon exchange.

11. Обзор состояния и загрязнения окружающей среды в Российской Федерации за 2017 год / отв. ред. Г. М. Черногаева // Росгидромет. — 2018. (дата обращения: 19.10.2018).

12. Федеральный закон «О внесении изменений в Федеральный закон «Об особо охраняемых природных территориях» и отдельные законодательные акты Российской Федерации» от 28 декабря 2013 года № 406-ФЗ // Собрание законодательства Российской Федерации. — 2013. — Выпуск № 52. — Ст. 6971.

13. Федеральный закон «О внесении изменений в Федеральный закон «Об особых экономических зонах в Российской Федерации» и отдельные законодательные акты Российской Федерации» от 30 ноября 2011 года № 365-ФЗ // Собрание законодательства Российской Федерации. — 2011. — Выпуск № 49. — Ст. 7043.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

14. Постановление Правительства РФ от 30.06.2007 № 419 (ред. от 09.06.2014) «О приоритетных инвестиционных проектах в области освоения лесов» (вместе с «Положением о подготовке и утверждении перечня приоритетных инвестиционных проектов в области освоения лесов»).

- Make amendments to the Land and Urban Planning Codes obliging governing authorities, in cadastres and other planning and legal documents, to take into account and reflect on all natural resources, their use limitations and values available in this territory, reflected in departmental accounting systems.
- Transfer rights to water and biological resources in the territories of traditional economic activity, inhabited by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, for free and indefinite use by communities or other agencies at the local level.
- Create a system to raise environmental awareness.
- Adopt a state strategy for dealing with biological invasions, including fighting against them in Specially Protected Natural Areas, and the active development of abandoned lands, including the cultivation of forests on them.
- Cooperate with research institutes and NPOs in the development and implementation of programs for the study and conservation of certain species of animals and plants, the number and well-being of which there is no reliable data at the current time.
- Promote agriculture on abandoned arable land (subsidies, reduction of the tax burden, etc.) or forest cultivation in these areas.

-
- Conduct expert evaluation of changes in the environmental legislation. Participate in project assessment.
 - Organize mass public campaigns in order to raise environmental awareness.
 - Conduct public observations of the terrestrial ecosystems. Collect information about places where invasive species occur and transmit this information to scientific institutions.
 - Defend still-existing legislation and regulations on environmental protection and resource use, fiercely attacked at the time of the 2020 pandemic by Russian political and business society.
 - Initiate the adoption and amendment of new legislation in cooperation with subjects entitled to the legislative initiative at the local, regional, inter-regional or federal levels.
 - Raise eco-awareness in Specially Protected Natural Areas for the sake of biodiversity conservation.
 - Support Indigenous Peoples and examine their knowledge, skills and practices applied in the Territories of Traditional Natural Resource Use.

Chapter by

Anatoly Lebedev — Bureau of Regional Outreach Campaigns (BROC)

16

Russian Society without Wars and Violence



Trends and Advances since Early 2016

Human life is protected by fundamental international law and the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

In recent years, Russia has made some progress in this area. In particular, the Russian Statistical Yearbook [1] and data on crimes posted on the website of the Judicial Department of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation [2] state that the number of violent crimes (including murders) and suicides has slightly decreased in the past few years. However, the proportion of those convicted of crimes against human life and health is still consistently high.

The number of people prosecuted for participation in an illegal organized community/group is decreasing (Articles 208-210 of the Criminal Code). In 2016, 603 persons were prosecuted under these articles: 555 in 2017, 354 in 2018 and 149 in the first half of 2019 [3]. The increase in the number of pre-investigated crimes committed by organized groups since 2016 seems disturbing since it may indicate the latency of crimes committed by such groups [4]

Major Problems and Challenges

Recent trends include the spread of hate crimes motivated by national and racial hatred, religious hostility or enmity towards sexual and other minorities, and other manifestations of xenophobia [5]. The problem of violence also remains relevant in relations between the state and the individual.

of the Criminal Code), which does not allow for the identification of an approximate number of torture cases in Russia. At the same time, Russia's periodic report to the UN Committee Against Torture indicates that in 2018 investigative authorities registered 2,680 reports of torture. The investigation eventually initiated 64 criminal cases. A total of 44 people were prosecuted and 22 were convicted.

Torture by Law Enforcement Officials

The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was ratified by Russia, although the country still lacks a rigid definition of torture. Therefore, officials involved are prosecuted for Exceeding Official Powers (Article 286

The most striking examples of recent years are

- The 'Yaroslavl' Case, where torture was inflicted on Ruslan Vakhapov, Ivan Nepomnyashchikh, and Yevgeny Makarov in the Federal Government Institution 'Correctional Facility No. 1' of the Federal Penitentiary Service of the Russian

Federation in the Yaroslavl region (Concluding Observations of the UN Committee Against Torture CAT/C/SR.1658 and CAT/C/SR.1661).

- The 'Network' Case, which involved the arrest of 11 people who were accused of involvement in the terrorist community. In February 2020, 7 defendants were sentenced to prison terms from 6 to 18 years. The defendants complained about torture.
- The 'Novoe Velichie' (New Greatness) Case is the proceedings regarding the establishment of an organization in December 2017, whose members were found guilty of organizing an extremist community and planning to seize power in Russia. According to the human rights community, the foundation of this organization was orchestrated by the Russian security services. Many defendants complained about torture.

In most cases, torture is not investigated and the perpetrators are not brought to justice. This malpractice prevents Russian society from demanding immediate action to solve the problem [6].

Violence in the Armed Forces

Violence and hazing in the Russian army is a long-standing problem. According to the media and human rights defenders, thousands of people are killed and subjected to violence in the army every year. Between 2016 and 2019, the Soldiers' Mothers of St Petersburg alone received 72 appeals containing information about violations of the inherent right to dignity and the prohibition on torture of military personnel. However, the problem remains unknown to the public, and the state only pays attention to it after facts are leaked to the mass media. The military branch remains indifferent to civilian input. In 2015, the President signed a decree classifying all information on military casualties in peacetime that occur during special operations a state secret. For years, the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation has refused to disclose information about the number of citizens who died during military service.

On March 6 2019, deputies of the State Duma passed a law prohibiting military personnel from using smartphones and tablets while performing their duties. This applies to all devices that can be used to upload photos, videos and audio files to the Internet. The law significantly reduces the legal security of military personnel. It is impossible to determine the degree of violence committed in the army, as the majority of military personnel who practice torture in the army are prosecuted for Exceeding Official Powers if prosecuted at all (Article 286 of the Criminal Code).

Private Military Companies

Since 2014, one of the most discussed Russian private military companies (PMCs) has been the Wagner Private Military Company (or the Wagner Group), which is a closed paramilitary structure with a training camp located in the village of Molkino, Krasnodar Krai. The Head of Wagner PMC is Dmitry Utkin, Lieutenant-colonel of the Pskov Special Forces of the GIA of the Defence Ministry of Russia.

Numerous press materials [7] indicate that the main task of Wagner PMC is to train and supply fighters for the war in Syria.

The latest attempt to legalize PMCs in Russia was made in 2018, when the corresponding bill was submitted to the State Duma. Despite numerous attempts to regulate this tool, the official status of PMCs in Russia remains unregulated at the legislative level. These organizations remain outside the law on the basis of Article 359 of the Criminal Code. Mercenarism; and

1. Российский статистический ежегодник. 2019 [Электронный ресурс] / Редакционная коллегия: П. В. Малков — Председатель редакционной коллегии, Э. Ф. Баранов, Т. С. Безбородова, С. Н. Бобылев, Н. С. Бугакова, Л. М. Гохберг, Л. М. Григорьев, С. Н. Егоренко, В. В. Елизаров, В. Б. Житков, Ю. Н. Иванов, А. Л. Кевеш, А. Е. Косарев, К. Э. Лайкам, Т. М. Малева, И. Д. Масакова, В. Н. Нестеров, С. М. Окладников, Г. К. Оксенойт, Б. Т. Рябушкин, М. А. Сабельникова, П. А. Смелов, А. А. Татаринов, Р. А. Хамзин, А. В. Хорошилов, И. Н. Шаповал; Стат. Сб. / М.: Росстат, 2019.

2. Судебный департамент при Верховном Суде Российской Федерации [Электронный ресурс]; Данные судебной статистики.

3. Судебный департамент при Верховном Суде Российской Федерации [Электронный ресурс]; Данные судебной статистики.



4. Генеральная прокуратура Российской Федерации [Электронный ресурс]: Портал правовой статистики.

5. Комплексный анализ состояния преступности в Российской Федерации и расчетные варианты ее развития [Электронный ресурс]: аналитический обзор / Ю. М. Антоян, Д. А. Бражников, М. В. Гончарова и др. — М.: ФГКУ «ВНИИ МВД России», 2018.

6. Комитет против пыток [Электронный ресурс]: Жалобы, выигранные в Европейском суде по правам человека.

7. Коротков Д. ЧВК Вагнера: За Башара Асада — без флага, без Родины // x-true.info: ежедн. интернет-изд. 2015, 22 окт.

8. Маेतная Е. Бойцы российских ЧВК обратились в международный суд — против организаторов частных военных компаний // Радио Свобода: ежедн. интернет-изд. 2018, 19 ноября..

Article 208 of the Criminal Code. Organization of an Illegal Armed Formation. Moreover, PMCs in Russia do not have the legal capacity to purchase modern combat weapons.

Having no legal grounds to work, Wagner PMCs and similar companies are actively involved in armed conflicts around the world. In turn, the Russian Federation does not make any effort either to determine their legal status, or to bring their members to justice. In fact, the Russian authorities turn a blind eye to the illegal activities of PMCs [8].

The actions of private military companies have repeatedly led to violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms. For example, an article in the independent Novaya Gazeta reports the torture and execution of a Syrian hostage or captive by the Wagner PMC [9].

Wagner PMC performs not only security tasks but also routine military tasks. For example, the widely known clash between U.S. military personnel and the pro-government Syrian units and Russia's PMC fighters who had attacked them [10]. Aware of the situation, the state authorities turn a blind eye to it [11], thereby ignoring the fact that illegal armed formations operate on the territory of Russia, whose members, according to some sources, are estimated at 10,000 people [12]. By participating in armed conflicts and not having a combatant status in accordance with Article 43 of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions, of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), of 8 June 1977, members of private military companies not only violate the rights and freedoms of other people but are exposed to a much greater risk than regular military personnel.

Civic and National Education

Over the past few years, the promotion of patriotism in Russia has become increasingly militarized. From a very early age, young people and children are taught to march, perform combat exercises, collect and use weapons, comply with GTO physical training standards (GTO stands for 'Ready for Labour and Defense'), etc. The All-Russia 'Young Army' National Military Patriotic Social Movement Association was established in 2016 to train children over 8 years old. 'Young Army' headquarters have been opened in all regions of Russia. The Regional Children's Rights Commissioner has been instructed to report on the progress of the 'Young Army Mentoring Program' implemented in orphanages [13].

Recommendations to the State

- Introduce a distinct criminal provision that criminalizes torture.
- Ensure that criminal proceedings on torture are as open and transparent to the public as possible.
- Prevent torture and while doing so, consider not only the actions of the person who committed it but also the environmental conditions of the state institution where torture has become possible.
- Equate the importance of military-patriotic education and civic-national education in schools, by strengthening the role of professional guidance and support for voluntary associations developing the civic skills of minors.
- Reject supporting and conducting costume events and other military-patriotic activities with children under the age of 16.

9. Коротков Д. Головорезы (21+)
// Новая газета. № 131: ежедн. интернет-изд. — 2019—22 ноября.

- Increase the number of hours dedicated to alternative civil service institutions and human rights in the educational curriculum.
- Disclose the number of deaths and violent crimes in the military.
- Establish effective institutions of civilian control over military units (entitling the Human Rights Commissioner's staff to visit military units in the regions of Russia without sanctions from officials or create a mechanism similar in its powers to public monitoring commissions for the protection of human rights in detention facilities).
- Conscript and organize military service at the region where a person is drafted if possible (so that there is a real opportunity for them to see their families).
- Expand the possibility of using mobile phones for conscripted military personnel.
- Decide on the status of PMCs, either by regulating their activities and establishing strict control over them or by investigating the actions of PMCs and indicating their nonacceptance.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

10. Казарновский П. Spiegel восставил картину боя с участием российских наемников в Сирии // РБК: ежедн. интернет-изд. 2018. 2 мар.

11. РБК: ежедн. интернет-изд. В МИДе ответили на слова Трампа о схватке американцев и русских в Сирии. 2018. 19 апр.

12. Наумов А. Жизнь человека ничего не стоит // Lenta.ru: ежедн. интернет-изд. 2018. 22 ноября.

13. Тарасов А. Детство — под ружье // Новая газета. № 28: ежедн. интернет-изд. — 2019—15 мар.

Civil society is ready to assist the Government of Russia and other state bodies in developing legislation and effective measures aimed at protecting the right of Russian citizens to life and reducing the number of deaths and violence.

Civil Society has the ability to:

- Suggest measures necessary to minimize torture in Russia.
- Conduct awareness-raising campaigns (including in educational institutions) on the replacement of conscript military service with alternative community service and the importance of human rights.
- Educate military units on the prevention of torture in the army.
- Facilitate the work of institutions and initiative groups that implement mechanisms for preventing military service violations.
- Provide feedback and suggestions on how to ensure safe conditions in military service.
- Counsel citizens on countering torture and violence.
- Participate in decision-making and provide feedback on drafting counter torture legislation.
- Highlight state efforts to counter torture.

Chapter by

Alexander Gorbachev —
Human Rights Organization
'Soldiers' Mothers of St
Petersburg'

16

Child Protection in Russia: A Path to Safety

Trends and Advances since Early 2016

A decree of the President of the Russian Federation announced the Decade of Childhood 2018-2027, highlighting the importance of children's well-being and establishing a working plan to protect children adopted by the Government of Russia. The plan includes an improvement of the system of interaction between state authorities and institutions defending children's rights, providing training, retraining and professional development for specialists working for institutions and organizations which protect children's rights, as well as raising the awareness of children, their parents or legal representatives about the risks and threats existing on the Internet [1].

In 2009 the President of Russia introduced the post of the Commissioner for Children's Rights. The prevention of domestic violence and child abuse is on the top priority list for social projects supported by the state. The state is also developing a system for the protection of orphans. The system of 'green rooms' was established to interview child victims of violence.

Major Problems and Challenges

The key impediments to SDG 16 implementation are in the areas of lawmaking, law enforcement, qualification of specialists, as well as public awareness.

The problem is the lack of a legal definition of child pornography, which makes it difficult to prosecute perpetrators who create, store and distribute such materials. In addition, many contemporary forms of violence, such as cyber-bullying, cyber-stalking, and cyber-grooming, are not reflected in Russian laws, and perpetrators who have committed such crimes are convicted very rarely and under other articles of the Russian Criminal Code.

Russia has ratified various international instruments aimed at protecting children, including the Convention on the Rights of the

Child [2] but obligations under these treaties are not always fulfilled. One should also note the amendments to the Criminal Code, approved on February 7, 2017 [3], that removed the mention of family members from the Article regulating liability for battery which has caused no temporary damage to health. These amendments provoked intense public discussions. Thus, the primary act of physical violence against family members was downgraded from a criminal offense to an administrative one. This amendment aggravated the indifference of law enforcement officials towards domestic violence.

The legal regulation on taking a child away if there is a direct threat to his or her life or health has been discussed since 2016 (amendments to Article 77 of the Family Code). However, the concept of such a threat has still not been clearly defined, and the mechanism

1. Распоряжение Правительства РФ от 06.07.2018 N 1375-р // Собрание законодательства Российской Федерации. — 2018. — № 29. — Ст. 4475.

for taking a child away from his or her family is quite ill-defined [4]. The guardianship and trusteeship bodies do not have the background required to take away the child.

It is necessary to train employees of the State Child Protection System, especially those having to identify signs of child violence, neglect and exploitation. There is a lack of knowledge and methods for preventing various forms of violence. The programs and activities implemented to improve qualifications are sporadic and do not target all specialists. The qualifications of most investigators working with cases involving violence against children are also insufficient. There are not enough mental health workers accompanying children during investigations.

The low level of public awareness of the prevalence of violence against children, as well as of child exploitation and trafficking in persons, including minors, leads to higher child vulnerability and an increase in the number of children exposed to various violence-related risks. The country also lacks a system monitoring the prevalence of violence among different groups of children, including orphans, as well as monitoring and analyzing data on cases of violence according to groups of children and regions.

Recommendations to the State

- Develop and implement the National Child Protection System, which will serve as the foundation for federal and local legislation to protect children from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. The system should be a unified instrument protecting children from all forms of violence, which includes all stages of treating child victims of violence or those at risk. The system should also define the roles of state authorities, non-profit organizations, charitable foundations and international agencies, thus avoiding the duplication of responsibilities and creating a framework for interaction and areas of responsibility for each actor and stakeholder.
- Ensure monthly data collection, including on indicators such as children who have been subjected to any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by their caregivers; the number of child victims of trafficking; the share of children who have been sexually abused. The data should be analyzed annually.
- Organize continuing training for professionals working with children through the compulsory supplementary education system, providing information on the signs of violence committed against a child, and on the steps to be taken to protect and respect his/her rights. It is also necessary to adopt a unified educational program in this area. For those employed in organizations directly involved in helping children, it is necessary to provide training to develop skills on how to deal with various situations that arise in the protection of children's rights.
- Raise public awareness on the unacceptability of all forms of violence, trafficking and exploitation of children aimed at the entire adult population.
- Elaborate and launch primary and secondary prevention program that raise public awareness about violence, exploitation and trafficking in children, new forms of violence, protective measures and mitigation of risk among vulnerable children under threat of violence and rights violations.
- Provide advanced training for investigators and mental health workers involved in cases of violence against children.



2. Постановление Совета министров — Правительства Российской Федерации № 848 от 23 августа 1993 г. «О реализации Конвенции ООН о правах ребенка и Всемирной декларации об обеспечении выживания, защиты и развития детей» // Собрание актов Президента и Правительства Российской Федерации. — 1993. — № 35. — Ст. 3318.

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3. Федеральный закон № 8-ФЗ «О внесении изменения в статью 116 Уголовного кодекса Российской Федерации от 7 февраля 2017 г.» // Собрание законодательства Российской Федерации. — 2017. — № 7. — Ст. 1027.

4. Стенограмма парламентских слушаний Совета Федерации «Совершенствование положений семейного законодательства в части государственной защиты ребенка при непосредственной угрозе его жизни или здоровью» от 29 марта 2019 г.

- Develop a system of 'green rooms' based on the Barnahus approach (a system of interdepartmental cooperation under one roof to assist child victims of violence).
- Monitor and control all changes in the functioning of the child protection system, including data collection and analysis of the effectiveness of the implemented tools, processes and

Protecting children from all forms of violence will become possible only if the state and civil society are ready to cooperate in a comprehensive manner. Cooperation can be pursued in several ways:

- Civil society actors, such as civil society organizations, non-profit organizations, charitable foundations and independent media, may submit initiatives to state authorities for approval to foster a public stance on the unacceptability of violence against children and, when supported, ensure maximum outreach to the population to reinforce understanding of the unacceptability of violence against children, trafficking in humans and exploitation of children.
- NGOs and charitable foundations that focus on the protection of children and their rights can provide support to state institutions in the implementation of awareness-raising programs, in the elaboration of preventive programs on all forms of violence against children, and in improving the expertise of specialists involved with children.
- Civil society representatives can provide information, counseling and other forms of assistance to state authorities.
- Civil society representatives can provide crisis assistance services, including accommodation, rehabilitation assistance to children, and cooperation with law enforcement officials in the process of psychological and mental support for a child during an investigation and court proceedings.



Chapter by

Margarita Slyusareva — Stellit NGO
for Social Projects in Public Welfare

16

Access to Justice and Monitoring Corruption: A U-turn Needed

Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. «Госуслуги» — 10 лет. Сайт Министерства цифрового развития, связи и массовых коммуникаций Российской Федерации.

Russia's policy on SDG 16 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions' is inconsistent. However, alongside the decline in compliance with international standards of justice, we can highlight certain positive trends, such as the expansion of the jurisdiction of the jury trial (from June 1 2018); the partial decriminalization of Article 282 of the Criminal Code in 2018 (incitement of hatred and enmity); the possibility of filing court claims online (from January 1 2017); mandatory audio recording of trials (from September 1 2019); and the constitution of the court through an automated information system.

Russian legislation on the transparency of judicial information is one of the most progressive in Europe. However, practice shows that only 30% of all judicial acts subject to publication are published within the time limit set by law. Experts believe this is caused by a poor supply of technical equipment in the courts, as well as a lack of court staff.

Corruption is addressed, among other things, through the regulatory framework to combat corruption and the conversion of a significant part of public services into e-form. In 2019, the total number of users of the Public Services Portal reached 103 million [1], and about 70% of all public services are available online, which contributes to their transparency, increases accountability and minimizes opportunities for the abuse of power.

A decrease in the level of petty corruption is another positive trend, which is significantly affected by the spread of online services and surveillance systems (particularly on the roads). Adopted in 2019, methods for conducting surveys on the levels of corruption in the regions should positively influence anti-corruption policy since the country currently lacks comparative data on regional corruption.

Many experts note the excellence of Russia's legislation in terms of providing access to information about the activities of state government bodies. However, there is a gap between the norms declared in the law and actual law enforcement: the average percentage of information openness on sites run by federal ministries and agencies is only 67% [2] according to an open data audit by the Infometer Project Center.

Major Problems and Challenges

2. Открытые данные министерств и ведомств — 2019: Результаты аудита открытых данных сайтов ФОИВ. Сайт проектного центра «Инфометр».

3. Ежегодный доклад Европейского суда по правам человека — 2019. Сайт Европейского Суда по правам человека.

4. Официальный интернет-портал правовой информации.

Challenges to justice, restrictions on citizens' rights and reform of the Constitution.

According to statistics of the European Court of Human Rights, Russia is the largest provider of claims reporting human rights violations. In 2019, 25% of all cases before the Court were related to Russia [3]. Russia also systematically fails to comply with ECHR decisions, which leads to the filing of new complaints. Of all individual and general measures implemented, Russia is mainly focused on paying compensation.

In December 2015, the Federal Constitutional Law 'On the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation' [4] was amended to enable the Constitutional Court to deviate from its obligation to enforce ECHR judgments. To date, the amendment has been executed twice: in the case of Anchugov and Gladkov v. Russia and in the case of Yukos shareholders v. Russia.

Beginning in 2012, Russia's criminal legislation introduced regulations that allow for the restriction of public access to information, freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of conscience. In particular, criminal liability with sentences of up to two years has been introduced for the heads of nonprofit organizations registered as 'foreign agents' for failing to provide documents (Article 330.1 of the Criminal Code).

In June 2013, the authorities enforced legal provisions that made 'offending the feelings of religious believers' a criminal offence, including criminal liability in the form of imprisonment for 'public actions that express explicit contempt for society and are committed to offend the religious feelings of believers'.

In May 2014, criminal liability for organizing civil unrest was extended to 15 years. In the same month, the Criminal Code was amended, with Article 280.1 providing for criminal liability up to imprisonment for public calls to action advocating the violation of the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation.

The Human Rights Center 'Memorial' estimates that the number of political prisoners had reached 310 people by mid-March 2020 [5].

This situation is due to the absence of an independent court system, and the existence of norms of criminal legislation that directly violate the rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as loosely and vaguely formulated provisions.

The number of acquittals handed down by Russian courts is still low (less than 1% of all convictions). The most popular preventive measure is detention. Applications for this particular measure are granted by the courts in 97% of cases. It is just as straightforward for the courts to authorize an extension of this preventive measure (also granted in 97% of cases). House arrest is used 15 times less frequently [6].

The most common type of punishment is imprisonment. The total prison population in 2018 was about 600 thousand people. At the same time, Russia spends less money on maintaining detention facilities than any European country [7]. Alternative forms of punishment are not widespread in the country. Russia lacks an established probation service as well as a bill that has been passed on the juvenile court.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs registered about 2 million offenses in 2019 [8]. However, latent crime can account for up to 70% of crimes committed; that is to say, the official figures are likely to be underestimated. Opinion polls record a high level of distrust of law enforcement agencies [9] in society. This situation impedes access to justice.

Opportunities to obtain legal aid in Russia are also limited. Federal Law No. 324 'On Free Legal Aid' grants the right to legal aid to a small group of citizens on a limited number of issues in civil cases only. Given that the interests of the public prosecution, as a rule, differ from those of the victim, especially in cases against representatives



5. Список политзаключенных. Сайт правозащитного центра «Мемориал».

6. Обзоры судебной статистики. Сайт Судебного департамента при Верховном суде РФ.

7. Доклад о состоянии пенитенциарных учреждений и содержании заключенных SPACE I — 2019, подготовленный экспертами Лозаннского университета от имени Совета Европы. Портал уголовной статистики Совета Европы.

of the state authorities, this puts victims in a vulnerable and unequal position.

In late 2019, Russian President Vladimir Putin initiated amendments to the Constitution. The proposed changes and the procedure for their adoption comply with neither the letter nor the spirit of the Constitution.

Corruption and Transparency of Institutions

There is a trend towards restricting access to information of public importance. Since 2017, there have been legal grounds to render classified information about the property and assets of top officials (objects of state protection) and their family members, which limits the possibilities of anti-corruption monitoring.

Political corruption still remains the most significant challenge in Russia. It is the reason why the country ranks 137th out of 180 positions in the 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index [10]. The risks of corruption in public procurement are extremely high. The practice of purchasing from a single supplier is still widespread, especially in federal state unitary enterprises [11]. The level of accountability and transparency of certain sectors remains unacceptably low, i.e. in the defense sector.

Russia fails to fully comply with its international commitments. Efforts to fulfill commitments to criminalize and introduce measures against the bribery of foreign public officials, and implement instruments to protect whistleblowers, cannot be deemed satisfactory [12]. Risk factors include the absence of a register of ultimate beneficial ownership, a lack of legislative regulation of lobbying [13], and the inefficiency of measures to prevent conflicts of interest.

Anti-corruption measures in business are of a formal character. Companies often limit themselves to declaring the development of an anti-corruption package. Many small and medium-sized enterprises do not conduct real corruption risk assessments or background security checks of their contractors. Reporting corruption violations is not encouraged.

Another systemic problem is the poor involvement of civil society and young people in the fight against corruption and the formal character of anti-corruption training. Public hearings are mostly mock-ups. Budget hearings in most regions are in the format of remote participation.

Recommendations to the State

- Repeal the decision to amend the Constitution by allowing for the non-execution of the judgments of interstate bodies based on international treaties which Russia is a party to if their interpretation contradicts the Constitution of the Russian Federation.
- Expand the competence of the jury trial to handle cases that may result in a death sentence and/or imprisonment for more than 10 years.
- Adopt legislation at the federal level to establish a system of legal aid. Accessible, effective and reliable, such legislation should guarantee free legal aid in civil, criminal and administrative proceedings to all people under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, regardless of their citizenship and/or status in legal proceedings.
- Launch a State Victim Support and Assistance Program, which will include compensation from the moment the victim is recognized as such.
- Abolish the phase of initiating criminal proceedings, automatically register crime reports, abandon the assessment of police performance based on quantitative indicators in favor of performance assessment.

8. Краткая характеристика состояния преступности в Российской Федерации за январь-декабрь 2019 года. Сайт Министерства внутренних дел Российской Федерации.

9. Судя по отношению к полиции, средним классом в России можно считать 35% экономически активного населения. Демоско.

10. Индекс восприятия коррупции — 2019. Сайт Transparency International.

- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. Establish a national preventive mechanism. Ensure that allegations of torture are automatically prosecuted and that there is a system for the effective investigation of such allegations.
- Repeal legislative provisions that unduly restrict the rights and freedoms of citizens; namely: Part 1 and Part 2 of Article 148, Article 212.1, Article 280.1, Article 282, Article 284.1, Article 330.1 and Article 354.1 of the Criminal Code. Review and clarify legislative provisions on extremism and terrorism.

To curb corruption and build effective, accountable and transparent institutions, it is recommended to:

- Improve the system for combating money-laundering in particular, by establishing a beneficial ownership register and ensuring the exchange of information with other states and effective legal assistance.
- Expand the understanding of bribery by criminalizing bribes for services of a non-property character.
- Support independent investigators by providing necessary information, conducting public investigations on the basis of the data obtained.
- Review the practice of purchasing from a single supplier, particularly in the federal state unitary enterprises and state corporations.
- Abandon the practice of rendering classified information of public importance.
- Strengthen the fight against corruption in business and replicate responsible business practices, based on international standards. Encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to implement mechanisms to assess corruption risks and organize background security checks of contractors. Promote preventive measures against corruption.
- Ensure conditions for the involvement of NGOs and initiative groups, including youth associations, in the anti-corruption policy.
- Spread the best practices of informal anti-corruption education. Take part in anti-corruption monitoring and awareness-raising, and effectively manage open data.
- Legislate the duty of the authorities to provide a reasoned response to the substantive proposals of civil society institutions regarding anti-corruption measures.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

Civil society has the ability to:

- Provide legal assistance to vulnerable social groups by making justice more accessible to them (victims of hate crimes, victims of domestic violence, migrants, etc.).
- Become a member of public monitoring commissions to ensure that human rights are being respected in detention facilities.
- Provide advisory services to public authorities in the drafting of regulations relating to access to justice at all levels.
- Participate in qualification boards of judges, public councils of law enforcement and other state institutions.



11. Тюрьма как бизнес: доклад о результатах расследования, проведенного Центром антикоррупционных исследований и инициатив «Трансперенси Интернешнл — Россия» совместно с отделом расследований «Новой газеты». Сайт Transparency International — Россия.

12. Экспорт коррупции. Сайт Transparency International.

13. Лоббизм в Государственной Думе Федерального Собрания (сегодня созыв). Сайт спецпроекта.

- Elaborate and implement professional development programs for law enforcement officials and the judicial community.
 - Participate in the public performance review of the courts, police, prosecutor's offices, and investigation committees.
 - Assist public authorities in the implementation of individual and general measures of ECHR judgments and other agencies of the international human rights protection system, primarily the UN.
 - Improve legal literacy and legal awareness of the population.
- The following recommendations are made in order to achieve the targets of tackling corruption:*
- Participate in monitoring the effectiveness of measures designed to mitigate corruption and improve the accountability of authorities and individual officials.
 - Extend the practice of independent anti-corruption investigations.
 - Report to law enforcement institutions on violations identified through monitoring and independent investigations.
 - Cooperate with legislative bodies (at federal and regional levels) to promote anti-corruption issues in the parliamentary agenda
 - Implement anti-corruption awareness-raising activities for young people.
 - Design and promote initiatives related to collective anti-corruption efforts.
 - Participate in the work of conflict of interest commissions and other consultative bodies of the authorities.
 - Ensure the full participation of civil society in the discussion of budget drafts and distribution of budget funds at the municipal level. Disseminate the practices of participatory budgeting, as well as public control over budget execution.



Chapter by

Elena Shakhova — Human Rights
NGO 'Citizens' Watch'

Alyona Vandysheva — Transparency
International Russia

16

Free Speech, Expression and Elections: Oxygen for Civil Society

Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. 2019 World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders. Сайт международной организации «Репортеры без границ».

2. Федеральный закон от 01.05.2019 № 90-ФЗ «О внесении изменений в Федеральный закон «О связи» и Федеральный закон «Об информации, информационных технологиях и о защите информации». Официальный интернет-портал правовой информации Российской Федерации.

The Russian authorities are making a significant effort to develop IT solutions, e-government services and increase internet access for citizens. The price of internet access in Russia is one of the lowest in the world; the country ranks second after Ukraine (\$0.08/month for 1 Mb/s), and 4G network accessibility exceeds 60%.

The country is gradually continuing to connect social infrastructure facilities to the Internet, i.e. schools, medical and obstetrical centers, and fire stations. The Public Services Portal has launched prototypes of the first services, which should provide more public e-services. These prototypes include 'Online Justice', 'Online Labor Relations', 'E-Permits for Business', and 'Online Enrollment'. The internet service provider market is not monopolized and is quite competitive.

Digitalization has also affected the electoral sphere. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation has launched the 'Mobile Voter' mechanism, which allows votes from a person's actual location rather than their place of official registration.

Major Problems and Challenges

3. Свобода интернета 2020: план «Крепость». Совместный доклад «Агоры» и «РосКомСвободы». Сайт спецпроекта.

The ratings of press and internet freedom in Russia are at a critically low level. In 2019, international human rights organizations once again reported [1] an intensification of internet censorship and a deteriorating situation for journalists in the country.

Internet Information Censorship

Civil society's major concern regarding public access to information surrounds a number of regulations adopted over the past ten years, as well as the so-called 'Sovereign Internet' law recently passed in Russia [2]. According to the latest annual report [3] drawn up by the Agora International Human Rights Group and the public organisation

Roskomsvoboda, there are three main areas in which state control over information on the Internet is being strengthened:

- Content censorship and the adoption of laws and regulations that restrict freedom of expression on the Internet. These are, for example, the 'Klishas Laws', which introduce administrative liability for 'fake news' distribution and 'disrespect for authorities'; ratification of the SCO Convention on Countering Extremism; the law on 'Sovereign Russian Internet'; and the 'Foreign Agent' law applied to individuals. In 2016, the law on the right to be forgotten came into force, making it possible to delist search results with an individual's name as a keyword. In 2017, a law on VPNs came into force, banning

4. Итоги госрегулирования интернета в России в 2016 году. Доклад «РосКомСвободы». Сайт «РосКомСвободы».

5. Итоги госрегулирования интернета в России в 2017 году. Доклад «РосКомСвободы». Сайт «РосКомСвободы».

6. Итоги госрегулирования интернета в России в 2018 году. Доклад «РосКомСвободы». Сайт «РосКомСвободы».

7. Суд оставил в силе штраф Telegram за отказ сотрудничать с ФСБ. Сайт «Ведомостей».

8. Google сообщил об исправлении ошибки при отображении Крыма на картах. Сайт «Ведомостей».

9. Годовой обзор Human Rights Watch о ситуации с правами человека во всем мире, 2019. Глава: Россия. Сайт Human Rights Watch.

10. «Самоцензура и страх»: как работает закон о неуважении к власти. Сайт «ОВД-Инфо».

11. Примеры нарушений в других регионах: «В Краснодаре пытались убить видеоблогера, собиравшего компромат на полицию. Сайт «ОВД-Инфо».

anonymous web surfing software. The law stipulates that VPNs must filter traffic and are obliged to block Russian users' access to websites included on Roskomnadzor's blacklist (Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology and Mass Media). Search engines must remove links to such sites/pages from their search results. In 2018, a law imposing fines for the 'unsatisfactory' filtering of search results took effect [4, 5, 6].

- Controlling the infrastructure of the Internet, adopting measures that threaten the privacy and security of internet communications, and introducing the right of the state to have unlimited access to any digital information, combined with administrative coercive measures, and fines [7] for the non-disclosure of user information at the request of public authorities.
- Increasing pressure [8] on IT businesses and software developers, and forcing the cooperation of global internet service platform owners.

In 2019, 62 proposals to regulate the Internet were motioned or adopted in Russia. These regulations include additional grounds for the prohibition of information, but also sanctions for users, new obligations for IT companies, and measures aimed at the centralization of all web traffic. Internet infrastructure regulation is presented by public authorities as a necessary technical measure aimed at ensuring the security of users, but to date, there is no evidence of the effectiveness of such measures.

The international organization Human Rights Watch warns [9] that vague anti-extremism legislation creates favorable grounds for the criminal prosecution of dissenting independent voices for social media posts and reposts. This practice, as the organization notes, is widely used in all regions of Russia. At the end of 2018, Article 282 of the Criminal Code, which had been used to actively prosecute users for extremist comments, was partially decriminalized. Users and journalists continue to be tried for online activity under another more severe Article for the 'justification or glorification (apologia) of terrorism' (Article 205.2 of the Criminal Code). High-profile cases for reposting, and unsystematic law enforcement practices, provoke fear and self-censorship among citizens [10].

The situation concerning freedom of speech in Chechnya and Crimea is particularly grave. The Internet in Crimea [11, 12, 13] is under serious pressure, with many criminal cases initiated against Crimean Tatar activists, while information is being actively blocked. As for the Republic of Chechnya, since the murders of Anna Politkovskaya and Natalia Estemirova, it has not become safer to work as a journalist in the region. The recent violent attack [14] on Elena Milashina, a journalist for Novaya Gazeta, and Marina Dubrovina, a lawyer, lends evidence to this. The case [15] of planting drugs on Oyub Titiyev, the head of the Chechen branch of the Human Rights Center 'Memorial', and his subsequent criminal prosecution, sparked a huge public outcry in Russia and abroad, due to the lack of the necessary evidence and doubts about expertise. Memorial is one of the few organizations disseminating information on human rights violations in Chechnya and, according to the defense, this has led to the illegal persecution of Titiyev.

Freedom of Elections in Russia

In Russia, a main concern is the shrinking space for civil society participation in the political and economic life of the country.

Regarding the voting system in Russia, there are two basic forms of voting — referendums and the elections of government bodies. Both cause serious concerns for civil society. Although amendments to the Constitution that require a referendum have been adopted time and again in the history of modern Russia, this process has never involved a federal referendum. The numer-



ous new changes introduced by the president in January 2020 are once again proposed for approval not through a referendum, but through so-called all-Russian voting, which does not engage in substantial public discussion and forces society to vote for all the amendments in one 'package'. This promotes the manipulation of civic opinion and the legitimization of decisions that are beneficial to specific political forces.

Another key form of citizens voting for changes in the political and economic life of the country is the direct election of government bodies. At present, direct elections of the heads of local government bodies are almost completely eliminated in Russia, while the number of remaining elections at the local level is rapidly decreasing. State authorities are actively involved in the formation of representative local self-government bodies. If the planned amendments to Chapter 8 of the Constitution ('Local Self-Government') are adopted in 2020, there will be even more appointees among the local self-government officials.

The independence of mass media is a serious factor that affects the quality and transparency of the election process. The experience of recent years shows that opposition is either negatively assessed in the media or is not mentioned at all. For example, during the presidential elections of 2018, there was a quantitative and qualitative imbalance in media coverage of candidates' activities throughout the election campaign. It was inherent in the coverage of identical events for different candidates. The leader according to number of references received an advantage almost ten times greater than their nearest competitors. In many respects, this was ensured by administrative control of the majority of Russian media outlets [16].

Public participation in the decision-making of representative bodies is impeded by the biased approach of election commissions when registering candidates, and systematic abuse of administrative resources by government and local authorities, as well as individual officials. Quite often, public material resources are used for the organization of illegal campaigning, as well as direct tampering (ballot stuffing, multiple voting and other types of electoral fraud).

Such violations, if they reach the court, almost never result in criminal prosecution, as suggested by the law. As a rule, such cases end with a case dismissal or the imposition of a fine. The improper use of administrative resources is a major hindrance to effective and accountable institutions, as it limits competition among candidates and leaves no options for citizens.

Another problem is the de facto impossibility of independent civilian control over the electoral process. The interim report on Presidential Election Observation by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) stated in March 2018 [17] that the right of civic chambers and constituent entities of the Russian Federation to send observers to polling stations cannot be considered even a partial implementation of the recommendations on public monitoring of elections. Members of civic chambers are appointed by the government. They are not independent from state public institutions and are unable to compensate for the lack of real public monitoring.

12. Сотрудник карельского УФСИН пригрозил автору статьи о пытках в ИК-9, что к ней придут «люди в черном». Сайт «Медиазоны».

13. Ютьюб-канал «Движение» сообщил об избииении своих ведущих в Москве. Сайт «Медузы».

14. На обозревателя «Новой газеты» Елену Милашину и адвоката Марину Дубровину напали в Грозном. Сайт «Новой газеты».

15. Правозащитник Оюб Титиев после освобождения: в Чечне пока работать не стану. Сайт Русской службы Би-би-си.

Recommendations to the State

- End political censorship on the Internet and ensure that restrictions are imposed only on truly harmful and illegal content, and not on personal views and opinions. Stop using online censorship as a tool to persecute legitimate criticism of the authorities and combat independent dissenting views in online media outlets and among users.
- Ensure that any request for user data is subject to judicial authorization and complies with international human rights standards.



- Stop the pressure on the domestic and foreign IT sector.
- Make necessary efforts to prevent the harassment of journalists, especially in the most dangerous regions.
- Provide independent information to the population during the pre-election period. Pay special attention to legislation regulating the forms of state participation in media activities, including their financing, which should guarantee and ensure their genuine, and not only declared, freedom and independence.
- Ensure the integrity of the electoral commissions.
- Eliminate the improper use of administrative resources in elections in a timely manner. Strengthen liability measures for the use of official advantages in elections and ensure that these measures are unavoidable.
- Restore the right of public associations to send observers to electoral commissions.
- Secure the stability of the electoral legislation and prevent it from being manipulated in the interests of the ruling party and individual political actors. Any changes in the electoral legislation must be based primarily on the interests of voters.
- Ensure the inescapability of punishment for electoral fraud and other violations of citizens' electoral rights. Take measures to establish and punish orchestrators and organizers of crimes committed by members of electoral commissions related to vote tampering.

16. Цензура и манипуляция. Как СМИ повлияли на исход выборов. Соблюдение равенства прав кандидатов в средствах массовой информации на выборах президента России 2018 года. Аналитический доклад Общественного движения «Голос». Сайт «Голоса».

17. Промежуточный отчет Миссии по наблюдению за выборами Бюро по демократическим институтам и правам человека ОБСЕ.



How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

*18. Пример успешной кампании:
Налог на свободу. Граждане собрали
22 млн рублей на выплату штрафа
за The New Times. novayagazeta.ru*

- Support independent media outlets. Interact with editorial staff and individual journalists, consider possibilities for collaboration, participate in campaigns, and provide material support for their activities.
- Initiate and actively participate in solidarity campaigns with journalists prosecuted illegally.
- Participate in internet literacy projects.
- Participate in working groups and supervisory commissions to monitor human rights in vulnerable regions of Russia.
- Take an active part in election observation at all levels.
- Take an active part in the monitoring of trials. In particular, observe trials related to political and civil rights and freedoms.
- Monitor the implementation of recommendations on human rights emanating from international organizations such as the UN and the Council of Europe.
- Based on the understanding and implementation of the principle of joint action by all stakeholders, actively cooperate with business, political parties, and scientific and cultural institutions. Election observers should speak out against violations and demand respect for the right to freedom of speech and freedom of association. Provide legal aid in cases related to the protection of electoral rights. Other civic groups should be aware of electoral rights related to their area of activity.



17

From Support to Cooperation: The Need for Cross-Sector Partnerships

Trends and Advances since Early 2016

1. Белоруссия, Украина и Венесуэла оказались крупнейшими должниками России. РБК, от 19 августа 2019 года.

2. Украина выиграла у России раунд тяжбы в Лондоне о долге на \$3 млрд. Русская Служба ВВС от 14 сентября 2018 года.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the Council of Europe, WTO, the G20, as well as regional caucuses, coalitions and alliances, Russia plays an important role in the international arena, especially in the Post-Soviet space. Its annual Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries has remained around the level of \$1 billion since 2015, which is 0.1% of GDP. Two-thirds of the ODA is transferred to countries that are included in Russia's geopolitical interests. One-third is distributed in the form of contributions to international agencies.

Russia is consistently pursuing a policy of restructuring, partial or full debt write-offs to developing countries. In 2014, 90% of Cuba's debt accumulated since Soviet times - \$31.7 billion - was forgiven. The condition for the write-off was an agreement to return the remaining \$3.5 billion within 10 years.

In the same year, \$865 million of debt to Uzbekistan was wiped out on the condition that the country renounced its claims to the Diamond Fund of the USSR and urgently returned the remaining \$25 million.

In 2016, Mongolia's Soviet-era debt to the amount of \$1.7 billion was fully cancelled. In 2017, \$40 million from Mozambique was written off, provided under the World Food Programme. In 2017, \$240 million of debt to Kyrgyzstan was fully written off as part of the 'Official Development Assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic'. The volume of the remaining debt is about \$40 billion. Among the largest debtors are Belarus at \$7.55 billion, Venezuela at \$3.5 billion, Cuba at \$3.2 billion, Bangladesh at \$2 billion, Cyprus at \$1.8 billion, India at \$1.1 billion, Yemen at \$1 billion, Iraq and Serbia at \$0.7 billion, as well as Ukraine with a debt from \$0.61 to \$3.7 billion [1]. Ukraine disputes the \$3 billion debt [2].

The government is making efforts to expand economic integration, primarily with its geopolitical allies by opening its markets and offering favourable terms of trade to them. This has contributed to an increase in exports from developing countries. The most active integration processes take place with Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, on a bilateral basis and through the Eurasian Economic Union.

Partnerships between large Russian and foreign businesses, charitable foundations, non-profit associations and social entrepreneurs are developing within the country. This facilitates the exchange of innovations for sustainable development and contributes to the development of corporate social responsibility.

The government is scaling up grant support to non-profit organizations that address social and environmental issues at the local level. The system of state grants was launched in 2006. Since 2017,

the Presidential Grants Foundation has been the sole operator of civil society development grants. Over the past three years, 12,575 socially significant projects have been supported by a total of over 26.3 billion rubles [3].

Russia seeks to develop academic exchanges and scientific links with the most developed countries, especially in the field of STEM

disciplines and the natural sciences. Federal programmes and bilateral agreements between universities and research institutes facilitate joint research projects and exchange programmes for students and junior scientists. There are separate programmes with the European Union for students, scientists and specialists in the humanities and civic education.

Major Problems and Challenges

The major obstacle to international cooperation is the isolation of Russia from European countries and the USA, which grew as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict over Crimea and the war in Donbass. Economic sanctions limit opportunities for dialogue and the operation of government agencies and companies, and also have a negative impact on Russia's participation in international organizations and assistance programmes.

Unlike other Post-Soviet states, Russia has refused to be included in the list of developing countries and the country is not an Official Development Assistance recipient. At the same time, the country has made additional commitments to finance international programmes.

Russia provides loans to developing countries, but the terms of these loans do not contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The existing partnerships continue the models of international cooperation present in the Soviet Union. Most programmes are implemented bilaterally, often including the implementation of national foreign policy objectives. The state policy pursued by Rossotrudnichestvo (the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation) is aimed at promoting Russian language and culture, supporting compatriots, inviting experts to Russia and other goals that do not reflect the 2030 Agenda. Some programmes are aimed at humanitarian activities as part of the promotion of international development. The Rossotrudnichestvo website lacks data on their implementation [4].

The state loan programme is classified as 'top secret'. The information on debt support and debt cancellation is made public only for the purpose of improving the image of Russia. The scope of support, tools and methods of work under the programmes of cooperation with the unrecognized republics of Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Transnistria, the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) and Lugansk People's Republic (LNR) and Crimea remain unknown.

As noted in the February report of the Accounts Chamber on the financing of science, activities in the Russian science sector 'have a low level of attractiveness' both for young researchers and leading scientists, including those from abroad. In particular, this is the result of 'significant institutional hurdles' and the unfavourable labour market for research and development. Moreover, the system of Russian science management 'does not provide its own scientific and technological foundation' for major projects and responses to the 'challenges' faced by society and the state, and 'does not act as a driver for social and economic development' [5].

In 2019, the government adopted a decree which regulated contacts between Russian and foreign academics and obliged the former to inform the secret services of such contacts. Though the decree was repealed in 2020, the very fact that it was adopted damaged academic networking and the image of Russia in the development of international cooperation.

The adoption of the 'foreign agents' law jeopardized the long-standing ties between public associations and international organizations and foundations in the fields of health and well-being, the prevention of infectious diseases

3. Фонд президентских грантов.

4. Содействие международному сотрудничеству. Деятельность Россотрудничества.

5. Отчет Счетной палаты о проверке «Уровень финансирования российской науки недостаточен для обеспечения технологического прорыва».



6. К. В. Рожкова, С. Ю. Роцин. Вознаграждается ли знание иностранного языка на российском рынке труда? Москва, 2019. С. 9.

es, improvement in the quality of education, infrastructure development, and human rights protection. The extension of this law's effects on individuals has had an extremely negative impact on the implementation of SDG 17 and strengthening partnership projects for sustainable development. It prevents business, the third sector, educational institutions and experts from implementing joint programmes to address public and environmental issues. Stigmatizing international humanitarian cooperation, labelling its actors 'foreign agents' and 'undesirable organizations', poses challenges to international partnership development.

Russia lacks programmes on further education and professional development in theory, practice, innovation and sustainable development technologies for specialists, management personnel and officials. Poor qualifications in international cooperation, the development of synergies and cross-sector programmes make it difficult to achieve SDG 17.

An insufficient knowledge of English and other foreign languages among specialists and officials hinders international cooperation, technology and innovation exchange [6].

Recommendations to the State

- The government needs to restore and strengthen cooperation with international organizations, foundations, businesses and the nonprofit sector. It is necessary to increase the share of assistance to developing countries in global programmes, not only for the sake of dividends and national interests, but also for the harmonious and sustainable development of the world.
- In order to achieve SDG 17, Russia needs to increase funding to the amount of \$600 million annually to support international programs for poor and developing countries. At this rate, the ODA will amount to \$7 billion, or the target 0.7% of GNI by 2030.
- It is necessary to increase the transparency of support programmes. The government should report regularly to the public on the launch, implementation and evaluation of support programmes for developing countries.
- The Russian government should revoke the 'foreign agents' law and 'undesirable organizations' law. These laws and pressure from inspectors and law enforcement agencies hinder the development of partnerships and exchanges between academia and civil society representatives. International relations with foreign organizations, especially those working in the social sphere, education, environmental protection, and human rights monitoring should be encouraged.
- The government should ensure that the law enforcement agencies stop harassing and abusing the opposition, peaceful demonstrators, bloggers, minorities and religious minorities that form coalitions and build communities to address social and environmental issues.
- The exchange of knowledge and technology with the countries of the Global South and the most developed countries can be strengthened by liberalizing the visa regime for scientists, students and representatives of third sector organizations. Humanitarian and social knowledge should become no less important areas for international cooperation than the current top priority STEM and natural sciences.
- Not only the state but also business, scientific institutions and non-profit organizations should create and implement programmes to develop cross-sector partnerships in the

regions, at the federal level, within the framework of UN programmes and projects with foreign companies and foreign organizations.

- Development, implementation, monitoring and publication of data on sustainable development goals is a priority of the 2030 Agenda. This requires the creation of a working group encompassing UN consultants, Russian and foreign experts and practitioners from business and the third sector.
- Consultations and sustainability assessments should become mandatory conditions for the implementation of national development projects, reforms and federal programmes.
- The government should launch its own educational initiatives or support the development of new educational programmes on theory, innovative approaches and tools to improve social and environmental sustainability for employees of state bodies, universities and school teachers. Decentralizing this process and encouraging the creation of regional groups will contribute to the development of partnerships and increase efficiency in promoting sustainable development principles.

How Civil Society Can Make a Difference

Civil society, human rights, and environmental organizations are included in the networks of partner organizations from the European Union and are members of international coalitions. This resource can be used to develop new formats of international relations cooperation and in cross-sector domestic programmes.

- Civil society can and should monitor support programmes and the implementation of the SDGs in Russia, as well as publish and facilitate the exchange of research data with international partners.
- Research institutes, universities, and non-profit organizations have expertise and can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and technologies to implement programs to reduce social inequality and prevent discrimination, introduce innovations, modernize infrastructure, reform the education system, and protect human rights and the environment.
- The expert community and public associations can conduct outreach activities, consultations and awareness-raising campaigns on responsible entrepreneurship and sustainability for employees of state, commercial and educational institutions, publish guidelines for SDG implementation and cross-sector cooperation programmes.
- It is necessary to raise awareness of the most successful partnership projects, formats of cooperation, and instruments of interaction between actors from different sectors on the SDGs implementation, and motivate them to cooperate at the community, city and regional levels, as well as encourage the launch of new international projects with the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Chapter by

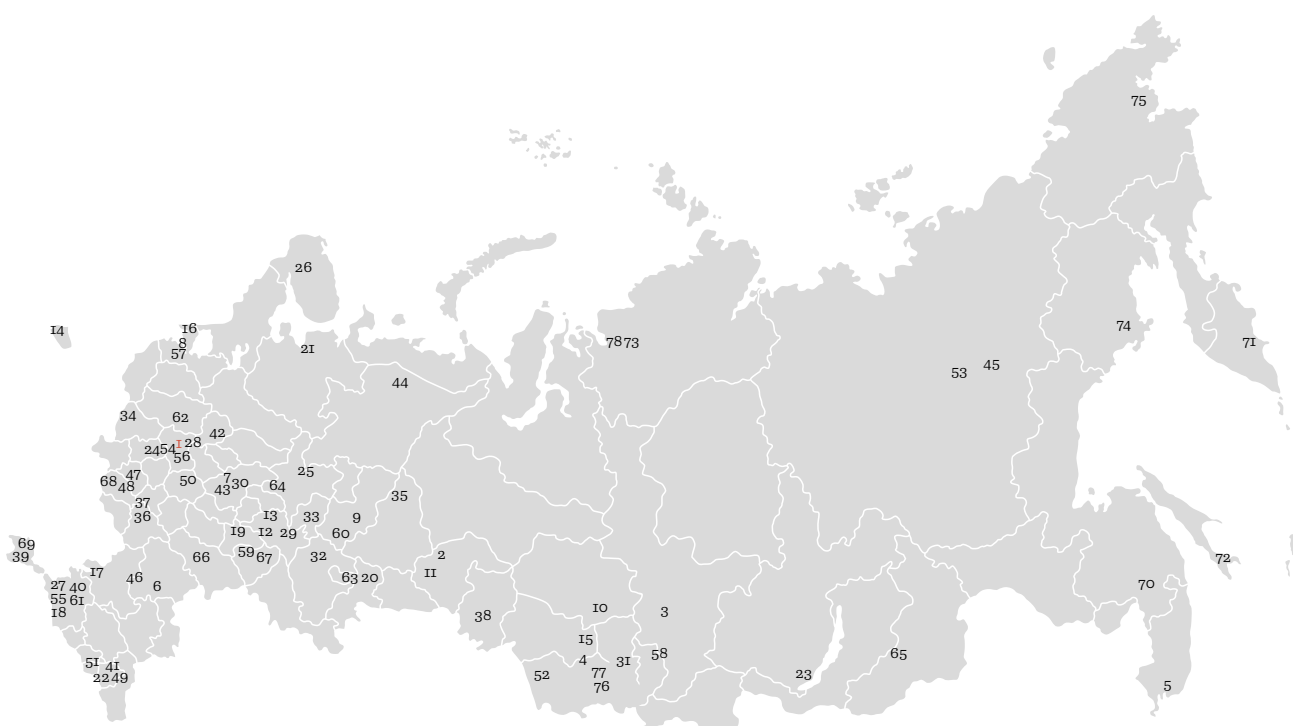
Anna Skvortsova — Charity
Interregional Organization
Centre for NGO Development

Sergey Medvedev —
Dekabristen e. V., Center for
Sustainable Development

Supporters of the Civil Society Review

Leave no one behind

A wide variety of population groups from different regions of Russia took part in the preparation of the report: organizations and activists who work with youth, children, the elderly, women, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, rural populations, LGBTQ +, religious and ethnic minorities and many others. The chapters' authors range from 26 to 78 years old and live in different parts of the country.



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|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Moscow | 15. Novosibirsk | 29. Naberezhnye Chelny | 42. Yaroslavl | 56. Molokovo | 70. Khabarovsk |
| 2. Yekaterinburg | 16. Toksovo | 30. Kstovo | 43. Dzerzhinsk | 57. Gatchina | 71. Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky |
| 3. Krasnoyarsk | 17. Rostov-on-Don | 31. Novokuznetsk | 44. Pechora | 58. Abakan | 72. Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk |
| 4. Barnaul | 18. Sochi | 32. Ufa | 45. Ytyk-Kyuyol | 59. Tolyatti | 73. Norilsk |
| 5. Vladivostok | 19. Ulyanovsk | 33. Izhevsk | 46. Kotelnikovo | 60. Tchaikovsky | 74. Magadan |
| 6. Volgograd | 20. Chelyabinsk | 34. Smolensk | 47. Oryol | 61. Novokubansk | 75. Anadyr |
| 7. Nizhny Novgorod | 21. Arkhangelsk | 35. Krasnoturyinsk | 48. Kolpino | 62. Tver | 76. Gorno-Altai |
| 8. Saint Petersburg | 22. Vladikavkaz | 36. Voronezh | 49. Grozny | 63. Ozersk | 77. Biysk |
| 9. Perm | 23. Irkutsk | 37. Komsomolsky | 50. Ryazan | 64. Cheboksary | 78. Dudinka |
| 10. Tomsk | 24. Kaluga | 38. Omsk | 51. Nalchik | 65. Chita | |
| 11. Tyumen | 25. Kirov | 39. Simferopol | 52. Yarovoye | 66. Saratov | |
| 12. Dimitrograd | 26. Kirovsk | 40. Stavropol | 53. Yakutsk | 67. Samara | |
| 13. Kazan | 27. Krasnodar | 41. Magas | 54. Odintsovo | 68. Bryansk | |
| 14. Kaliningrad | 28. Balashikha | | 55. Maykop | 69. Nizhnegorsky | |

Figure 14. Regions represented in the Coalition for Sustainable Development of Russia and among those supporting the Civil Society Review. The given map is the official map of the Russian Federation at the moment of the publication of the Civil Society Review and does not reflect the views of the authors on the legal status of any territories.

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In 2019, the Russian office of the German Social Democratic Friedrich Ebert Foundation marked the thirtieth anniversary of its presence in Russia, consistently advocating the values of freedom, justice and solidarity. In their projects, the Foundation focuses on enriching the domestic and international dialogue.

The Ebert Foundation acts as a link between Russian and German experts and stakeholders, seeks to involve both non-state and state actors, brings together representatives of various political views and movements, educational, charitable and non-governmental organizations.

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