



Общественная палата  
Российской Федерации  
CIVIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

# REPORT ON THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION 2021

# THE CURRENT PUBLIC  
AGENDA: TRUST, CARE FOR PEOPLE,  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# PORTRAIT OF SOCIAL  
ACTIVITY IN THE DIGITAL ERA

# PRESERVATION OF THE POPULATION

# PUBLIC OVERSIGHT

# HISTORICAL MEMORY

# SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY

# ECOLOGICAL WELL-BEING

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2021

# REPORT ON THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION





04  
10

INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1

THE CURRENT PUBLIC AGENDA: TRUST, CARE FOR PEOPLE, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 12 Volunteering and mutual aid as basic values of public life
- 18 Amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation: public monitoring of the implementation of “social” amendments
- 20 Growing trust in the nonprofit sector and the social demand for taking care of people
- 28 Measures to prop up the culture development and diversify the culture financing models
- 34 Providing conditions for civic engagement and creative self-realization
- 36 Systemic support for entrepreneurship and the social responsibility of businesses in the pandemic
- 41 Updating institutions of civil society



56

SECTION 3

PRESERVATION OF THE POPULATION

- 58 Consolidating civil institutions to achieve national development goals
- 62 Key initiatives in Russia’s demographic policy
- 66 Supporting large families as a traditional family value of all the people of Russia
- 71 All-Russian population census: a large-scale process, affecting economic, demographic, and social changes in the country over the past 11 years

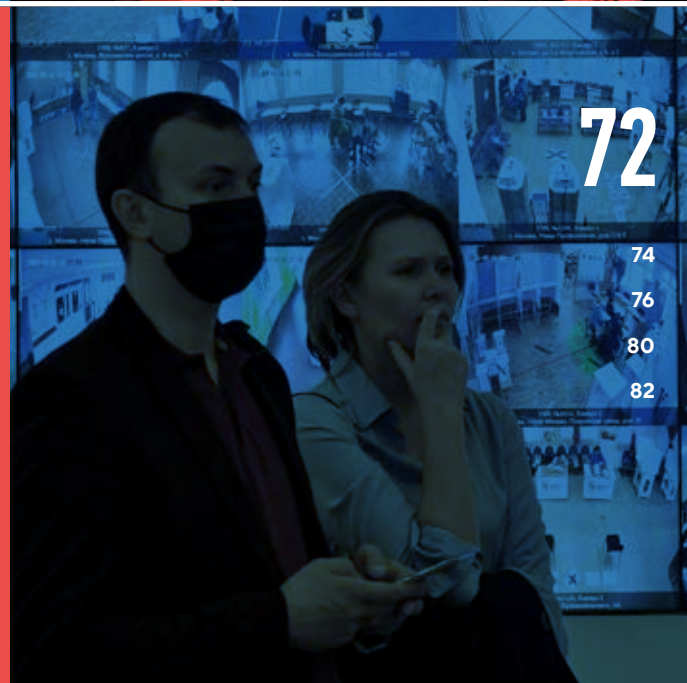


42

SECTION 2

PORTRAIT OF SOCIAL ACTIVITY IN THE DIGITAL ERA

- 44 Online communities as new civic institutions
- 46 Protecting the rights of citizens and the interests of society in the digital space
- 48 Fighting fakes on the Internet
- 50 New media: challenges and opportunities for social leadership
- 52 Perspectives on the development of civic society in the digital era
- 54 Russian Civic Chamber’s AICESIS Presidency digital agenda

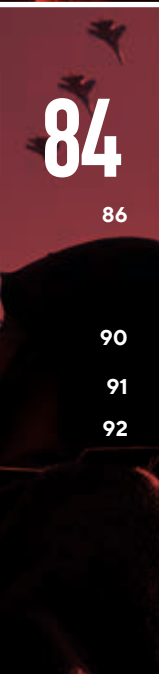


72

SECTION 4

PUBLIC OVERSIGHT

- The institution of public observation in Russia today
- Election observation domestically and abroad
- Oversight over prisoners’ electoral rights
- “Reset” of public councils’ activities

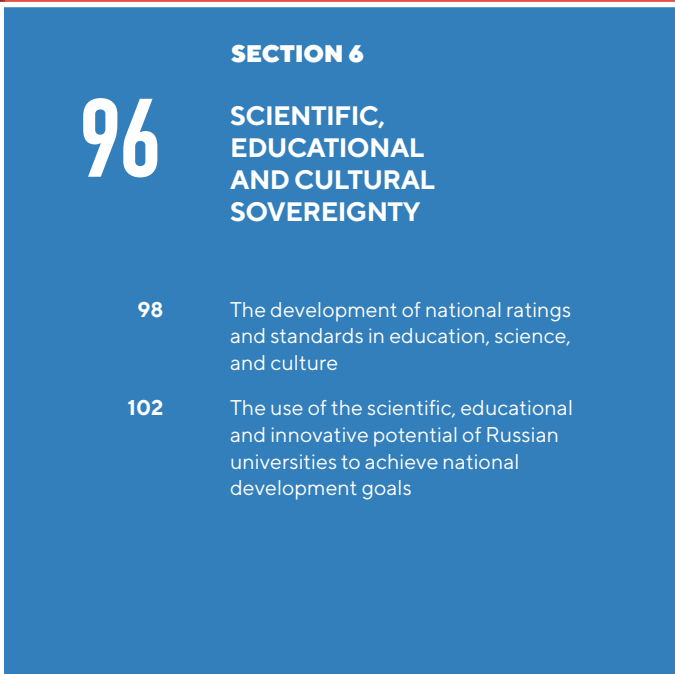


84

SECTION 5

HISTORICAL MEMORY

- 86 The role of public initiatives in preserving the memory of those who died in defense of their Fatherland
- 90 “The Immortal Regiment”
- 91 “Child-heroes of Russia”
- 92 All-Russian project “Without Time Limits”

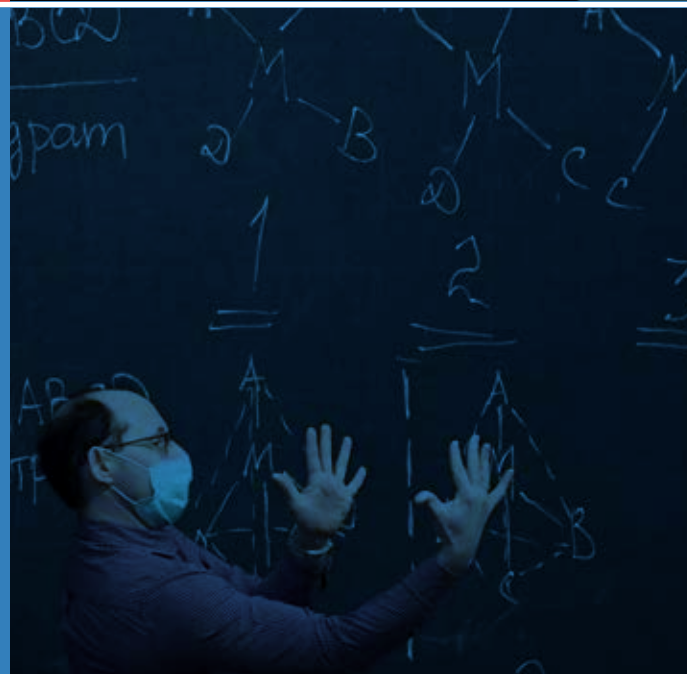


96

SECTION 6

SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY

- 98 The development of national ratings and standards in education, science, and culture
- 102 The use of the scientific, educational and innovative potential of Russian universities to achieve national development goals



106

SECTION 7

ECOLOGICAL WELL-BEING

- 108 Cooperation of government, business, and society in solving environmental issues
- 112 Environmental education as a tool for shaping environmental culture in Russian society
- 114 Preserving nature for future generations

116

CONCLUSION



# INTRODUCTION



The pandemic, now in its second year, has dealt a heavy blow to all spheres of public life in one way or another, without exception, and every citizen of our country has faced its consequences. At the same time, we can confidently say that society was able to come together in these difficult circumstances, join efforts with the state to mitigate and eliminate the consequences of the global biological cataclysm.

The state, taking full responsibility for taking timely measures to support society in this extremely difficult period, has opened a window of opportunity for society to form a new social consensus based on trust and mutual assistance.

The Annual Report on the state of civil society, prepared by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, is devoted to the most relevant trends that influenced the development of our country in 2021. One of the most important topics is public trust, the fundamental conditions of which are openness to cooperation for the sake of people's well-being, taking into account their interests when making state decisions, and positive, qualitative changes in each person's life.

The Civic Chamber, which over the years has become one of the central institutions of organized civil society, makes constant efforts to form a circle of trust, in which sometimes-opposing interests can be reconciled and taken into account, and balanced approaches can be found for the most difficult of interactions between society, business, the media, and public authorities.

Today the Civic Chamber notes a significant transformation in the public-state dialog, the most important characteristic of which is the equal partnership between the state and society, as well as broad support for the nonprofit sector and institutions of public control, for which new opportunities are opening up.

A striking example of this joint work was the support of the Head of State and the Government of Russia for the initiatives of the Civic Chamber's Coordination Council on National Projects and Population Preservation, aimed at correcting national projects and monitoring the achievement of national development goals.<sup>2</sup>

In 2021, continuing the public evaluation of regulatory legal acts with the wide involvement of representatives of the expert community, regional civic chambers and public councils under federal executive authorities. The Civic Chamber focused on the legislative implementation of the "social" amendments to the updated Constitution. The increased public interest in this topic remains, as evidenced by the large number of appeals by citizens to the Civic Chamber regarding the constitutional system and the foundations of state government.

"THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION NOW HAS THE RIGHT CONDITIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WELFARE OF CITIZENS, FOR MUTUAL TRUST BETWEEN THE STATE AND SOCIETY, PROTECTION OF THE DIGNITY OF CITIZENS AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN LABOR ARE GUARANTEED. A BALANCE OF THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF CITIZENS, SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ARE ENSURED".

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 75 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

# APPEALS BY CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS

FOR THE PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER 2021, THE CIVIC CHAMBER RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED

51,147

APPEALS

13,905

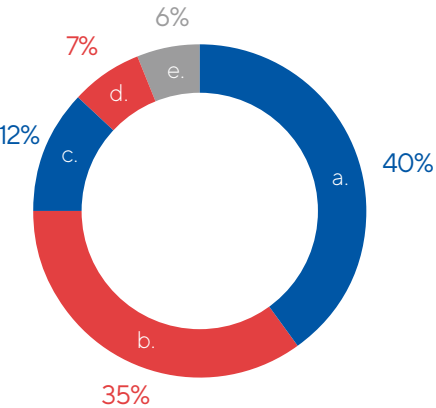
CALLS TO THE HOTLINE

FROM 15–30 NOVEMBER, THE CIVIC CHAMBER RECEIVED 39,978 APPEALS FROM CITIZENS RELATED TO THE DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT LAW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTIFICATES FOR VACCINATED CITIZENS

## NEW GENERAL APPROACHES TO WORKING WITH CITIZEN APPEALS

- # INFORMATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND RESOLUTION OF THE MOST RESONANT AND SOCIALLY SIGNIFICANT APPEALS
- # INCREASING THE IN-FIELD APPEALS WORK BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ELECTED FROM REGIONAL CIVIC CHAMBERS
- # MEETINGS WITH APPLICANTS AND ANALYSIS OF CITIZENS' APPEALS DURING THE REGIONAL "COMMUNITY" FORUMS

## MAIN TOPICS OF CITIZEN APPEALS TO THE CIVIC CHAMBER



a.	STATE, SOCIETY, POLICY	40%
b.	THE SOCIAL SPHERE	35%
c.	DEFENCE, SECURITY, LEGALITY	12%
d.	HOUSING AND COMMUNAL SPHERE	7%
e.	OTHER TOPICS INCLUDING ECONOMY AND ECOLOGY	6%

## STATE, SOCIETY, POLICY

### MAIN APPEAL TOPICS

- # THE WORK OF STATE AUTHORITIES (FEDERAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL, AS WELL AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES)
- # RESONANT EVENTS IN PUBLIC LIFE
- # PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTRY

## THE SOCIAL SPHERE

### MAIN APPEAL TOPICS

- # SOCIAL BENEFITS
- # SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
- # DISABILITY CONFIRMATION
- # HEALTHCARE
- # PROVISION OF HIGH-TECH MEDICAL CARE
- # PROVISION OF MEDICINE
- # PROVISION OF HOUSING FOR ORPHANS AND CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL CARE

## DEFENCE, SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF LAW AND ORDER

### MAIN APPEAL TOPICS

- # QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USE OF PUNISHMENTS
- # INACTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES AND THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
- # REFUSALS TO INITIATE CRIMINAL CASES
- # VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS WITHIN DETENTION FACILITIES

## HOUSING AND UTILITIES SERVICES

### MAIN APPEAL TOPICS

- # PROBLEMS WITH HOUSING RIGHTS AND THE LOSS, ABSENCE OR DEPRIVATION OF HOUSING
- # DILAPIDATED STATE OF HOUSING
- # IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS AND AREAS SURROUNDING BUILDINGS
- # RISE IN TARIFFS AND PRICES FOR UTILITIES AND THE DECLINE OF THEIR QUALITY
- # INSUFFICIENT CAPITAL REPAIRS AND FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXISTING OBJECTS
- # VILLAGES GAS SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

In 2021, there were also a significant number of appeals regarding society's development in terms of health, education, and social security, as well as security and law enforcement issues. The issues of ensuring the right to housing also became an important topic: this refers to the loss, absence, or deprivation of housing, resettlement from dilapidated housing, and providing housing for children left without parental care. Complaints related to a whole range of problems in the housing and utilities sector; rising tariffs and prices, falling quality of services, and the villages gas supply infrastructure development remain relevant. According to all received appeals, the Civic Chamber, using the means at its disposal and striving to find balanced and effective solutions, acted as a platform for fostering a constructive dialog between interested parties.

Vivid examples of the work with citizens' appeals in 2021 were joint interaction of the Civic Chamber's and regional civic chambers. Thanks to the efforts of the members of the Civic Chamber, the legal conflict faced by the heads of private kindergartens in the city of Samara was resolved. In connection with the ambiguous interpretation of a clause of one of the resolutions of the Samara city district administration, which considered the payment for services by parents, the heads of private kindergartens faced charges of fraud and were brought to book. The prompt response of the federal and regional civic chambers helped to resolve this conflict. The resolution was amended to eliminate the legal and linguistic ambiguity of the situation that caused the conflict, and private kindergartens continued their successful and fruitful work in the region. To exclude such precedents in the future, including in other regions of Russia, the Civic Chamber has prepared a number of recommendations to federal and local authorities.

Another example of such successful interaction was the work on the collective appeal of 13 visually impaired people to preserve the Ufa branch of the "Belavtodetal" plant, which provides jobs for people with disabilities. According to the appeal, the plant was about to be sold out based on the company's management conclusion about the plant dilapidated status without providing any legal evidence of this fact at all. Following appeals from members of the federal and regional civic chambers and their active involvement in solving the problem, members of the central board of the All-Russia Association of the Blind investigated the incident. The investigation stamped to preserve the enterprise and increase the number of jobs for the blind.

It is the appeals of citizens that act as an indicator of public interests and sentiments, which was convincingly demonstrated by the preliminary hearings of the draft federal law on amendments to a number of regulatory legal acts on the introduction of certificates for vaccinated and ill COVID-19 citizens, held in the Civic Chamber on November 26, 2021.

The introduction of the draft law to the State Duma by the Russian Government caused a widespread public outcry, taking which into account the Civic Chamber considered it necessary to provide a platform for dialog for everyone who would like to express their opinion on this topic. Within two weeks of the decision to hold preliminary hearings of the bill, an unprecedented number of citizens appealed to the Civic Chamber. The number of appeals, which contained a wide range of proposals from improving the draft law to its complete abolition, reached almost 40,000. In an average year, the Civic Chamber receives 15-17,000 appeals. The Civic Chamber hotline received over 700 calls on this topic.

After analyzing all the positions, the Civic Chamber, during the preliminary hearings, noted that opponents of the bills do not oppose vaccination but express concerns about the mechanism for introducing COVID-19 certificates. The results of the public discussion were specific suggestions and comments on the revision of the draft law, which aimed to ensure the maximal rights and legal interests of citizens.

The subsequent decision of the State Duma to quash the draft law on the QR codes in transport from consideration and send it for further revision was the result of taking into account the opinions and appeals of a significant number of citizens who took an active part in the public discussion of this utmost issue.

The most important task of the Civic Chamber was to ensure public observation on a single voting day in

September 2021. The Civic Chamber states that, despite the difficult epidemiological situation and attempts of foreign interference in the election campaign, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation handled its assigned tasks, ensuring an unprecedented level of transparency and legitimacy of the electoral process. This year, public observation has reached a qualitatively new level, significantly expanding not only its technological capabilities but also its coverage. For the first time, digital tools for verifying the results of remote voting, based on advanced blockchain technologies, were introduced into the public observation system. Summing up the results of the year, we can say with full confidence that public observation has become one of the largest projects of Russia's entire civil society.

The Civic Chamber notes the significant strengthening of the infrastructure for the support and development of civil society in the country, thanks to the launch of a number of large-scale social projects. These include the creation of the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives, the launch of the "Krug Dobra" Foundation (Circle of Kindness Foundation) for the support of children with severe life-threatening and chronic diseases, and restarting the activities of such historically significant public organizations as the Russian Red Cross and the "Znanie" (Knowledge Society).

One of the most striking trends in Russian society has been the universal growth of the volunteer movement, including in the business sector, where corporate volunteering has become a new management trend. With their hearts, and not by order, people unite to achieve both small and large goals in healthcare, ecology, education, and the preservation of cultural and historical heritage.

Taking into account that online communities and small groups that arise largely in order to solve local problems have become the most important points of the solidification and growth of civil society activities in 2021, the Civic Chamber seeks to unite them on its platform, to support them in developing a consolidated position and bringing it to public authorities in the form of concrete proposals. The development of institutions of regional and municipal civic chambers and increasing interaction with them will improve the efficiency of work on uniting civil activists to solve socially important tasks.

A separate area of work, despite a number of continuing restrictions related to the pandemic, was the increased international cooperation through civil society, including with ex-patriot communities and residents of twin cities.

The Civic Chamber notes with regret that, at the international level, in 2021, the necessary level of cooperation in countering coronavirus infection was not maintained. The leading countries of the world put their national interests to the fore in this fight, and this not only seriously set back world successes in the fight against the pandemic but also exacerbated mutual distrust and rivalry.

The Civic Chamber is eager to discuss all these important matters along with other international topics, such as digital inequality, cyber-crime, and the protection of citizens' rights in the digital environment. Additionally, in 2022-2023 all these points of discussion will be raised at the international level due to the Presidency of the Civic Chamber in the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS).

The Civic Chamber sees its mission not only in facilitating a dialog with the authorities but also in ensuring that this results in fair decisions. Having formulated this mission, the Civic Chamber, based on its priority of trust on the part of citizens, strives to be a vehicle for systemic change aimed at the development of the country and to achieve tangible qualitative changes in the daily lives of our citizens.





# THE CURRENT

## PUBLIC **AGENDA:** TRUST, CARE FOR PEOPLE, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

“FOR A HUGE MULTINATIONAL RUSSIA, THE SOLIDARITY OF PEOPLE, A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE FATE OF THE FATHERLAND, RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS PRESENT AND FUTURE – WHAT IS COMMONLY CALLED THE ALL-RUSSIAN IDENTITY, CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS – IS OF FUNDAMENTAL, DECISIVE IMPORTANCE.”

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA VLADIMIR PUTIN AT THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL FOR INTERETHNIC RELATIONS, MARCH 30, 2021

- 12 Volunteering and mutual aid as basic values of public life
- 18 Amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation: public monitoring of the implementation of “social” amendments
- 20 Growing trust in the nonprofit sector and the demand for social care
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# 1.1 VOLUNTEERING AND MUTUAL AID AS BASIC VALUES OF PUBLIC LIFE

IN RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, THERE HAS BEEN AN UNPRECEDENTED INCREASE IN THE ACTIVITY OF THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT IN RUSSIA. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RUSSIA, BY THE MIDDLE OF 2021, MORE THAN 7.5 MILLION RUSSIANS WERE INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES BY VOLUNTEER SUPPORT CENTERS BASED ON NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND STATE AND MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS.

The pandemic period has become a kind of test for Russian volunteers. And they did not disappoint. During this time, volunteer support was felt by thousands of doctors and ordinary citizens. It is thanks to volunteers that humanity and mutual assistance have become the real values of our life.

Thanks to the attention of the country's leadership to the development and support of volunteer activities and the efforts of federal authorities on the legal regulation of cooperation in volunteerism in recent years, significant positive results have been achieved in the organization of volunteer cooperation, the development of universal codes of conduct, and their popularization and expansion.

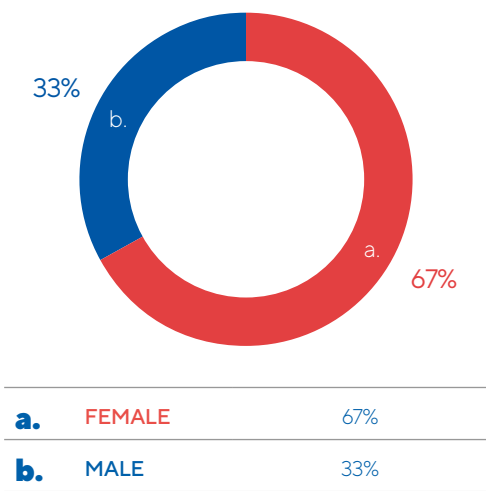
Today there are hundreds of volunteer centers and organizations operating in Russia. They carry out their activities in almost all spheres of public life, playing an important role in civil society.

There has been an unprecedented increase in society's trust in volunteers: according to the Russian Public Opinion Research Center, the majority of Russians (85%) believe that the state should help volunteers, activists of social movements, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).<sup>3</sup> Of note, high rates of trust in volunteers from the citizens of our country have been recorded – 90–92%.<sup>4</sup>

23  
YEARS OLD

AVERAGE AGE OF VOLUNTEERS

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RUSSIAN VOLUNTEERS



10,392  
ORGANIZERS

71,243  
EVENTS

## THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT IN RUSSIA\*

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT IN RUSSIA IN 2021

850,327

VOLUNTEERS

97,726  
VACANCIES

10,706  
PROJECTS

The Civic Chamber recognizes the importance of preserving and developing the accumulated experience of effective cooperation between public authorities, organized civil society institutions, NGOs, and volunteers during the pandemic. In 2021, the Civic Chamber acted as a platform for consolidating and developing a unified position on solving the most significant problems for the country.

One example of this cooperation is the separate work carried out by the Civic Chamber with such socially significant volunteer groups in Russia as the All-Russian Public Movement "Medical Volunteers," the All-Russian Student Rescue Corps, and the Volunteer Search and Rescue Team "LizaAlert".

The "Medical Volunteers" movement was founded in 2013 by activists from the civil project "Volunteers of the Sklif" under the patronage of the National Research Institute for Emergency Medicine named after N.V. Sklifosovsky. In 2016, it received the official status of an All-Russian Public Organization. Today, the "Medical Volunteers" public organization is one of the largest healthcare-related volunteer groups in Europe.<sup>5</sup>

The Civic Chamber has repeatedly noted the importance and relevance of volunteer activities during the pandemic.

\* Data by December 2021 (www.dobro.ru)



In 2021, due to the increasing refusals of volunteer help by social and medical institutions due to coronavirus restrictions, the Civic Chamber (with the broad participation of representatives of the state authorities, public organizations, scientific and expert communities) considered the main problematic issues on the organization of volunteer work in healthcare. Recommendations on the further coordination of interests and the removal of barriers to the work of volunteers in healthcare institutions were sent to the relevant ministries and departments of the Russian Federation.

The All-Russian Students' Rescue Corps turned 20 years old this year. Today it is the largest volunteer organization, numbering more than eight thousand volunteers who conduct educational projects on safety, engage in patriotic education of young people, and participate in rescue operations and emergency response measures.<sup>6</sup>

In August 2021, the 11th Report and Election Conference of the All-Russian Student Rescue Corps (VKS) was held at the platform of the Civic Chamber, where 56 delegates from 72 regional branches gathered. During the conference, there was a two-day alignment meeting for the heads of regional offices and resource centers on supporting volunteerism in emergency situations. During the conference, participants shared their experiences, discussed the main issues of the organization's activities, and determined the directions of the Corps' development.

TOP-10 MOST POPULAR FIELDS BY NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS IN 2021\*

1 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

142,511 PARTICIPANTS 32,384 EVENTS

2 HEALTHCARE AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

84,529 PARTICIPANTS 14,975 EVENTS

3 CULTURE AND ART

82,357 PARTICIPANTS 16,924 EVENTS

4 EDUCATION

78,615 PARTICIPANTS 10,885 EVENTS

5 VETERANS AND HISTORICAL MEMORY

75,250 PARTICIPANTS 9,987 EVENTS

6 NATURE

67,663 PARTICIPANTS 7,684 EVENTS

9 THE OLDER GENERATION

54,015 PARTICIPANTS

8,351 EVENTS

7 SPORT AND ACTIVITIES

64,867 PARTICIPANTS 9,118 EVENTS

8 ANIMALS

58,920 PARTICIPANTS 2,043 EVENTS

10 INTELLECTUAL ASSISTANCE

42,829 PARTICIPANTS

2,565 EVENTS

7,222,516 hours

3,842,364 of them verified

\* Data by December 2021 (www.dobro.ru)

# THE ALL-RUSSIAN ACTION OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE #WETOGETHER

## IN FIGURES

OVER

1.81

BILLION RUBLES

DONATIONS  
COLLECTED

#WETOGETHER IS  
THE ALL-RUSSIAN ACTION OF  
MUTUAL ASSISTANCE, UNDER  
WHICH ANYONE CAN OFFER  
THEIR HELP OR ASK FOR IT

The public association "LizaAlert" is a unique volunteer search and rescue team, which appeared after the tragic story of a little girl who got lost and died of hypothermia in September 2010.<sup>7</sup>

In 2020–2021, noting the unconditional social significance of the search and rescue movement, the Civic Chamber held a series of events on improving the legislation of the Russian Federation in terms of determining the location of subscribers' phones in order to promptly search for missing people. The Civic Chamber's proposals to allow the obtaining of information about the location and connections of a subscriber device held by a missing person were taken into account when adopting the relevant federal law.<sup>8</sup>

1.7

MILLION PEOPLE

RECEIVED FREE FOOD  
PACKAGES

OVER

6.5

MILLION PEOPLE

RECEIVED TARGETED STATE  
ASSISTANCE

OVER

250  
THOUSAND  
VOLUNTEERS

In addition, the Civic Chamber has formulated a number of proposals to the responsible agencies to conduct a pilot project, in various regions of the Russian Federation, on the introduction of bracelets with NFC technology and QR code in order to reduce the search time and identification of missing persons.

OVER

100  
TONNESDELIVERED TO THOSE IN NEED  
BY THE RUSSIAN RED CROSS

From the middle of 2021, safety bracelets started being given out for free to citizens in at-risk groups: children, the elderly, and people with mental disorders. The coordinators of the project "LizaAlert" estimate that such bracelets can save about 10 thousand people annually. They are bright orange, do not require charging, and are not damaged by water.<sup>9</sup>

OVER

30  
MILLIONPIECES OF PERSONAL  
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT  
GIVEN OUT

An important event in the autumn of 2021 was the resumption of work by the headquarters of the nationwide mutual assistance campaign #WeTogether. The volunteers, responding to society's needs, again took the front line in the fight against the pandemic, providing targeted assistance in the purchasing and delivery of food, medicines, and basic necessities, as well as volunteer assistance in medical organizations and social institutions.

Today, at the Civic Chamber's initiative, activities are underway to develop and coordinate the draft law on mandatory life insurance for volunteers.<sup>10</sup>

On December 5, 2021, the Volunteer Day, the President of Russia took part in the #WeTogether volunteer award ceremony to support the public initiative to insure volunteers.



## 1.2 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION: PUBLIC MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF "SOCIAL" AMENDMENTS

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION INITIATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION VLADIMIR PUTIN HAVE GENERATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST ACROSS ALL OF RUSSIAN SOCIETY. THE CIVIC CHAMBER, HAVING TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE RUSSIAN CONSTITUTION AS A KEY INSTITUTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY, HAS CONTINUED TO WORK ON PRESENTING ITS POSITION ON DRAFT LAWS DEVELOPED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW.

Since the amendments came into force, the State Duma has adopted more than 200 federal laws in their development. A significant number of the new laws concern social and family topics, the expansion of the powers of the Federal Assembly as a representative body of power in Russia, changing the status of local self-government, and the legislative strengthening of the sovereignty of Russia and the inviolability of existing borders.

The next stage involves changing regional and municipal legislation, improving industry standards, and challenging norms that do not comply with the principles and nature of the updated Constitution.

Following the results of the conference held in July 2021, dedicated to the anniversary of the adoption of the amendments, a decision was made to expand the interaction of the Civic Chamber with the Ministry of Justice of Russia regarding work on the development and adoption of draft laws that directly develop and specify new constitutional norms.

In 2021, the Civic Chamber paid special attention to discussing changes in legislation and the regulatory framework in the following areas:

# Draft resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation on the implementation of educational activities in the Russian Federation.<sup>11</sup>

The Civic Chamber, having collated the opinions of active citizens, made a number of serious comments and suggestions on finalizing the draft resolution, as well as recommending a comprehensive analysis, coordination, and assessment of the regulatory impact of the resolution with the participation of civil society institutions. Following the results of the Ministry of Education of Russia's public discussion, the project was withdrawn for revision;

# The practice of applying the Federal Law on the Responsible Treatment of Animals<sup>12</sup> and perspectives on its further improvement. Having united the dialog of various public forces

acting with diametrically opposed positions, the Civic Chamber has developed a set of recommendations, including proposals for the registration and labeling of animals, ensuring their sterilization, the creation of shelters with the assistance of local authorities, and the establishment of liability for obstructing activities to ensure public control in the field of animal treatment;

# The Civic Chamber created a working group to improve the legal regulation on protecting the rights of citizens with mental disorders.<sup>13</sup> It includes representatives of the Russian Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labor, the State Duma, the Federation Council, and scientific medical centers. With the participation of the working group, the substantive structure of the psychiatric care law was determined. It shall help to strengthen the regulations of medical care given to citizens suffering from mental disorders and protect their rights and freedoms when such care is provided. The necessity of further improving legislation on issues of custody and guardianship, the capacity of patients suffering from mental disorders, determining the extent of legal capacity, protecting the rights of patients in hospitals and neuropsychiatric boarding schools is also noted. At the moment, these provisions are being developed;<sup>14</sup>

# Amendments to legislation to actively fight coronavirus, namely to regulate citizens' access to public catering, transport, cultural and sports institutions, and other places that may become a factor of spreading the disease amid the pandemic.

Every year, the Civic Chamber conducts a public evaluation of the most important financial document that has a decisive impact on all spheres of society's life: the draft federal budget.<sup>15</sup>

The Civic Chamber supported the draft budget, recognizing it as generally balanced and meeting the interests of civil society. At the same time, the Chamber members formulated suggestions and comments, which were recommended for consideration when further finalizing the draft law:

- # Amid the relatively low GDP growth rates, the need to reduce funding for the “National Economy” and “Social Policy” sections is questionable;

# There is an unjustified decrease in funding for health and education, the most important national projects of the "social block":

# In 2022, the budget deficit of the Compulsory Social Insurance Fund of the Russian Federation, in terms of compulsory social insurance in case of temporary disability or maternity leave, is planned to be financed by a surplus of funds from another type of compulsory social insurance – from industrial accidents and occupational diseases.

**OVER**

200

## FEDERAL LAWS

ADOPTED BY THE STATE DUMA ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PROVISIONS  
OF THE CONSTITUTION OF RUSSIA

The Civic Chamber considers it necessary to minimize the practice of such cross-subsidization:

# The need to finance individual programs and subprograms of socially significant projects and initiatives implemented under activities by such organizations as the Russian Red Cross, the "Immortal Regiment" of Russia, the Charity Foundation "Old Age in Joy," the National Monitoring Center for Missing and Injured Children, and others.



# 1.3 GROWING TRUST IN THE NONPROFIT SECTOR AND THE SOCIAL DEMAND FOR TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE

AN EXAMPLE OF THE CULTIVATION OF AN EFFECTIVE DIALOG BETWEEN THE CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE STATE AT A NEW QUALITATIVE LEVEL IS THE DEVELOPING RELATIONS ESTABLISHED IN THE NONGOVERNMENTAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

The active work of nongovernmental organizations during the pandemic resulted in a significant increase in public confidence in the activities of NGOs and volunteers, and the state continued to perceive the nonprofit sector as an equal reliable partner in implementing social policy and solving public problems.

At the same time, nongovernmental organizations, providing support to the population in the restrictive conditions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, themselves ended up in a difficult situation; they needed the help of the state. The Civic Chamber was one of the first to draw attention to the problems of socially oriented nonprofit organizations, proposing measures to support NGOs. These proposals are reflected in the President of Russia's proposals.

The unprecedented "anti-pandemic" package of support measures provided by the state to nonprofit organizations (NPOs) in 2020 contributed to maintaining the sustainability of the nongovernmental sector.

In 2021, the Civic Chamber, as part of its monitoring of state support measures for nongovernmental organizations, focused on making these measures more systematic and targeted.

With the direct involvement of the Civic Chamber, the following were developed:

- # Federal Law dated 30.04.2021 No.104-FZ "On Amendments to Article 265 of Part Two of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation," in accordance with which the two registers of socially-oriented NPOs receiving state support make up a single one. It means that organizations donating to NPOs included in the specified register will be able to receive an income tax deduction. This law will come into force on January 1, 2022;
- # Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 30.07.2021 No.1290 "On the Register of Socially Oriented Nonprofit Organizations," which approved a single register of socially-oriented NPOs. The Civic Chamber managed to defend the proposal to expand the criteria for the inclusion of socially oriented NPOs with those named register – in addition to those defined last year. The register will also be able to include NPOs that receive state (or municipal) support.

## MAIN AREAS OF STATE SUPPORT FOR THE NONGOVERNMENTAL SECTOR

THE MAIN DIRECTIONS OF STATE SUPPORT FOR THE NONGOVERNMENTAL SECTOR, AS DEFINED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION DURING THE ANNUAL ADDRESSES TO THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY



ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION OF THE NONGOVERNMENTAL SECTOR IN THE SOCIAL SPHERE AND BARRIERS



INTRODUCING THE LEGAL STATUS OF "NGO – PROVIDER OF SOCIALLY USEFUL SERVICES"



ESTABLISHING A NUMBER OF BENEFITS AND PREFERENCES FOR NGOs PERFORMING SOCIALLY USEFUL SERVICES



ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RESOURCES



GRADUAL ALLOCATION OF UP TO 10% OF REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL SOCIAL PROGRAMS FUNDS TO NGOs



In addition, the regional executive authority of the Russian Federation may propose an additional criterion for the inclusion of a regional NPO in this register. The Civic Chamber and regional civic chambers are authorized to request the relevant authorities if, in their opinion, a decision on the inclusion of an NPO in the register appears incorrect. The authority is obliged to consider the request and send a reasoned response. This provides an effective mechanism, thanks to which the civic chambers can continue to monitor the transparency and fairness of the formation of a single register with NPOs.

In 2021, the topic of developing and supporting the nonprofit sector was also actively worked out by the Civic Chamber in the following areas:

- # Rating of regions by the level of development and support for the nongovernmental sector. In 2021, the rating methodology was updated based on proposals received from experts and regional civic chambers. The new rating includes 150 parameters that are processed into 60 indicators combined into 10 groups. The results of the study were presented in November 2021 at the final “Community” forum in Moscow. The rating makes it possible to comprehensively assess how developed the nonprofit sector is in the region, and at the same time presents this assessment in a compact, understandable form;
- # The “Participation of NGOs in the Provision of Services in the Social Sphere” project is being implemented. This project demonstrates to the general public and the expert community the experiences and practices of the regions in supporting NPOs, as well as social technologies created with the participation of NGOs or social entrepreneurs. As for representatives of regional NGOs, this forum gives them an opportunity to share their work experience and canvass the barriers that hinder their work;
- # Together with the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Economic Development, regional civic chambers, and the expert community public monitoring of the implementation of Federal Law 189-FZ “On State (Municipal) Social Order for the Provision of State (Municipal) Services in the Social Sphere” is being carried out. The Civic Chamber has been directly involved in its development since 2016. The regional civic chambers, along with the regional offices of OPORA Russia, act as communication platforms that ensure the participation of all parties interested in piloting the law in various regions;
- # Informational and methodological support is provided to civic chambers on the development of the nonprofit sector, charities, and volunteerism under the “Hour with the Ministry

of Economic Development of Russia” and “Hour with the Ministry of Finance of Russia” projects;

- # Using the platform of the working group under the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation to develop the terms of an algorithm for reporting on the amounts and purposes of spending funds received from donors who may have foreign sources. These procedures are designed to take into account the interests and protect the reputation of scrupulous NGOs when fulfilling legal requirements;
- # Developing proposals to improve the legislation on NGOs, in terms of implementing the instructions of Sergey Kiriyenko, First Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of Russia, given as a result of the “Community” forum. The development bifurcated both public evaluation of draft laws and regulations, developed by the authorities, and the development of independent proposals;
- # The Civic Chamber has launched the “I Am Not Afraid of Vaccinations” campaign, aiming to inform and educate about immunization against a novel coronavirus infection with the help of NGOs, their employees, and volunteers, who are an important communication channel for certain categories of citizens.

In October–November 2021, amid the anti-pandemic restrictions, the Russian Government developed and implemented new measures to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and NPOs, which are provided both at the federal and regional levels. The Civic Chamber notes that the prompt resolution of the issue of supporting NGOs facing forced restrictions indicates that the state fully recognizes the critically important role of NGOs in the development of the economy and social sphere.

In 2022, the Civic Chamber, within its powers, will continue to consistently monitor the consideration of the interests of the nonprofit sector in new legislative initiatives.<sup>16</sup>

In 2021, an important practical result of a new type of relations between the state, business, and civil society, as well as a sign of the state’s trust in the nonprofit sector, was the creation of the Circle of Kindness Foundation with the active participation of the Civic Chamber.<sup>17</sup> The Foundation is a distributor of funds allocated by the government for helping children with severe life-threatening, chronic, and rare illnesses. The Civic Chamber worked on developing the fund’s structure and gave recommendations on its fields of operation. All of the Civic Chamber’s proposals were included in the decree of the Russian Government, as well as the program documents on which the foundation is currently working on.<sup>18</sup>

The principles of its work are the implementation of a new decision-making model based on medical discussion, which takes into account the opinion of society.

The Foundation is financed using a targeted social tax, with deductions from the personal income tax rate increased from 13 to 15%, which is valid for incomes over 5 million rubles a year.<sup>19</sup>

Through the work of the Foundation, 1,704 children were provided with medicine for eight diseases in 2021. At the end of 2021, the Foundation’s expert council expanded the age range for the use of Zolgensma drugs for the treatment of spinal muscular atrophy and Trikafta for the treatment of cystic fibrosis. An important victory of the Foundation was the official registration of Zolgensma in Russia.

In 2022, the Foundation plans to allocate roughly 78.8 billion rubles to continue its activities.

1,704

CHILDREN

PROVIDED WITH TREATMENT FOR RARE CONDITIONS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE CIRCLE OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION

>252

BILLION RUBLES

WILL BE SENT IN 2022-2024 TO THE CIRCLE OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH SEVERE LIFE-THREATENING AND CHRONIC ILLNESSES

# RATING OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION SUBJECTS BY LEVEL AND QUALITY OF THE NONGOVERNMENTAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

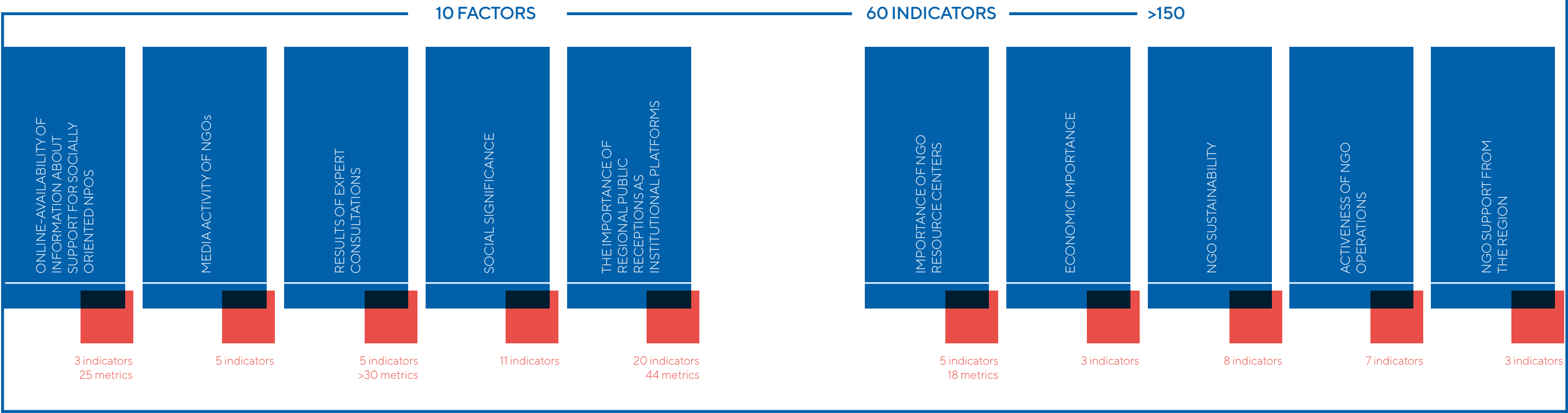
THE CIVIC CHAMBER’S PROJECT: “RATING OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION SUBJECTS **BY LEVEL AND QUALITY** OF THE NONGOVERNMENTAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT”

TOP 10 REGIONS BY LEVEL AND QUALITY OF THE NONGOVERNMENTAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

		Rating in 2020	Position	Rating number	Economic importance	NGO Sustainability	Activeness of NGO operations	NGO support from the region	Online-availability of information about support for socially oriented NPOs	Media activity	Results of expert consultations	Social significance	Importance of regional public receptions for the NGO	Importance of NPO resource centers
					Score									
1.	MOSCOW	1	0	66.048	5.00	5.00	2.70	3.02	4.51	5.00	2.65	4.97	4.13	4.33
2.	VOLOGDA REGION	14	12	64.436	3.39	4.42	4.96	4.51	3.59	3.67	3.07	4.55	3.08	3.13
3.	REPUBLIC OF TATARSTAN	2	-1	62.348	4.29	4.22	3.70	3.33	3.29	3.46	3.77	3.34	4.88	3.35
4.	KHANTY-MANSI AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT - YUGRA	4	0	61.854	2.71	4.74	3.12	5.00	3.81	3.19	2.77	5.00	4.80	3.50
5.	CHEL YABINSK REGION	11	6	61.709	3.61	3.96	3.91	3.98	3.72	3.52	2.68	3.89	4.89	3.45
6.	TYUMEN REGION	3	-3	60.445	2.54	3.99	3.26	3.65	3.02	4.09	3.36	4.96	4.12	5.00
7.	TULA REGION	9	2	59.046	3.50	4.00	2.60	3.20	4.07	3.10	5.00	2.83	4.68	3.43
8.	SAINT PETERSBURG	5	-3	58.038	3.66	4.16	2.49	3.46	3.40	4.37	2.65	4.82	3.18	3.47
9.	SAMARA REGION	10	1	56.979	3.81	4.03	3.53	3.59	3.15	2.77	2.41	4.10	4.67	2.49
10.	KRASNODAR REGION	33	23	56.853	2.79	3.45	4.20	4.52	2.66	3.18	2.17	3.44	3.77	3.86

RATING MODEL

THE NONGOVERNMENTAL SECTOR’S DEVELOPMENT IS DETERMINED BY 10 OBJECTIVE FACTORS, 60 INDICATORS, AND MORE THAN 150 METRICS

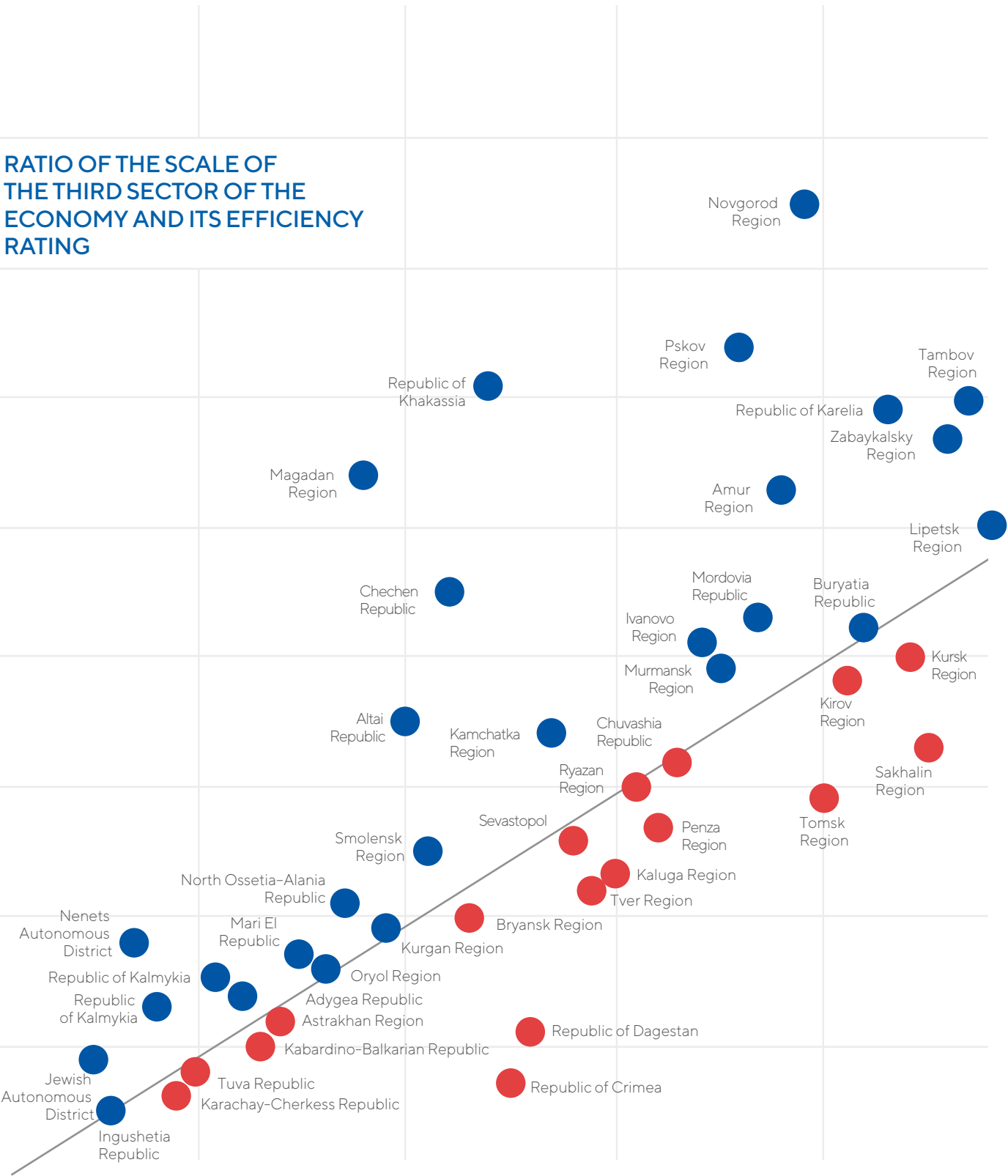




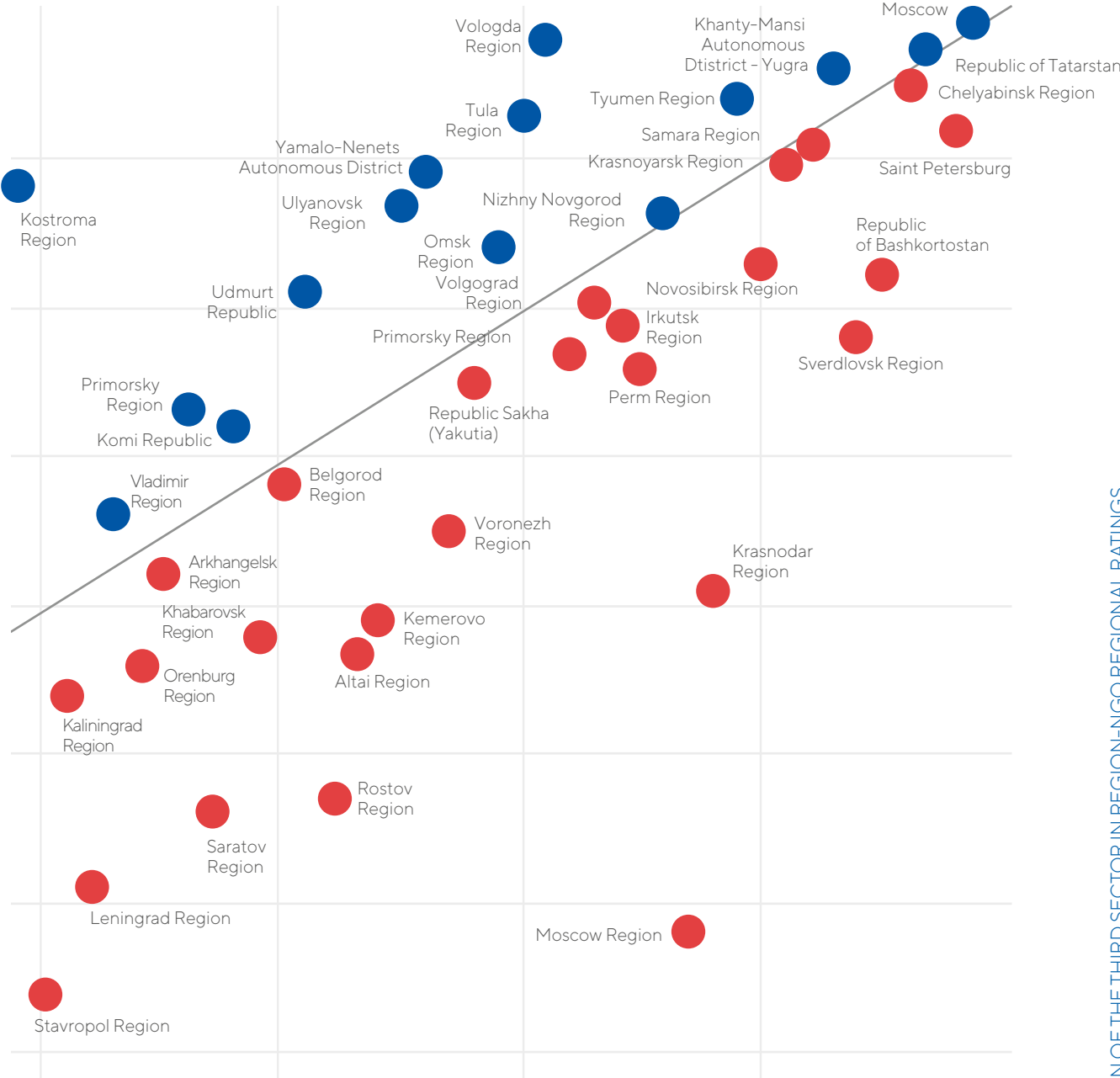
80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10

SCALE OF THE THIRD SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY

RATIO OF THE SCALE OF THE THIRD SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY AND ITS EFFICIENCY RATING



REGIONS LOCATED ABOVE THE LINE SHOW RELATIVELY HIGHER EFFICIENCY IN THE NONGOVERNMENTAL SECTOR COMPARED WITH ITS SCALE IN THE ECONOMY



POSITION OF THE THIRD SECTOR IN REGION-NGO REGIONAL RATINGS

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80

# 1.4 MEASURES TO PROP UP THE CULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFY THE CULTURE FINANCING MODELS



THE LOSS OF INCOME EXPERIENCED BY CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AMID THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC REQUIRED A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF STATE SUPPORT FOR THE CULTURAL SPHERE IN 2020-2021, AND THE STATE DID PROVIDE THIS SUPPORT.

The President of Russia instructed that culture should be taken into account in plans for economic recovery.<sup>20</sup> Instructions were also given on the adoption of additional state support measures for organizations carrying out certain types of cultural activities in 2021 and 2022, in terms of subsidies, postponement of tax payment deadlines, tax rate relief, and a number of other measures.<sup>21</sup>

In April 2021, a plan was approved for implementing the "Development of Culture" state program,<sup>22</sup> designed for 2021-2023 and providing for the restoration of museums and cultural heritage sites, the digitization of important historical texts, and the opening of new cultural centers in urban settlements and small towns.

There were also innovations aimed at the development of human resources in the cultural field. A law was passed allowing citizens to receive a second higher education in creative majors for free.<sup>23</sup> The Russian Ministry of Culture has prepared rules on granting subsidies to regions for paying compensation to specialists in the cultural sector who have moved to work in small towns and villages. Payments are planned as part of the implementation of the new "Zemstvo Cultural Worker" (County Council Cultural Worker) program. According to the Ministry, this will attract more than nine thousand new specialists to institutions in small towns and villages.<sup>24</sup>

The idea of attaching the "Zemstvo Cultural Worker" program to state planning documents was supported by the Civic Chamber during a meeting of the Coordinating Council for National Projects and Population Preservation.

Since September 1, 2021, the "Pushkin Card" project, initiated by the President of Russia and developed by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Finance, and the Post Bank, has been successfully implemented. This has made it possible to strengthen and, in many cases for the first time, establish contact between the younger generation of Russians and cultural institutions, e.g., theaters, museums, philharmonic halls, significantly increasing their attendance.<sup>25</sup>

1.6

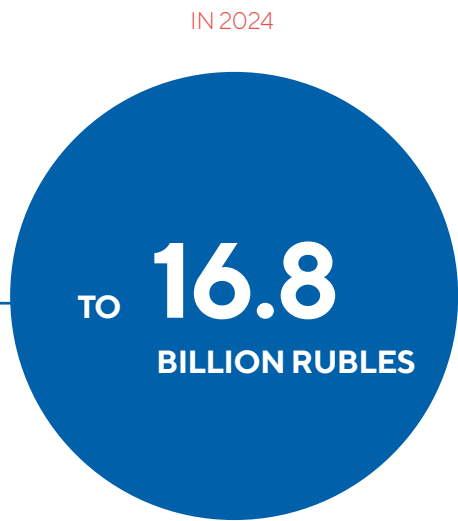
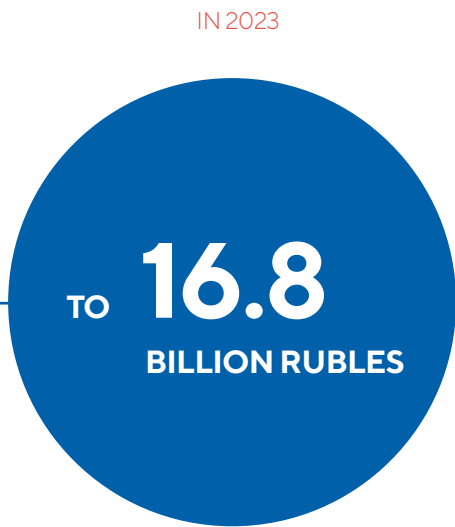
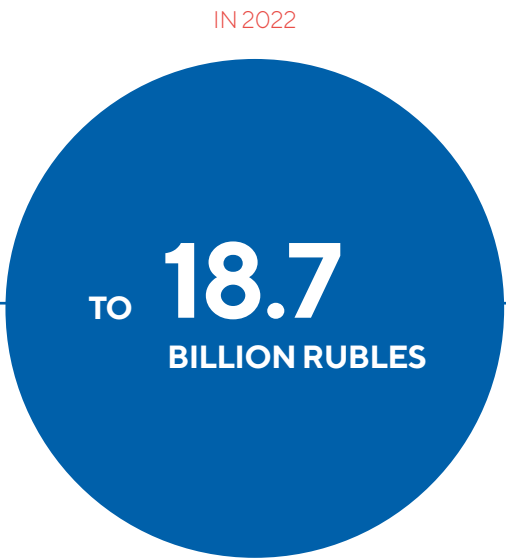
## CULTURAL SPHERE FINANCING



### TIMES

INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR THE CULTURAL SPHERE OVER THE PAST 7 YEARS

FUNDS FOR THE "CULTURE" NATIONAL PROJECT WILL BE INCREASED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ADOPTED FEDERAL BUDGET FOR 2022 AND THE PLANS FOR 2023-2024





The Civic Chamber conceptually supported the project on the Federal Law “On the Introduction of Changes to the Federal Law ‘On State Support for Cinematography in the Russian Federation.’”<sup>26</sup> This was aimed at maintaining the complete state financing of the production and distribution of certain categories of films, the public prominence and artistic value of which cannot be measured by their revenue from rollout and screening. At the same time, the Civic Chamber made proposals for more detail in the planned rules in order to reduce the risk of ambiguous interpretation. It was also proposed that members of the Civic Chamber participate in selecting national films which will receive state financing for their production and rollout.

The new Concept for the Development of Creative Industries is expected to be another important tool in developing the cultural sphere, as well as increasing the number of creative industries in all sectors of the economy until 2030. It is aimed at developing the economy, creating new jobs, attracting investment in the cultural sphere, and increasing the proportion of citizens in creative professions from 4.6 to 15%.<sup>27</sup>

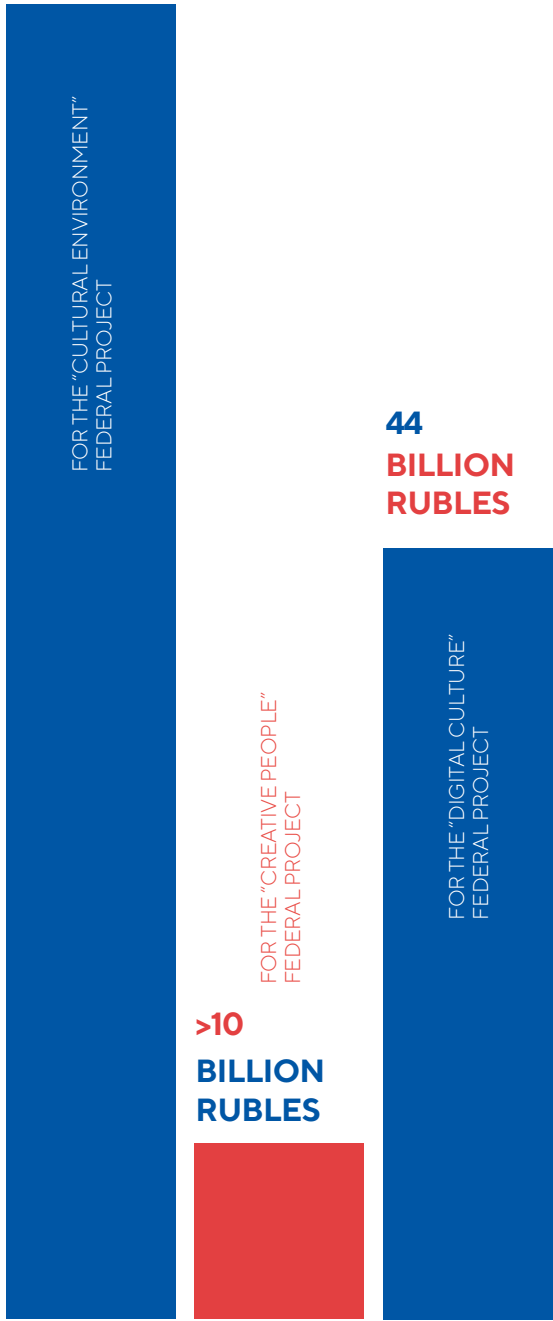
A detailed action plan within the Concept will be developed by the Ministry of Culture by March 1, 2022. Its implementation should lead to a change in the quality of life and attract talents to the national economy.

Over the past few years, one of the most controversial public issues in the cultural sphere has been the question on how much state support is required.

FROM 2022 TO 2024 THE “CULTURE” NATIONAL PROJECT WILL RECEIVE

129  
BILLION RUBLES

75  
BILLION RUBLES



THE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE “CULTURE DEVELOPMENT” STATE PLAN

IN 2022

OVER

146

BILLION RUBLES

IN 2023

146

BILLION RUBLES

IN 2024

OVER

148

BILLION RUBLES

There is a common perception that the whole range of problems in funding cultural institutions cannot be solved without the participation of the state. Despite the positive changes in this area as part of the “Culture” national project’s implementation, there are still many unresolved issues. One of the most important problems remains the closure of cultural institutions in small territories due to a wide variety of reasons – from lack of funding to low demand. Today, in many municipalities, houses of culture are the only opportunity for local residents to be creative and get involved in the arts.

In order to identify problems with the availability, equipment, and functioning of such rural institutions, the Civic Chamber launched a hotline in November 2021. As a result of this, concrete proposals for resolving this situation will be developed at the beginning of the next year.

Along with state funding, public-private partnerships in cultural projects must be developed. In line with this, the state has created a basis for private businesses and nongovernmental organizations to support the arts and participate in cultural projects, which forms a flexible approach to the issue of financing cultural projects.

The successful practices of such projects that have emerged in recent years, not only in the capital but also in the provinces of Russia, convincingly show that culture can be one of the significant factors in the investment attractiveness of a territory, and cultural projects can be self-sustaining and attractive for business.

In March 2021, at a meeting of the President of Russia with the business community, nongovernmental cultural institutions asked the President for support, noting that without the help of the state, it would be very difficult for the industry to get out of the situation amid the restrictions of coronavirus infection.<sup>28</sup> Expressing civil society’s concerns about the current situation, the Civic Chamber also sent its recommendations to the Government of Russia, the Ministry of Culture of Russia, and Rospotrebnadzor.

The creation of the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives in May 2021 was an important step in supporting public cultural initiatives. The main purpose of the new structure, created by the Decree of the President of Russia, is to support projects in cultural, artistic, and creative industries, which are implemented by NGOs, as well as commercial organizations and individual entrepreneurs.<sup>29</sup>

The Civic Chamber supported the idea of creating the Foundation, underscoring that the state is implementing the amendments to the Constitution adopted in 2020, which indicates that the country’s leadership is approaching the cultural sphere based on its fundamental importance for the development of the state.<sup>30</sup>

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT COMPETITION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION FOR CULTURAL INITIATIVES

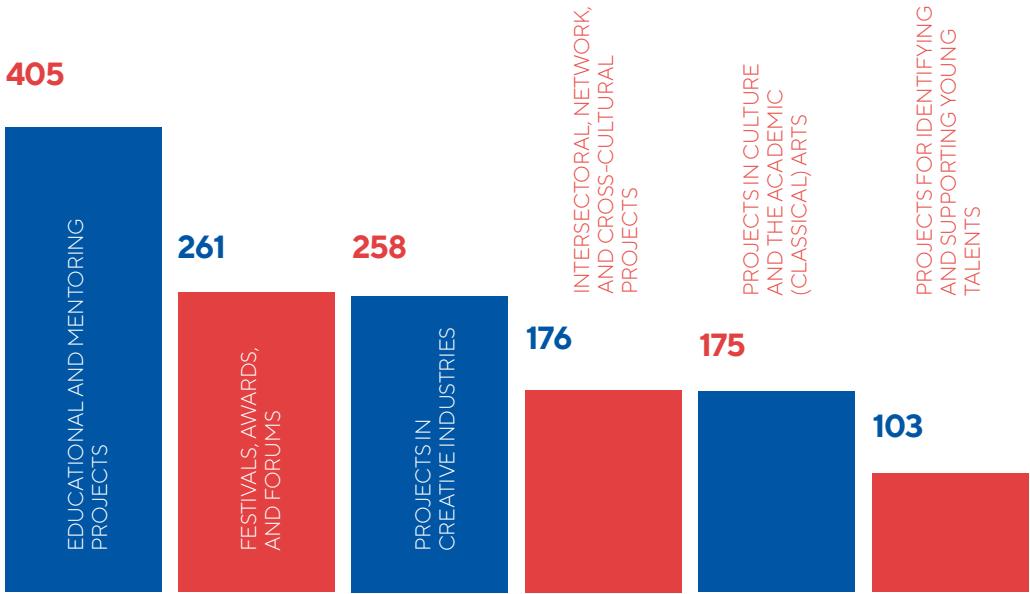
CONSIDERED

11,746

PROJECTS

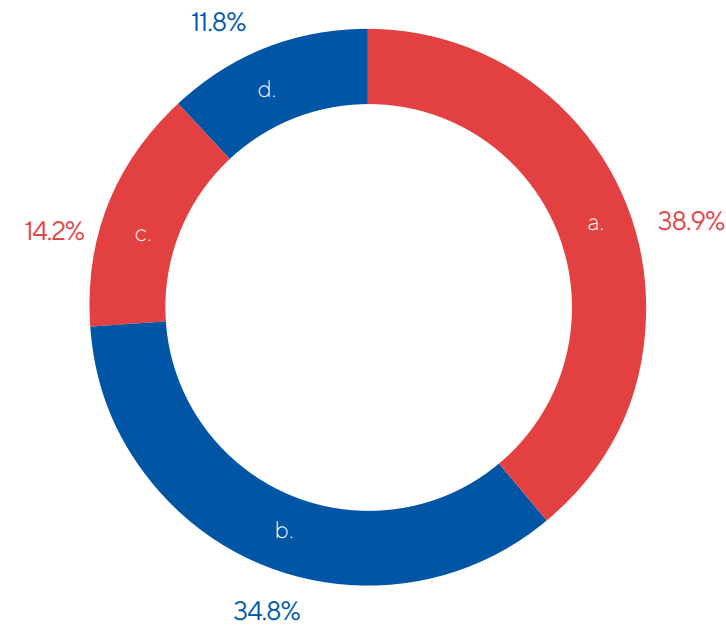
AS A RESULT OF THE FIRST GRANT COMPETITION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION FOR CULTURAL INITIATIVES

## AMONG THESE WERE



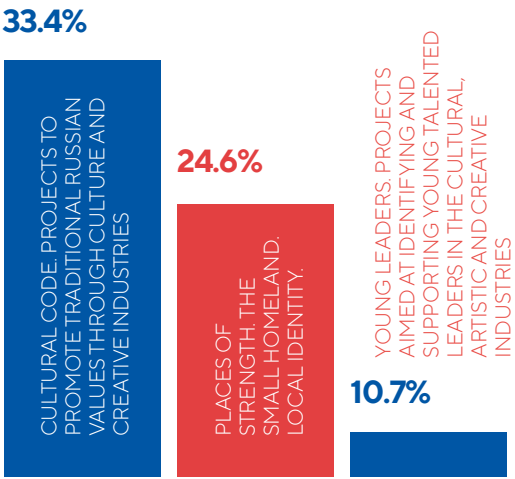
## STATISTICS FROM THE FIRST COMPETITION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION FOR CULTURAL INITIATIVES

PROJECTS BY APPLICANT TYPE

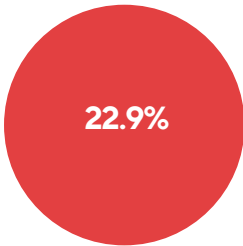


a.	NGO	4,846
b.	MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS	4,334
c.	INDIVIDUAL ENTREPRENEURS	1,775
d.	COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS	1,466

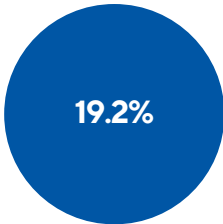
Projects for the first grant competition of the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives were submitted in eight thematic areas. The most popular amongst the participants were



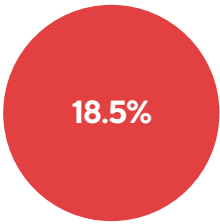
## MOST APPLICATIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR



conducting educational and mentoring projects, including in digital technologies



holding cultural and artistic festivals, awards, or forums



Projects in creative industries, including literature and publishing, design, fashion, art-music and sound design, architecture and urbanism, new media, multimedia technologies, cinema, theater, and games



supporting projects in culture and the academic (classical) arts



## 1.5 PROVIDING CONDITIONS FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND CREATIVE SELF-REALIZATION

THANKS TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF LARGE-SCALE SOCIAL PROJECTS IN 2021, THE CIVIC CHAMBER NOTES A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE COUNTRY.

In September of this year, the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives held its first competition, and as a result, a new sector of the creative economy is being formed today before our very eyes. The state has officially recognized that creativity, imagination, constructive innovation, design, and originality play a major role in a modern economy, and this role will only increase with time.

The Civic Chamber supports the Presidential Grant Foundation and actively participates in its activities. For example, the Civic Chamber provides platforms for seminars teaching NGOs, religious and ethnocultural organizations to apply correctly for grants. In addition, such seminars provide methodological and statistical materials on support measures and reports about the results of the project implementation.<sup>31</sup>

Another effective mechanism for finding and identifying talented people in creative industries in 2021 was the “ArtMasters” project. The professional backstage competition organized in 2020 received a second wind. It happened in August 2021 during a meeting with representatives of the public, when the president of Russia instructed to allocate funds for the National Open Championship of Creative Competencies, “ArtMasters,” and to support the generally successful Russian championships in professional skills.<sup>32</sup>

A unique platform for creative self-realization is the Tavrida art cluster. The latter is an ecosystem of projects contributing to the realization of the creative and professional potential of young cultural and artistic individuals. Of note, the Tavrida platform hosts the All-Russian competition of youth projects.

For schoolchildren in grades 8–10, the large-scale all-Russian project “Big Change” is being implemented. The contest is a project of the “Russia is a Country of Opportunities” platform and is organized jointly with the Rospatriotcenter and the All-Russian Movement of Schoolchildren. The aim of the project is to provide an opportunity for each student to prove themselves and find their strengths.<sup>33</sup>

This year, the finalists and winners of the competition for schoolchildren became participants in the active citizens’ forum

“Community,” where they presented their projects and shared their impressions of the competition. The President of Russia ordered funding to be provided for the “Big Break” – an all-Russian competition for schoolchildren.

The Civic Chamber will monitor the implementation of this instruction, along with other instructions of the President of Russia, as part of the general monitoring of general education issues.

The National Technology Initiative’s Circular Movement is hosting an Olympiad in 28 technological profiles: from artificial intelligence and underwater robotics to genomic editing and VR technologies. The Civic Chamber notes that the Olympiad of the NITI Circle Movement has become the main technological Olympiad in the country and may become the main social ladder for all technologically oriented youth of our state.<sup>34</sup> The Civic Chamber has undertaken to consolidate the key positions of education experts and business representatives on the inclusion of interdisciplinary areas in the All-Russian Olympiad of the Circle Movement.<sup>35</sup>

Personnel competitions play an important role in the improvement and scaling of the social ladder system. More than 660 thousand managers took part in the “Leaders of Russia” project. Of note, in three years, each of 900 finalists received one million rubles for further education, and 270 people received high-level appointments to the largest state and business organizations. Contest representatives regularly participate in the Civic Chamber events, act as experts at the “Community,” and share their success stories.

There are also winners of the “Leaders of Russia” competition amongst the members of the Civic Chamber.

# >270

### “LEADERS OF RUSSIA” COMPETITION FINALISTS

RECEIVED HIGH-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS TO THE LARGEST STATE AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

AMONG THEM WERE:

2 GOVERNORS  
6 DEPUTY FEDERAL MINISTERS  
4 MAYORS

AS WELL AS VICE PRESIDENTS OF LARGE COMPANIES, FEDERAL DIRECTORS, HEADS OF HOSPITALS, AND OTHERS

In order to encourage young professionals who are building a professional career and at the same time conducting broad public activities aimed at solving social problems, the Civic Chamber in 2021 established the national award named “Young Specialist of the Year.” The idea of the award met a wide response in professional communities. The expert council of the award considered 1,136 applications, 97 specialists under the age of 35 became nominees, 16 reached the finals and competed in such nominations as “Innovation and Technological Leadership,” “Volunteering and Corporate Social Responsibility,” “Communication projects,” “Competence for the Labor Market,” “Sport and Healthy Lifestyle.” The presentation and rewarding of the winners took place at the Final “Community” forum in Moscow.

Continuing the topic of public leadership and the development of social ladders in civil society, it is important to note the transition of the civil society leaders from the public figures to the legislators, 11 of whom, members of the Civic Chamber, following the 2021 autumn election campaign results, have become deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation of the VIII Convocation.

## THE “LEADERS OF RUSSIA” COMPETITION

AS PART OF THE FOURTH SEASON OF “LEADERS OF RUSSIA” IN 2021, AN “INTERNATIONAL TRACK” WAS LAUNCHED, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO ATTRACT HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, TO SHOW THE OPENNESS AND ADVANTAGES OF OUR COUNTRY, AS WELL AS TO ATTRACT THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING FOREIGN COMMUNITY. ABOUT 11 THOUSAND APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED FROM 150 COUNTRIES. IN 2020, THE COMPETITION “LEADERS OF RUSSIA. POLITICS” WAS HELD FOR THE FIRST TIME.

IN 3 YEARS, MORE THAN 660 THOUSAND MANAGERS TOOK PART IN THE “LEADERS OF RUSSIA” PROJECT

# 900

FINALISTS

RECEIVED 1,000,000 RUBLES FOR FURTHER EDUCATION IN 3 YEARS

## 1.6 SYSTEMIC SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF BUSINESSES IN THE PANDEMIC

MEASURES TO SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN 2020 MADE IT POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THE STABILITY OF THE SME SECTOR AND PREVENT A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN JOBS, WHICH, ACCORDING TO EXPERTS, COULD LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT AND BECOME A SERIOUS FACTOR IN GDP DECLINE.

In 2021, the state continued to support companies in the most affected sectors of the economy. The government has launched a new stage of the preferential loans to businesses program (FOT 3.0<sup>36</sup>), which has become one of the most popular measures for supporting small and medium-sized enterprises affected by the coronavirus situation.

In September 2021, the moratorium on scheduled inspections of small and medium-sized businesses for 2022 was extended.<sup>37</sup> The moratorium will affect around 100,000 enterprises and will become one of the most important anti-crisis economic support measures in the period of new restrictions.

Since September 2021, a new measure of state support for small and medium-sized businesses has also been launched, which is an “umbrella” mechanism for providing sureties.<sup>38</sup> Borrowed funds can be obtained by entrepreneurs for whom, due to various reasons, loans were previously unavailable. According to preliminary estimates, at least 35 thousand SMEs will be able to receive support under the new scheme and attract over 600 billion rubles of financing by 2024.

In accordance with the re-introduction of anti-pandemic restrictions in October 2021, aimed at suspending the spread of coronavirus infection, state preferential lending and business grant support programs were resumed in November:

### CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

DOES THE COMPANY HAVE AN ADVANTAGE, THANKS TO ITS CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMS?

46%

THE IMAGE OF A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE COMPANY

32%

EMPLOYEE LOYALTY

17%

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

### WHAT DO EMPLOYEES OF RUSSIAN COMPANIES THINK ABOUT CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING?

ANSWERS FROM RESEARCH BY THE RUSSIAN PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH CENTER

17%

RESPECT FOR BUSINESS PARTNERS

20%

HAS NO ADVANTAGES

# Under the preferential lending program, from November to December 2021, 30 Russian banks resumed the issuance of preferential loans at a rate of 3% per annum for SMEs and NGOs. They must fulfill the key condition of the program – keeping the number of employees at least 90%. This indicator will be monitored through the Federal Tax Service data; SMEs were provided with grants;  
# grant support has been provided to small and medium-sized enterprises.

The recipients of these support measures were legal entities and individual entrepreneurs working in the least recovered sectors of the Russian economy. The Russian government estimates that the support covers around 3 million employees in the SME sector, including individual entrepreneurs.

Comprehensive business support measures provided by the state over the past two years have allowed entrepreneurs and the nonprofit sector to actively engage in the fight against the pandemic.

According to research, many companies have begun developing their own social and corporate volunteer projects; the number of vacancies in which employers mention the presence of volunteer programs and projects increased fivefold in 2020 compared to 2019, and this trend continued in 2021.<sup>39</sup>

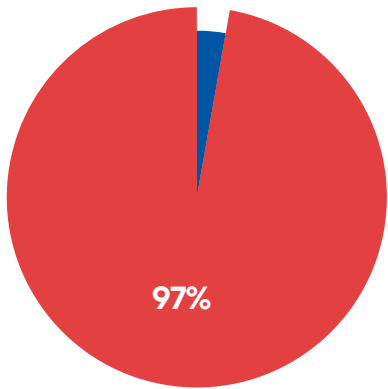
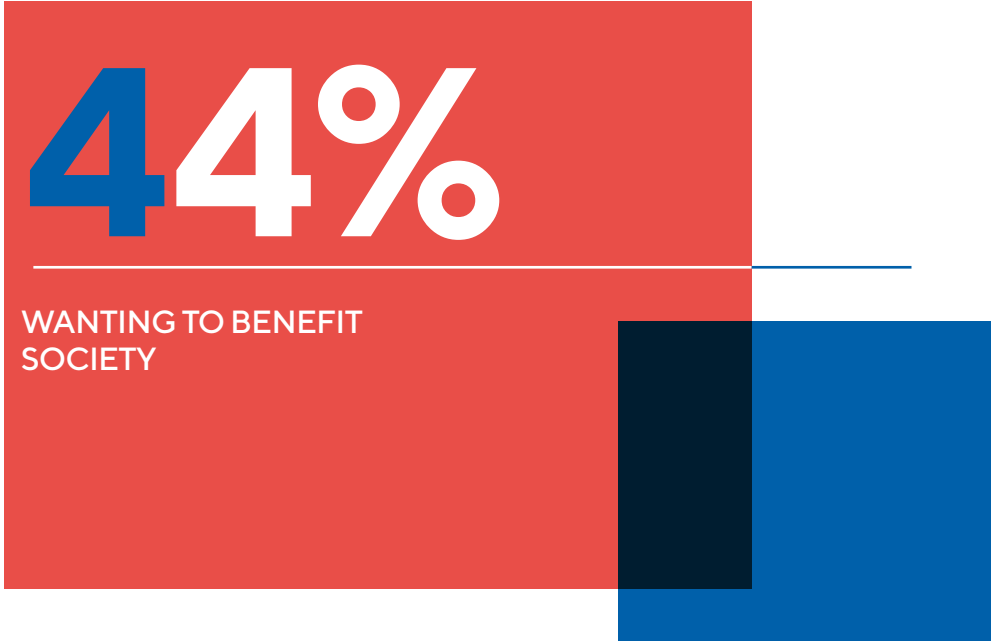
Corporate volunteers help elderly people living in nursing homes to organize joint projects with charitable organizations to help socially vulnerable groups of citizens and to participate in almost all areas of the volunteer movement alongside public volunteers. The Civic Chamber notes that today corporate volunteering has become the most important form of business participation in solving social and environmental problems.

The Civic Chamber has repeatedly noted that modern social problems require an integrated approach and sustainable solutions. One such effective solution can be scaling up social enterprises in addition to the already existing forms of civic participation.

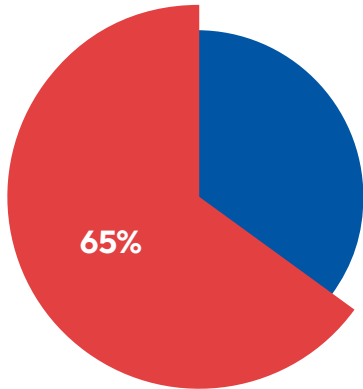
Building the potential of social enterprises is impossible without the broad attraction of investment in socially-oriented businesses. World practice shows that, within this approach, so-called impact investments are increasingly being used. This purpose is to simultaneously achieve a positive social or environmental result and obtain financial profit.

In 2021, topical issues of developing impact investment projects were considered in the Civic Chamber. Noting the need to expand the use of such effective mechanisms for the development of socially oriented business in Russia, the Civic Chamber reiterated the need for adjustments to the current legislation, ensuring the development of the impact investment market, as well as further work on the development of measures to stimulate social enterprises and impact investors.

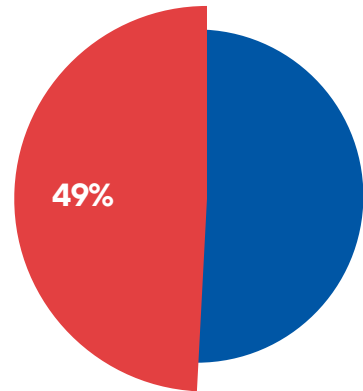
WHAT MOTIVATES COMPANIES TO ENGAGE IN CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING?



COMPANIES IMPLEMENTING CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMS AND PLANNING TO CONDUCT THEM FURTHER



RESPONDENTS THAT BELIEVE THERE HAVE BEEN MORE COMPANIES IMPLEMENTING CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMS OVER THE LAST TWO TO THREE YEARS



COMPANIES, WHICH DO NOT YET HAVE A CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM, WHO CITE A HIGH PRODUCTION LOAD AS THE REASON

The Civic Chamber plans to continue work on this area in 2022.

In mid-2020, the President of Russia signed the law on amendments to the Tax Code, which significantly supported the growth of business interest in the implementation of charitable and social projects. This allowed businesses to take into account and compensate donations to NGOs when taxing profits, which significantly expanded business opportunities to support the nongovernmental sector and became an important additional incentive in the development of cooperation with NGOs.



The number of companies indicating charity expenses in their tax returns and receiving an income tax benefit in 2020–2021 serves as evidence of the relevance and effectiveness of this measure.

On October 22, 2021, the Civic Chamber sent appeals to the Prime Minister of Russia Mikhail Mishustin and the Minister of the Economic Development of Russia Maxim Reshetnikov with a request to take NGOs and SMEs into account when developing support measures amid the new COVID-19 restrictions.

In the Government Decree No.1849 dated October 28, 2021, "On Introducing Amendments to the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No.1513 dated September 7, 2021," NGOs, together with SMEs, are included in the range of entities receiving government support during the pandemic.

## TAX BENEFITS FOR DONATIONS

THE POSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING PREFERENTIAL TAXES FOR SOCIALLY-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES HAS BECOME A GOOD STIMULUS FOR DEVELOPING COOPERATION BETWEEN BUSINESSES AND NGOs

## 1.7 UPDATING INSTITUTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

IN 2021, THE UPDATING PROCESS CONTINUED IN TWO MAJOR PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS – THE "ZNANIE" SOCIETY AND THE RUSSIAN RED CROSS.

The "Znanie" society has endured, without exaggeration, the biggest "relaunch" in its history. On March 26, at a meeting of the Supervisory Board of the ANO "Russia is a Country of Opportunities," Maxim Dreval, winner of the "Leaders of Russia. Politics" competition, supported by the President of Russia, proposed to create a modern and technological platform for knowledge that could be relied on unique educational experiences and traditions from the Soviet Union. The "Znanie" society was cited as an example of such activity. The Head of State supported the idea.

In May 2021, at the 3rd Congress of the "Znanie" society in Moscow, the organization's new management structure was approved, and its main areas of activity were defined. More than 5,000 lecturers have joined the "Znanie" Society since its relaunch, and hundreds of Russian companies have become its partners.

The Russian Red Cross (RRC), which is a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the oldest Russian public charity organization, also announced its large-scale updating this year.

Taking into account the high social importance of the RRC's activities, the Civic Chamber conducted a public evaluation of the draft federal law "On the Russian Red Cross" in June 2021.<sup>40</sup>

During the public hearings, there was uncertainty regarding the legal status of the Russian Red Cross,<sup>41</sup> which did not correspond to the established world practices and created additional difficulties for the activities of the national society. The Civic Chamber believes that the adoption of the federal law will serve as an important incentive for the organization's further development.<sup>42</sup>



IN 2020

OVER

10

BILLION RUBLES

HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO  
NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

36  
COMPANIES

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2021

TO THE AMOUNT OF

8

BILLION RUBLES

CLAIMED CHARITY EXPENSES

53  
COMPANIES

OVER

2

BILLION RUBLES

TOTAL INCOME TAX REDUCTION

OVER

1.6

BILLION RUBLES

TOTAL INCOME TAX REDUCTION





# PORTRAIT

## OF SOCIAL ACTIVITY IN THE DIGITAL ERA

“CONSIDERING THE LONG-TERM TRENDS OF THE DEVELOPING SITUATION IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND AROUND THE WORLD, ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS AT THE PRESENT STAGE ARE: THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SECURE INFORMATION SPACE, AND THE PROTECTION OF RUSSIAN SOCIETY FROM DESTRUCTIVE INFORMATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL INFLUENCE.”

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SECTION III, PARA 25

- 44 Online communities as new civic institutions
- 46 Protecting the rights of citizens and the interests of society in the digital space
- 48 Fighting fakes on the internet
- 50 New media: challenges and opportunities for social leadership
- 52 Perspectives on the development of civic society in the digital era
- 54 Russian Civic Chamber’s AICESIS Presidency digital agenda



## 2.1 ONLINE COMMUNITIES AS NEW CIVIC INSTITUTIONS

TODAY, THE GLOBAL DIGITALIZATION PROCESS HAS COVERED ALMOST ALL TYPES OF HUMAN ACTIVITY IN THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND PUBLIC SPHERES. THE EFFECTS OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES INITIATE THE NETWORK LOGIC OF CHANGES IN SOCIETY, RADICALLY CHANGING NOT ONLY THE POSSIBILITIES IN COMMUNICATION BUT ALSO THE VERY STRUCTURE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, BECOMING MORE FLEXIBLE, DECENTRALIZED, AND CONTINUOUSLY CHANGING. A VIVID EXAMPLE OF SUCH MASS CHANGE WAS THE ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORK COMMUNITIES IN RUSSIA AND AROUND THE WORLD.

The Civic Chamber, noting the potential and increasing influence that network structures and communication practices have on society today, interacts as widely as possible with various communities of citizens on the Internet. The Chamber cooperates with them, helps to implement various public initiatives, and strives to convey the important social signals that are formed in such discussions to public authorities. These communities include volunteers, eco-activists, parents, motorists, and other groups engaged in discussing socially significant issues of society.

Often such self-organizing communities, usually arising spontaneously, move from virtual space to an offline format in the form of traditional public organizations and associations.

The “Parents of Moscow” movement is one such example of a network community. Its activity began in 2020 with the creation of a telegram channel for parents of a Moscow school to discuss the problem of moving to distance learning.

Due to the urgency of the topic raised, the number of community representatives has grown significantly, and parents from all over the city have begun to join the community.<sup>43</sup> Today, the “Parents of Moscow” is a citizen group dealing with the most pressing issues of educational management in Russia.

The group took an active part in the discussion of the draft decree of the Government of the Russian Federation, “On Approval of the Regulations on the Implementation of Educational Activity,” which was held in the Civic Chamber on July 22, 2021.

Examples of effective interaction between web communities and public authorities are increasingly frequent today. The active citizens’ regional forum “Community” has shown that the authorities at various levels have learned not only to listen to but also to hear public activists speaking up on social media. The authorities have increasingly begun to consider social media as one of the key communication platforms for real-time public assessment of their activities.

Therefore, it is necessary to highlight the effective work of regional management centers (RMC) established by order of the President of Russia<sup>44</sup> to ensure online interaction between citizens and officials. At the end of 2020, such centers were established across all regions of Russia. The implementation of this large-scale project made it possible to promptly handle problematic appeals from citizens across all areas related to living in the region, aggregate analytical materials on the socio-economic situation, and, what is most important, make informed management decisions given the social request of citizens.

Noting that in Russia, in the context of digital modernization, the Internet space is the territory where a new type of civil society institutions is being shaped, the Civic Chamber draws attention to the lag in legislation on regulating legal relations between the state and online communities, as well as between online communities and individuals.

MORE THAN

2

MLN INCIDENTS

HANDLED BY REGIONAL MANAGEMENT CENTERS IN 2021

OVER

3

HOURS

PER DAY SPENT BY EVERY THIRD RUSSIAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND MESSENGERS



## 2.2 PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS AND THE INTERESTS OF SOCIETY IN THE DIGITAL SPACE

THE ACCELERATING DIGITALIZATION AND INFORMATIZATION ACROSS ALL DOMAINS OF PUBLIC LIFE SET A DEMAND FOR CREATING A SECURE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT WHERE THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS AND THE INTERESTS OF THE STATE WILL BE PROTECTED.<sup>45</sup>



At the end of 2020, the President of Russia instructed the Russian Government and the Council for Civil Society and Human Rights to develop a draft concept for the protection of human rights in the digital space. The head of state emphasized that making decisions and adopting legal documents in the field of artificial intelligence and digital economy was impossible without creating the necessary regulatory framework related to ensuring the interests and rights of citizens.

In 2021, the Civic Chamber jumped with two feet into the public discussion on issues of digital space legal regulation in order to consolidate the position of citizens and develop proposals to increase their level of protection.

A broad selection of representatives of state authorities, the expert and scientific community, public associations, and online communities was involved in the discussion of personal data protection issues. The experts noted that today the majority of Russian citizens were deprived of opportunities to protect their personal data in the digital space.<sup>46</sup> The State assistance in this area is needed, including in terms of applying the necessary measures against personal data operators which let the data leak.

The State Duma of the Russian Federation of the VIII Convocation, during the first meeting of the Committee on Information Policy, highlighted the prospects and relevance of the legislative initiatives proposed by the Civic Chamber in the field of Internet space legal regulation, protection of the rights of Russian users, countering fake information.<sup>47</sup>

In 2021, a paramount issue for the Civic Chamber was a noticeable increase in the number of crimes committed using the Internet. Civil activists raised the issue of widespread cases of

fraud when raising funds for charitable purposes on social media and fake websites of charitable foundations.

In response to this appeal, the Civic Chamber, after a detailed discussion, submitted its recommendations to the authorized agencies in order to make countering online charity fraud more effective.

To counter fraud and violation of citizens' rights, proposals were also developed to ensure the security of real estate civil circulation in the digital environment. Additionally, at the "Community" final session, methodological materials were submitted, including on the issues of protecting the rights and legitimate interests of real estate owners in the era of digitalization.

Preventing the "social exclusion" of older people and the disabled from the digital environment is one of the most important tasks the new digital era sets. They often fall victims to financial fraudsters, and their access to bank services is limited due to insufficient knowledge in the field of digital technology. To reverse the current situation, the Civic Chamber, together with the Bank of Russia, developed initiatives on using personal biometric data of people with disabilities when they make financial transactions, establishing additional regulatory requirements for financial organizations to prevent financial losses of socially vulnerable categories of citizens, as well as appointing representatives to verify financial transactions.<sup>48</sup>

Another crucial issue the Civic Chamber continued to work on in 2021 was the information security of children on the Internet. Given the attention the President of Russia<sup>49</sup> paid to this socially important issue, the Civic Chamber consulted widely with the public. In the recommendations to the authorized authorities, the Civic Chamber stated that the existing mechanisms do not allow for a quick response and elimination of malicious content on the Internet, emphasizing that in order to form criteria for determining the content dangerous to public safety, it is necessary to arrange for interdepartmental interaction involving representatives of expert communities and organizations.

This work continued with the publication in June 2021 of the "Parent Community Memorandum on Protecting Children on the Internet and Social Media" prepared by the Civic Chamber in close cooperation with public organizations. The Memorandum calls on the authorities to take systematic measures to counter harmful content and introduce children's age identification on the Internet and social media.

In September 2021, the largest Russian Internet companies, media holdings, and telcos signed the charter on children safety on the Internet.<sup>50</sup> The Civic Chamber positively assessed the signing of the charter, having stressed that without involving organizations that directly moderate Internet content, it is impossible to handle the issue and deal with illegal contents.<sup>51</sup>

ACCORDING TO RESEARCH BY THE HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS,

>60%

OF RUSSIANS

ARE SURE THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROTECT THEIR PERSONAL DATA AVAILABLE ONLINE

THE STATE IS STILL THE ONLY AUTHORITY THEY CAN RELY UPON. AGREE WITH THIS STATEMENT

81%

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

ACCORDING TO RESPONDENTS, WEBSITE OWNERS, SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND THE STATE MUST ENSURE THE SECURITY OF PERSONAL DATA ON THE INTERNET

## 2.3 FIGHTING FAKES ON THE INTERNET

WITH ADVANCES IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND THE INCREASING INFLUENCE OF THE INTERNET ON PUBLIC OPINION, THE AMOUNT OF FALSE INFORMATION THAT DISTORTS THE REALITY HAS INCREASED. TODAY IN RUSSIA, THE FIGHT AGAINST FAKES, THAT IS, AGAINST PUBLISHING DELIBERATELY FALSE, TRUMPED-UP “FACTS” ON THE INTERNET ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES IMPORTANT FOR THE STATE AND SOCIETY, IS BECOMING A NATIONAL SECURITY PROBLEM.

Experts of the Civic Chamber point out that fakes most often arise around some key events, such as an emergency or natural disasters, a pandemic, or major domestic political events.

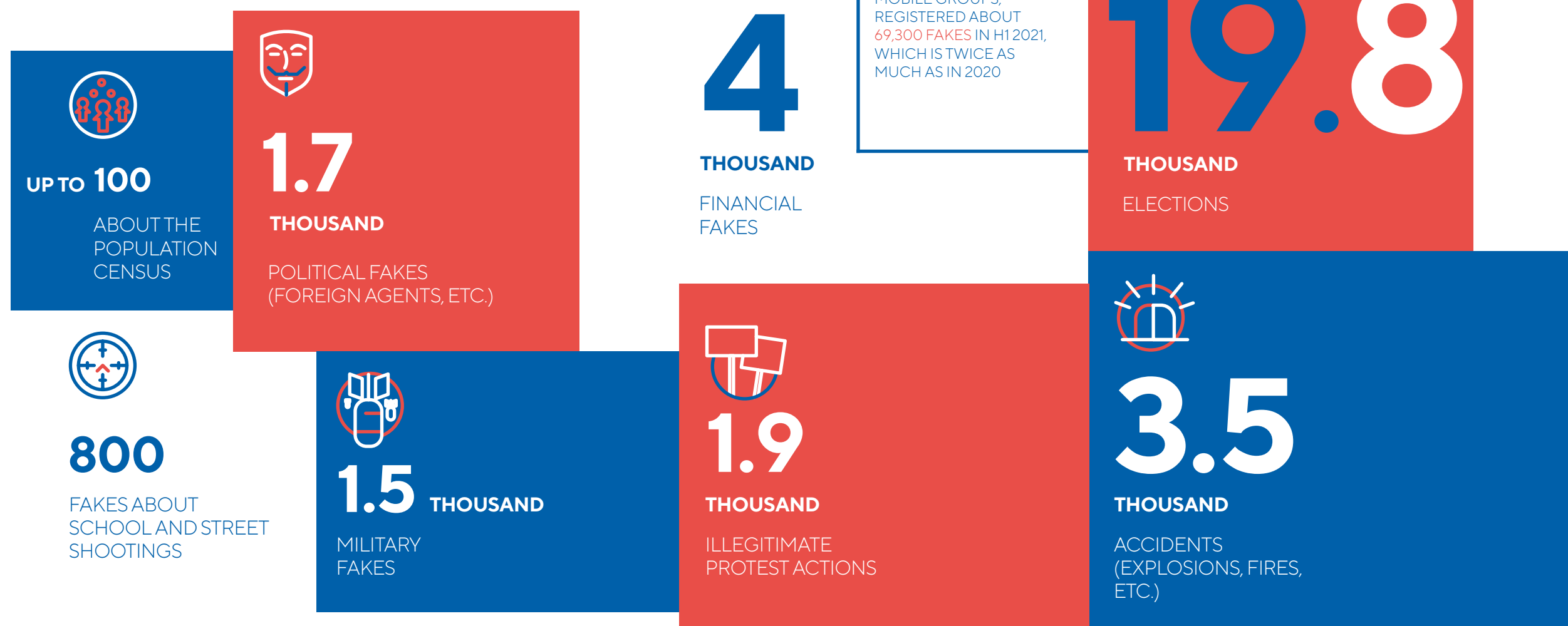
One of the topics that gave rise to a huge number of fakes was vaccination and prevention of COVID-19. Civil activists and public organizations have repeatedly expressed concern about this problem using the Civic Chamber’s platform. The answer was the launch of AntiFakeCOVID, a special Internet project inviting anyone interested to report on suspected fakes about the disease and measures to combat it. All reports were verified, with detailed explanations given as a result of the verification.<sup>52</sup>

Businesses are also interested in creating a secure information environment. In October 2021, Russian IT companies, media holdings, and print media signed a memorandum on combating false information on the Internet.<sup>53</sup> The fight against fakes will be carried out via blogs, news aggregators, parent chats, and other information resources. The companies will develop a joint strategy for verifying and removing false information.

The Civic Chamber pointed out that the memorandum would make the fact-checking process more transparent due to the uniform rules to be developed for this purpose.

### FAKES IN H1 2021

**RATING OF TOPICS WITH THE HIGHEST FAKE-GENERATING POTENTIAL IN RUSSIA ACCORDING TO THE CIVIC CHAMBER AND THE SAFE INTERNET LEAGUE**



## 2.4 NEW MEDIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL LEADERSHIP

TODAY, THE SOCIAL MEDIA COMPETES ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH TRADITIONAL ONES. WINNING IN THE SPEED OF COMMUNICATION. THE SOCIAL MEDIA LARGELY DETERMINES THE SOCIAL, PUBLIC, AND POLITICAL AGENDA, CREATES NEWSBREAKS, GENERATES DISCUSSIONS (THREADS) OF ALL KINDS OF TOPICS, WHICH MAKES EVERYDAY LIFE AS TRANSPARENT AS POSSIBLE AND HIGHLY VULNERABLE AT THE SAME TIME.

Amidst the pandemic, employing direct channels of communication with the population has become an important prerequisite for the fight against the coronavirus infection. In 2020–2021, along with traditional communication channels between society and the authorities becoming more active, such communication formats as hotlines, call centers, channels of COVID-19 crisis centers appeared en masse, proactive efforts were made on social media, where heads of regions and government representatives began to regularly organize streams thus directly reaching out to citizens.<sup>54</sup>

By the end of 2021, Russia will have another country-wide tool to make the interaction between citizens and the state even more effective – a single feedback platform. With its help, Russian residents will also be able to file their complaints with the relevant authorities or ask them questions. The platform was developed as a part of the Digital Economy National Program.<sup>55</sup>

The Civic Chamber, in cooperation with citizens and public organizations, actively adopts the resources and tools the “new media” can provide with. This makes it possible not only to communicate the Chamber’s position to all interested social groups but also to have effective feedback, use online resources as a tool for operational monitoring of social changes, respond quickly to public initiatives, and bring the consolidated point of view of civil society to public authorities across all levels in a targeted way.

Every year, the Civic Chamber receives 15,000+ appeals from citizens, public organizations, and associations via all communication channels.

In 2021, the Civic Chamber conceptually updated its approach to working with all popular social media in Russia. Today, the official Telegram channel of the Civic Chamber posts the latest news about its activities, along with opinions of and comments from its members on important events and high profile incidents in Russia, which affect civil society.

Since the beginning of this year, the channel’s regular audience has increased from 1,000 to 22,000 subscribers.

Responding to the challenges and demands of the new digital era, members of the Civic Chamber actively interact with citizens on Facebook, Instagram, Facebook, and Odnoklassniki. The Chamber members’ personal Telegram channels are also gaining popularity, covering various social issues: digital technology and the fight against fakes on the Internet, activities of civil society organizations such members represent, economic development, issues in the nongovernmental sector, and election processes in Russia. The rapid growth in the number of subscribers and active discussions are observed in the “Growth Crystal” channel, dedicated to the release of the eponymously titled book.<sup>56</sup>

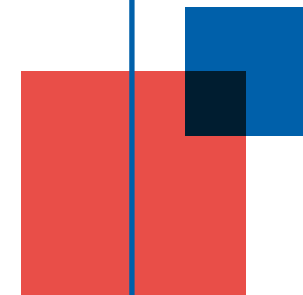
One of the Civic Chamber members uses TikTok, developing a channel dedicated to multiple ethnic minorities of Russia and covering amazing cultural and historical facts. The account is gaining popularity among young people. Individual videos have several hundred thousand views, and the page itself has 94,000+ subscribers.

Traditionally, in 2021, the Civic Chamber paid great attention to the development of digital competencies of regional civic chambers. As part of the Senezh Management Lab’s workshop program,

members of the Civic Chamber shared the best practices of media activity in the digital environment with their colleagues from regional chambers. The Civic Chamber notes that employing new digital communications to interact with citizens is becoming an integral part of the daily activities of regional civic chambers.

Of note, that the development of online and horizontal forms of interaction in society has changed the perception of leadership in the public sector. In online communities today, anyone has the right to be a leader, and almost anyone can become one.

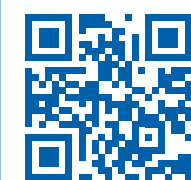
Through its intensive interaction with civil society, the Civic Chamber strives to create all conditions for identifying and supporting a person’s leadership potential, realizing that behind every, even the smallest, change in society, there are real people who have taken the trouble to write letters, donate money, unite citizens, and protect their interests. These people are the growth and crystallization points for civil society.



FROM  
**1,000**  
TO  
**22,000**

### SUBSCRIBERS

THIS IS HOW THE PERMANENT AUDIENCE OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER TELEGRAM CHANNEL INCREASED IN 2021



OFFICIAL TELEGRAM  
CHANNEL OF THE  
CIVIC CHAMBER  
OF THE RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION  
[HTTPS://TME/OPRF\\_  
OFFICIAL](https://t.me/oprf_official)



## 2.5 PERSPECTIVES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIC SOCIETY IN THE DIGITAL ERA

ACCORDING TO EXPERTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, IN THE COMING YEARS, CIVIL SOCIETY WILL BE DEVELOPING UNDER THE BANNER OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION. EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES OF DIGITALIZATION HAVE PROVED TO BE IN DEMAND ACROSS ALMOST ALL DOMAINS OF PUBLIC LIFE. THE NONGOVERNMENTAL SECTOR WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A SPECIAL ROLE IN CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT IN THE DIGITAL ERA.

According to the Civic Chamber’s experts, it is necessary to enhance the introduction of digital tools into the daily practice of nongovernment organizations in order for them to meet the current needs of the Russian society.<sup>57</sup> Today, digitalization is not only a sign of the development and competitiveness of NGOs, but it is increasingly becoming a necessary condition for their survival and competitive strength. Active digitalization in public administration and business creates certain expectations for those who actively interact with the nonprofit sector, and these expectations of compliance with the global digitalization trend are a new challenge to digital transformation for NGOs.

According to research, the average digital competency index of Russian NGOs in 2021 was 2.1 points out of 10 possible, which is only 0.4 points higher compared to 2019.<sup>58</sup>

Another important aspect that will have an impact on civil society development in the digital era is the widespread introduction of artificial intelligence. The digital transformation based on artificial intelligence and big data analysis will

be implemented in Russia in the next decade, which will improve the well-being and quality of life of Russian citizens.<sup>59</sup>

Ethical standards are an equally significant aspect when it comes to the development of artificial intelligence and AI-based social advancement. Given the rapid introduction of artificial intelligence technology and its importance for all spheres of social development, the Civic Chamber canvassed ethical regulation issues in the context of new technology advancement, including the development of the AI code of ethics.<sup>60</sup> As the Civic Chamber put it, the code must be mandatory, and the right of free will must be at the heart of all digital developments.

At the end of October 2021, at the 1st International Forum “Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI): the Beginning of Trust,” the AI Code of Ethics was signed by leading Russian IT companies. According to experts, the document has become a filter for digital security and sustainable development of the future, launched voluntary self-regulation of developers in this area and mechanisms for interaction between humans and artificial intelligence.

DIGITALIZATION WILL OPTIMIZE PROCESSES IN SOCIAL SPHERES, WHICH WILL LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN THE QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC SERVICES, SUPPORT FOR THE POPULATION, INCREASE IN THE EFFICIENCY OF COMPANIES, AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY UNTIL 2024

IN SEPTEMBER 2021, DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGIES UNTIL 2024 WERE APPROVED IN THE RUSSIAN REGIONS. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGIES AFFIRM THE DIGITALIZATION OF IMPORTANT SOCIAL SPHERES



EDUCATION



SCIENCE



URBAN REDEVELOPMENT



HEALTHCARE



TRANSPORT



PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

## 2.6 RUSSIAN CIVIC CHAMBER'S AICESIS PRESIDENCY DIGITAL AGENDA

DESPITE THE UNFAVORABLE CONTEXT AMID THE PANDEMIC IN 2021, THE CIVIC CHAMBER CONTINUED TO PAY CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO BUILDING FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE TIES WITH FOREIGN PARTNERS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOLVING GLOBAL PROBLEMS.

### THE CIVIC CHAMBER'S AGENDA OF THE AICESIS

PRESIDENCY OF RUSSIA IN 2021–2023. PROPOSAL OF TOPICS FOR THE FUTURE AGENDA



**DIGITAL INEQUALITY**

AS A FACTOR IMPEDING SOCIETY'S DEVELOPMENT



**ONLINE EDUCATION:**

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL VS QUALITY DECLINE



**DEMOCRATIC AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

AND THEIR PLACE IN THE NEW INFORMATION AND SOCIOCULTURAL CONTEXT



**PROTECTING CIVIL RIGHTS**

FROM IT GIANTS



**ETHICAL PROBLEMS**

OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AMDECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES




**DEPOLITICIZATION OF THE HEALTHCARE**

AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES



**DIGITALIZATION AND THE PANDEMIC**

AS TRIGGERS OF RADICAL TRANSFORMATION OF LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS



**CYBERCRIME AND EXTREMISM ON THE INTERNET**

ELABORATING A STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC COUNTERACTION



**COMBATING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT:**

CREATING CONDITIONS FOR SELF-REALIZATION

Thanks to the means of digital communication and the so-called mixed formats of interaction combining online and offline, this year provided an opportunity to return to full-fledged active international cooperation. During the year, the Civic Chamber held 40+ international events in various formats.

This active work at the international level resulted in selecting the Civic Chamber as the President of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS) in 2021–2023. The Association aims at promoting the formation of a democratic civil society and developing a social dialog based on the values of peace, security, and human rights.

As part of its presidency, the Civic Chamber highlights a number of vital topics in the field of digitalization, which it plans to include in the AICESIS working agenda:
 

- # Digital inequality as a factor impeding the society's development;
- # Protecting civil rights from IT giants;
- # Cybercrime and extremism on the Internet: elaborating a strategy for public counteraction.

The Civic Chamber points out that an in-depth social dialog at the international level can become an effective tool for solving

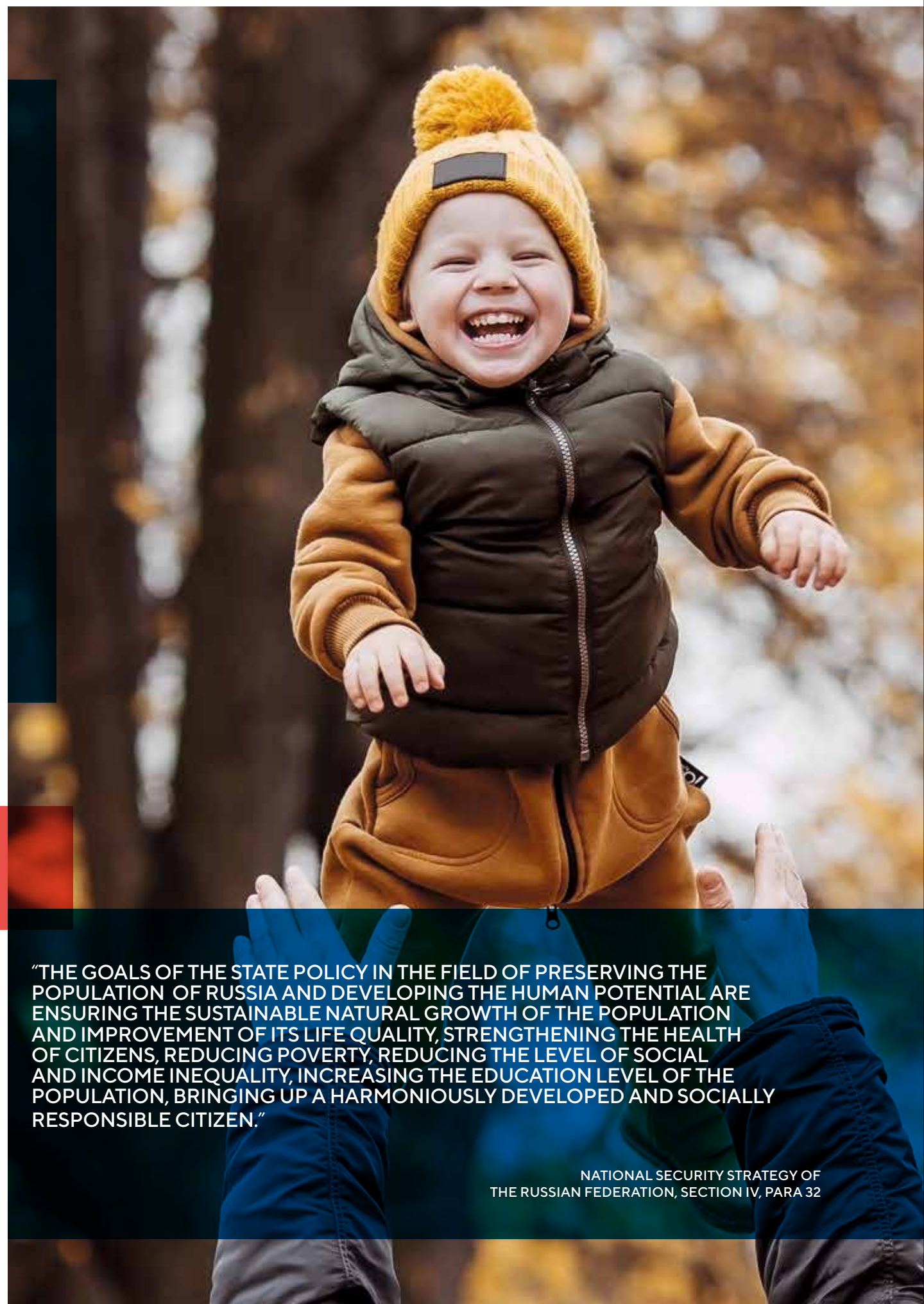
the most challenging global problems, and public diplomacy is a no less effective tool than traditional methods of interstate interaction.

Strengthening inter-municipal and cross-border ties (including twin-city ones) also remains an important area of the Civic Chamber's focus on the field of international public cooperation. Noting the trend of increasing involvement of public organizations, online communities, and activists in cross-border and international activities, the Civic Chamber held a series of events in 2021 to summarize best practices and identify barriers to civic engagement in this area. Summarizing the expert discussions and given the high public interest in this subject, it is important to note that international inter-municipal cooperation needs further systematic, comprehensive support at the federal and regional levels.

### PRESIDENCY OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER IN 2021–2023: IDEAS FOR MULTILATERAL PROJECTS

lectures and workshops on digital literacy	▶	raising awareness about work formats in the digital environment and related threats among the population of 7+ years of age
social hackathons in the AICESIS member countries	▶	searching for IT solutions aimed at closing the social gaps of a macroregion or a specific country
representing the Alliance for the Protection of Children on the Internet	▶	promoting self-regulation mechanisms, ethical principles for the protection of children in the digital environment
presenting the index of assessment of citizens' readiness for digitalization	▶	suggesting a communication trust index that allows assessing the readiness of society in different countries for digital transformation
holding expert international events of the AICESIS across various digitalization-related areas	▶	involving the AICESIS member states in the global intellectual agenda and transforming the AICESIS into a source of evaluation activities
preparing draft model laws on various aspects of the impact of digitalization on the socio-economic development of society	▶	updating legislation, conducting expert work, sharing experience in law enforcement practices in various jurisdictions
publication and presentation of a collection of legislative and best public practices in the field of cyber threats	▶	combining the practices of the AICESIS member states, presenting the same at major international platforms





# PRESERVATION OF THE POPULATION

“THE GOALS OF THE STATE POLICY IN THE FIELD OF PRESERVING THE POPULATION OF RUSSIA AND DEVELOPING THE HUMAN POTENTIAL ARE ENSURING THE SUSTAINABLE NATURAL GROWTH OF THE POPULATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF ITS LIFE QUALITY, STRENGTHENING THE HEALTH OF CITIZENS, REDUCING POVERTY, REDUCING THE LEVEL OF SOCIAL AND INCOME INEQUALITY, INCREASING THE EDUCATION LEVEL OF THE POPULATION, BRINGING UP A HARMONIOUSLY DEVELOPED AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN.”

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SECTION IV, PARA 32

- 58 Consolidating civil institutions to achieve national development goals
- 62 Key initiatives in Russia’s demographic policy
- 66 Supporting large families as a traditional family value of all the people of Russia
- 71 All-Russian population census: a large-scale process, affecting economic, demographic and social changes in the country over the past 11 years



## 3.1 CONSOLIDATING CIVIL INSTITUTIONS TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 21, 2021, THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION UNDERSCORED THAT DURING THE PANDEMIC, CITIZENS, SOCIETY, AND THE STATE ACTED RESPONSIBLY AND IN SOLIDARITY AND, HAVING CONSOLIDATED, WERE ABLE TO BE PROACTIVE AND CREATE CONDITIONS THAT REDUCED THE RISKS OF BEING INFECTED.<sup>61</sup>

During the address, the President gave instructions in the field of demography, on family support, on combating poverty and increasing citizens' incomes, on creating jobs and improving the business environment, on a new quality of public administration.<sup>62</sup>

Noting the public importance and timeliness of these instructions, the Civic Chamber, having consolidated civil society institutions under the auspices of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on national projects and population preservation, actively engaged in resolving issues that the President of Russia drew attention to, including as a participant in the execution of the Head of State's instructions.<sup>63</sup>

Since 2020, the Coordination Council has been regularly collecting, analyzing, and reviewing civil initiatives in the field of socio-economic development of Russia, as well as public monitoring and control of the achievement of national goals and the implementation of national projects.

To date, 12 meetings of the Coordination Council have been held. Auditors of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation, representatives of regional civic chambers, public organizations, expert and scientific communities made detailed reports at all the meetings; federal executive authorities were represented at the meetings by deputy ministers of the relevant government departments.

# 27

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COORDINATION COUNCIL UNDER THE CIVIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON NATIONAL PROJECTS AND POPULATION PRESERVATION**

WERE SENT AS DELEGATES TO THE PUBLIC EXPERT COUNCILS UNDER THE PROJECT COMMITTEES OF NATIONAL PROJECTS

## PROPOSALS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE COORDINATION COUNCIL (I)

# THERE IS NO MECHANISM FOR COORDINATED AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL PROJECTS, ENSURING THEIR CONSISTENCY WITH EACH OTHER, INCLUDING DURING THEIR PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

# NEITHER ANALYSIS NOR APPROPRIATE JUSTIFICATION IS AVAILABLE FOR CAUSE AND EFFECTIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PROJECTS AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL GOALS. IN ADDITION, THE CONTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL GOALS HAS NOT BEEN ASSESSED YET

THIS SITUATION MAKES IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, AND IN SOME CASES IMPOSSIBLE, TO ASSESS THE SUFFICIENCY OF MEASURES AND THEIR SOCIAL EFFECTIVENESS. THIS CONCLUSION OF THE COORDINATION COUNCIL IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE ACCOUNTS CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

# RUSSIA'S NATIONAL PROJECTS LACK A SINGLE, END-TO-END MECHANISM FOR PRACTICAL CONSIDERATION OF THE HIGHEST NATIONAL PRIORITY, THAT IS, SAVING AND MULTIPLYING THE POPULATION OF RUSSIA, WHICH WAS DEFINED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN HIS ADDRESSES TO THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN 2020 AND 2021

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE HEAD OF STATE EMPHASIZED THE EXTRAORDINARY NATURE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY, AND IT WAS NOTED THAT "OUR EVERY STEP, NEW LAW, STATE PROGRAM" SHOULD BE EVALUATED PRECISELY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE HIGHEST NATIONAL PRIORITY.

## PROPOSALS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE COORDINATION COUNCIL (II)

The Coordination Council's work resulted in decisions containing action-oriented proposals on new mechanisms for achieving national goals and improving the "Ecology," "Healthcare," "Education," "Science," "Workforce Productivity and Employment Support," "Comprehensive Plan for Modernization and Expansion of Trunk Infrastructure for the period until 2024", "Safe and High-Quality Roads," and "Demography" national projects aimed at improving the quality of life of citizens.

All proposals from the Coordination Council were considered and studied by the state authorities. The conclusions of the Coordination Council, set out further in the Civic Chamber's report, were supported by the President of Russia, and the relevant departments were instructed on the action-oriented review of the prepared proposals.<sup>64</sup>

In order to fulfill the instructions of the President, on behalf of the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mikhail Mishustin, 27 representatives of the Coordination Council were sent as delegates to public expert councils under the project committees of national projects.

As for individual decisions of the Coordination Council, the responsible ministries and departments received eight instructions from the Government of the Russian Federation<sup>65</sup> and three instructions from the Government Executive Office.

# MECHANISMS FOR ATTRACTING PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE PROCESSES OF ACHIEVING THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL PROJECTS ARE POORLY DEVELOPED

# THE NATIONAL PROJECTS MAINLY FOCUS ON SPENDING BUDGET FUNDS, WHILE IT IS ALSO REQUIRED TO ANALYZE AND ASSESS THE IMPACT OF SPENDING DYNAMICS ON ACHIEVING THE TARGETS OF THE NATIONAL PROJECTS AND THE NET EFFECT CONSISTING IN AN INCREASE IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF CITIZENS AND THEIR SATISFACTION

# THERE IS NO REAL-TIME DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION ON THE IMPROVEMENT AND PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PROJECTS, WHICH DOES NOT ALLOW FOR PROPER OPERATIONAL PUBLIC MONITORING AND PUBLIC OVERSIGHT OVER THEIR IMPLEMENTATION



THE PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA SUPPORTED THE PROPOSALS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE COORDINATION COUNCIL. THE RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO CONSIDER THEIR APPLICATION

# THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER IN PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES IS NOT ENSHRINED IN THE NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE, WHICH, AS PRACTICE SHOWS, REDUCES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT AND THE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RELEVANT INSTRUCTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT

As part of implementing the list of instructions given by the President of the Russian Federation in his address to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of April 21, 2021, the Civic Chamber also presented its proposals for making an extensive list of new initiatives for the socio-economic development of the Russian Federation aimed at achieving national development goals.<sup>66</sup>

## 3.2 KEY INITIATIVES IN RUSSIA'S DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY

ACHIEVING THE LARGE-SCALE NATIONAL GOAL TO ENSURE POPULATION PRESERVATION, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE<sup>67</sup> DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON THE SPECIFIC ACTIONS OF FEDERAL AND REGIONAL STATE AUTHORITIES BUT ALSO ON THE ACTIVE POSITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AS A WHOLE, EXPRESSED IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF ALL PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

In 2021, demographic policy issues became a hotly discussed topic in Russia. The forecasts of the Federal State Statistics Service and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation indicate that a continuous decline in the population is expected in the country over the next three years and that the positive growth rates are expected only in 2030.<sup>68</sup> According to forecasts, the total population of the country will decrease by more than 1.2 million people in 2020–2024.

The Russian President emphasized that the state's strategy should be aimed at achieving sustainable population growth and increasing the average life expectancy of Russians to 78 years by 2030.<sup>69</sup>

In recent years, the demographic agenda has been one of the main threads of discussion at the Civic Chamber.<sup>70</sup>

The main problems that the Chamber notes in the field of demography are a significant decline in the population, low fertility, a massive spread of families with an only child, the continuing general aging of the nation, a change in the ratio between working citizens and pensioners, aggravating pension problems, a family crisis, and a high divorce rate.

### PROPOSALS OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER ON IMPROVING THE DEMOGRAPHY NATIONAL PROJECT (I)

# STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT IN THE GENERAL EDUCATION SYSTEM, WHICH ENSURES THE SPREAD OF THE TRADITIONAL OUTLOOK, VALUES OF THE BIRTH FAMILY AND MULTI-CHILD PARENTING, A DRASTIC REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF DIVORCES AND ABORTIONS

# CREATING A POSITIVE IMAGE OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, POPULARIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOCIAL STATUS OF A LARGE FAMILY WITH MEASURABLE INDICATORS REFLECTING THE GROWTH OF REPRODUCTIVE ATTITUDES (INCLUDING APPROPRIATE REGULATION AND WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT OF MASS MEDIA, SOCIAL MEDIA, PREPARING TEACHING GUIDES, SHAPING ENVIRONMENTS FOR GAME PLAYING)

# PAYMENTS IN MULTIPLES OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN, ENCOURAGING THE BIRTH OF SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT CHILDREN IN FAMILIES THROUGH ESTABLISHING FINANCIALLY DEPENDENT MOTHERS OR FATHERS ON MATERNITY LEAVE, PROVIDING TAX EXEMPTIONS ON INCOME AND PROPERTY OF INDIVIDUALS, EXEMPTION FROM PAYING THE TRANSPORT TAX DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN

# REDUCING THE AGE OF WOMEN GIVING BIRTH TO THEIR FIRST CHILD, INCLUDING THROUGH PAYING YOUNG MOTHERS (UP TO 25 YEARS OF AGE) A MONTHLY CHILD CARE ALLOWANCE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 1.5 YEARS OF AGE IN THE AMOUNT OF AT LEAST 40 % OF THE AVERAGE SALARY IN THE REGION, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

# ENSURING THE USE OF FUNDS PROVIDED FROM THE FEDERAL BUDGET AT THE BIRTH OF THE THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT CHILDREN TO IMPROVE HOUSING CONDITIONS WITHOUT ATTRACTING CREDIT FUNDS (BY ANALOGY WITH THE RULES FOR THE USE OF A MULTIPLE-CHILD ALLOWANCE)

The spread of the novel coronavirus infection put many Russian families with children in a difficult life situation. In this regard, the Head of State made decisions on special payments for children during the pandemic. These payments were made without applying the need criteria, and parents were only required to submit an application.

As part of implementing the instructions given by the President of the Russian Federation in his address to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of January 15, 2020,<sup>71</sup> important measures were continued to support families with children, which increased the volume of support provided for in the previously adopted set of measures, their further differentiation, as well as the introduction of new measures, including non-recurrent ones. The Civic Chamber notes that the state sent an important signal to the whole society about the priority of families with children with the introduction of the above social measures in 2020–2021.

At the same time, the Civic Chamber stressed that the measures taken so far are not enough for sustainable population growth in the country. This is confirmed, among other things, by the draft Unified Plan to achieve the national development goals of the Russian Federation for the period until 2024 and for the planning period until 2030 prepared by the Government of the Russian Federation,<sup>72</sup> according to which the natural decline of the population will continue as a steady trend (in 2021–2024, losses will amount to 2.5 million people).

PARENTS OF

>20

MILLION CHILDREN

RECEIVED A ONE-TIME "SCHOOL" PAYMENT



In 2021, the Civic Chamber, as part of monitoring the implementation of national projects, drew attention to the need to update the “Demography” national project, developed to ensure sustainable population growth in the country, and prepared relevant proposals, which were submitted to Tatyana Golikova, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation. As a result of their consideration, the responsible departments were instructed to study the proposals submitted by the Civic Chamber.<sup>73</sup>

An important step in consolidating the priority of the problem of population decline in the implementation of the state policy in 2021 was updating the National Security Strategy<sup>74</sup> and changing its doctrinal priority. Against the background of the success achieved in ensuring the country’s defense capability, a group of goals related to the human-centered approach and population preservation came to the fore:

- # Sustainable natural population growth, strengthening the health of citizens;
- # Sustainable improvement of the quality of life, reduction of poverty, reduction of social and property inequality;
- # Raising the level of education, bringing up a harmoniously developed and socially responsible citizen.

The most fundamental and, given the emerging trends, the most difficult is the goal of reaching the expanded natural reproduction of the population.

The Government is taking a variety of measures to support families with children and stimulate the birth rate. However, in order to achieve the main goal of population preservation, it is already necessary to strengthen the analysis of all factors that truly affect both the reproductive behavior and the quality of life of Russian families, and make appropriate decisions.

## PROPOSALS OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER ON IMPROVING THE “DEMOGRAPHY” NATIONAL PROJECT (II)

# PREFERENTIAL MORTGAGE LENDING (6% PER ANNUM) FOR YOUNG FAMILIES (UP TO 25 YEARS OF AGE) WITH THE FIRST CHILD AND LARGE FAMILIES WHO RECEIVED A LAND PLOT BEFORE 2018

# BUILDING AN INTEGRAL SYSTEM OF HOUSING SUPPORT OF FAMILIES WITH NEWLY BORN CHILDREN, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF COST-FREE LAND PLOTS FOR PRIVATE HOUSING, FEDERAL MATERNITY CAPITAL, REGIONAL MATERNITY CAPITAL (IN THE MINIMUM GUARANTEED AMOUNT FOR ALL REGIONS FROM 450 THOUSAND RUBLES FOR THE FOURTH CHILD TO 1 MILLION RUBLES FOR THE FIFTH AND EACH SUBSEQUENT CHILD), A PROGRAM OF PREFERENTIAL MORTGAGE LENDING

# INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMS AND CERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL NANNIES FOR THE CREATION OF HOME-BASED DAY-CARE GROUPS

# DRASTIC REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF ABORTIONS AND CONDUCTING PRE-ABORTION COUNSELING FOR PREGNANT WOMEN USING THE MECHANISM OF IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL IMPACT PROJECTS

# BUILDING AN EARLY REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TESTING SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF A “CERTIFICATE OF NEWLYWEDS” FOR FREE TESTING AT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTERS

# PROVISION OF STATE SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM OF SERVICES FOR THE SUPERVISION AND CARE OF CHILDREN UNDER 3 YEARS OF AGE, INCLUDING A SYSTEM OF NURSERIES, CERTIFIED NANNIES, FAMILY KINDERGARTENS, MOTHER’S ASSISTANTS, INCLUDING FREE ATTENDANCE OF DAY-CARE FACILITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH THREE OR MORE CHILDREN

# IN ORDER TO USE THE MEASURES AIMED AT SUPPORTING FERTILITY AS ONE OF THE INCENTIVE FINANCIAL MECHANISMS, CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A FUND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, REPLENISHED BY INCREASING REVENUES FROM GAMBLING, INCREASING EXCISE TAXES ON TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL (ACCORDING TO THE EXPERIENCE OF 30 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD)

Having many children should become a truly socially approved life model in society. And this is an issue not only of social but also of cultural and youth policies.

At the state level, the “Demography” national project includes measures aimed at increasing the proportion of citizens leading a healthy lifestyle. Recording a significant increase in public interest in this topic, the Civic Chamber holds an annual competition to find the best practices for promoting a healthy lifestyle in Russia<sup>75</sup> in order to further scale the same. According to the project evaluation results, with the support of the competition partners, the winners receive various gifts, including certificates for advanced training, additional education, as well as for technical equipment for sports facilities.

It should also be noted that the Civic Chamber considers the work of educating the younger generation, including in one of its most difficult parts — preventive work with troubled adolescents, as the most important direction in achieving the goal of bringing up a harmoniously developed and socially responsible citizen.

The Civic Chamber identified and recommended successful federal and regional practices in this area for further replication by the Ministry of Education of Russia. At the same time, it was proposed to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation to revise and expand the potential of temporary detention centers for juvenile offenders in order to expand the coverage of prevention programs for more adolescents, endow these centers with new rehabilitation and preventive functions, as well as expand the categories of troubled juvenile offenders for temporary placement in these centers.

### 3.3 SUPPORTING LARGE FAMILIES AS A TRADITIONAL FAMILY VALUE OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF RUSSIA

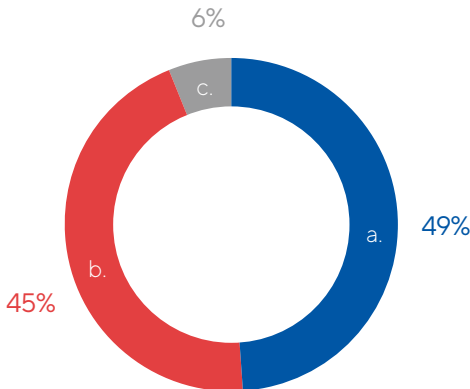
THE CIVIC CHAMBER HAS REPEATEDLY DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT SOCIETY AND AUTHORITIES OFTEN PERCEIVE LARGE FAMILIES AS SOMETHING SYNONYMOUS WITH LOW-INCOME CATEGORIES OF THE POPULATION. IN THE LEGISLATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE STATUS OF A LARGE FAMILY IS NOT ENSHRINED AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, AND MEASURES TO SUPPORT A LARGE FAMILY ARE DISPERSED ACROSS A VARIETY OF STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

According to the Civic Chamber, in order to shape a consistent approach to supporting and promoting large families, it is advisable to enshrine the unified status of a large family in the legislation of the Russian Federation as a guarantee of its support. It is possible to reach the target birth rate, which ensures natural population growth, only with a multiple increase in the number of large families.<sup>76</sup>

#### FAMILY POLICY: SUPPORT MEASURES THROUGH THE EYES OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

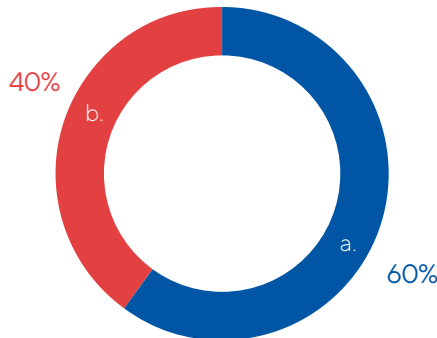
SURVEY PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 21 - OCTOBER 27, 2021

ADULTS  
>6.5 THOUSAND



a.	20-35 YEARS	49%
b.	30-50 YEARS	45%
c.	OTHER	6%

CHILDREN  
>3.5 THOUSAND



a.	6-11 YEARS	60%
b.	12-18 YEARS	40%

10 THOUSAND PEOPLE

85 REGIONS

IN ORDER TO ANALYZE THE RELEVANCE, EFFECTIVENESS, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE EXISTING SUPPORT MEASURES, THE CIVIC CHAMBER HAS CONDUCTED THE ALL-RUSSIAN SURVEY “FAMILY POLICY: SUPPORT MEASURES THROUGH THE EYES OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.” THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR THE RUSSIAN CIVIC CHAMBER’S PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON DEVELOPING A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.

THE CIVIC CHAMBER PROPOSES TO ALLOCATE UP TO

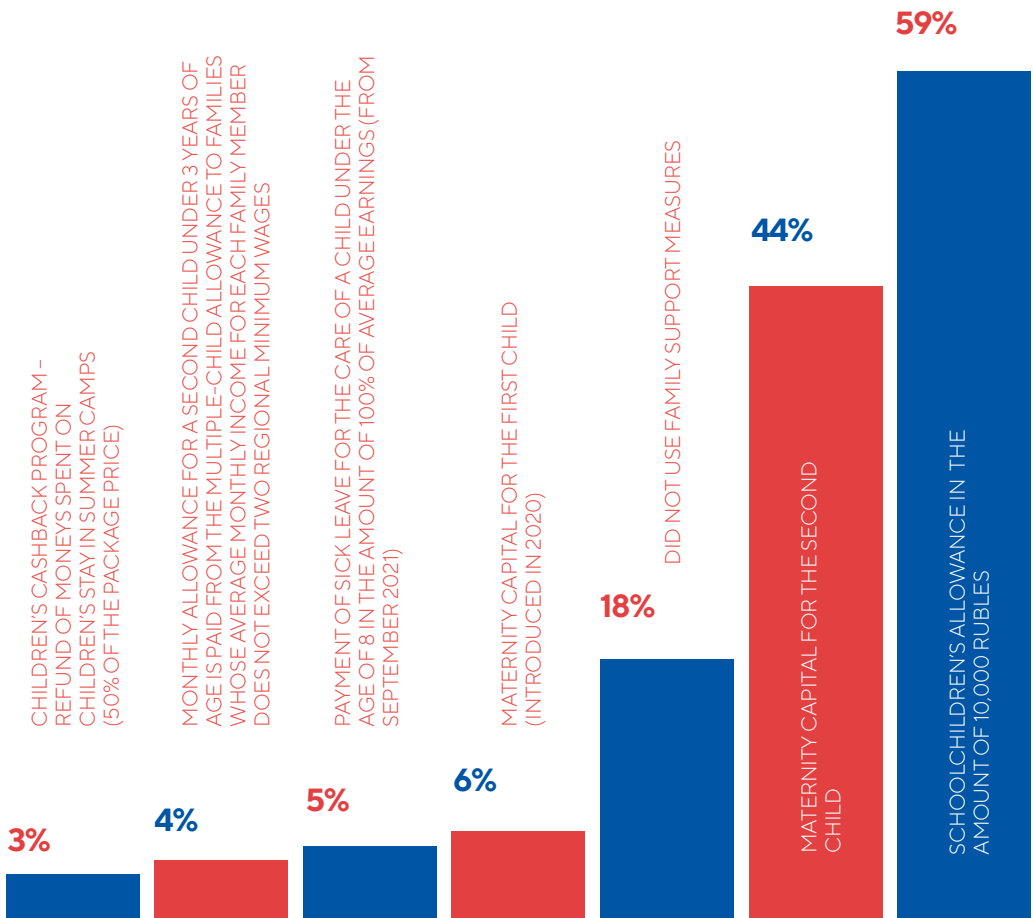
40%

OF THE TOTAL FUNDS OF THE “DEMOGRAPHY” NATIONAL PROJECT TO SUPPORT LARGE FAMILIES

#### KEY FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY “FAMILY POLICY: SUPPORT MEASURES THROUGH THE EYES OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN”

##### SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

SUPPORT MEASURES USED BY THE FAMILIES PARTICIPATING IN THE SURVEY



THE WIDEST APPLICABLE MEASURE OF SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN THE LAST YEAR WAS A SCHOOLCHILDREN'S ALLOWANCE OF 10,000 RUBLES

59% OF RESPONDENTS MADE USE OF IT

It also seems reasonable to introduce amendments to statutory instruments in order to recognize the length of pensionable service during the period of care of one of the parents for each child until the latter reaches the age of three years equally with the time in employment, to provide for the right to early retirement.

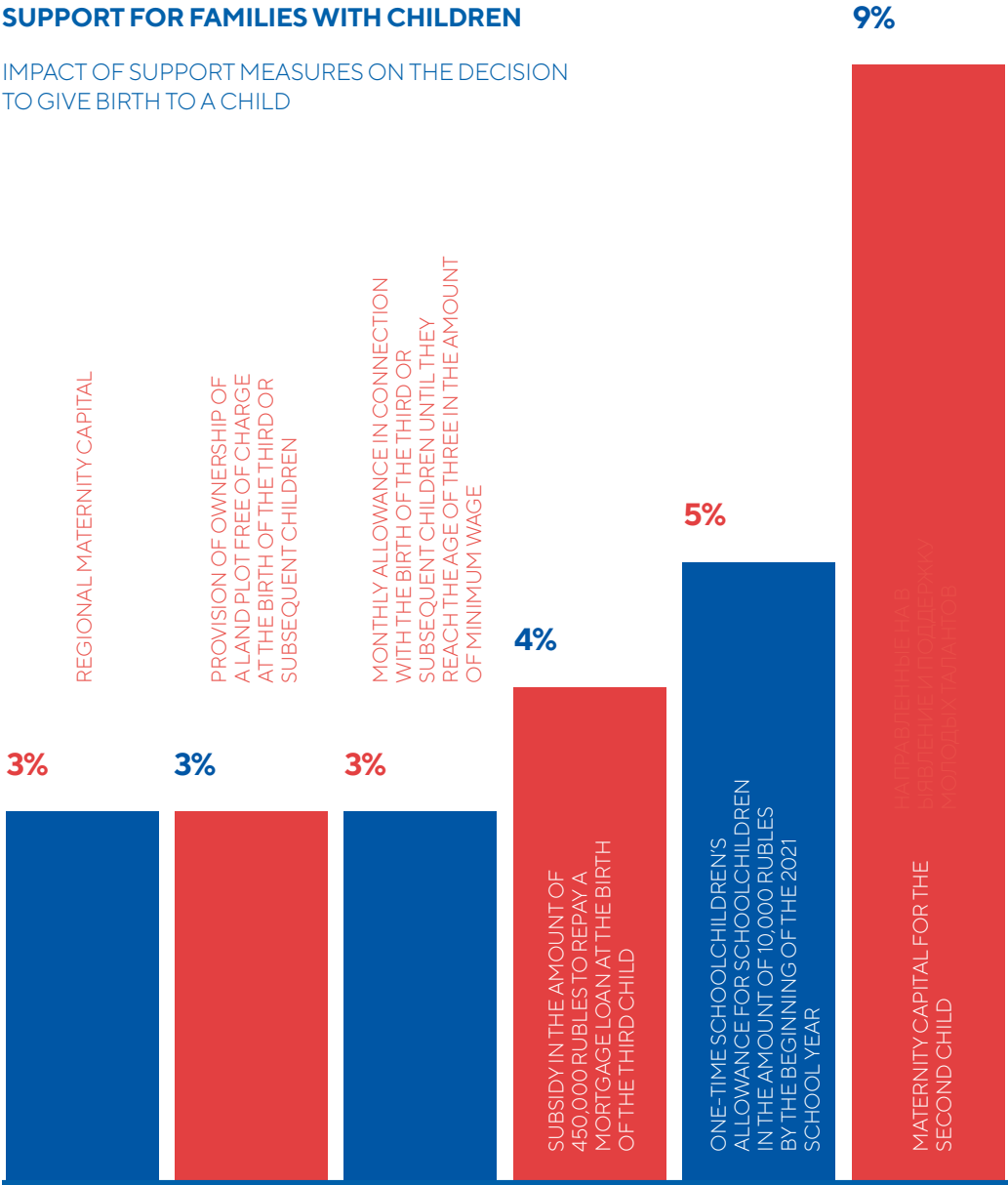
The implementation of the maternity capital program had a significant impact on the birth rate in 2007–2013, which led not only to an increase in the number of children born but also to an increase in the total fertility rate from 1.3 to 1.7. According to experts, thanks to the maternity capital, an extra 1.44 million children were born in the first six years since its introduction. Over the first years after the introduction of the allowance, the birth rate was influenced by the birth of the third and subsequent children.

Contrary to expectations, with the inclusion of the first child in the maternity capital program in 2020, the birth rate failed to grow in terms of the first children and in general.

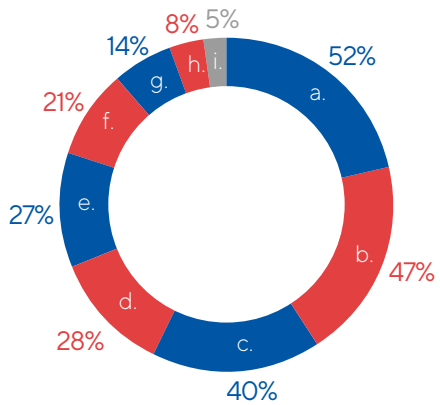
At the same time, according to the survey “Family policy and support measures through the eyes of families and children”<sup>77</sup> conducted by the Civic Chamber, Russian families have supported the initiative to expand avenues for maternity capital spending.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

IMPACT OF SUPPORT MEASURES ON THE DECISION TO GIVE BIRTH TO A CHILD

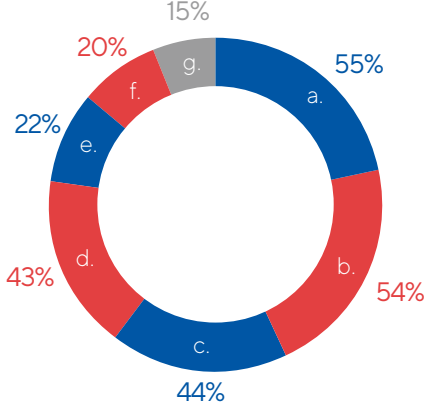


WHAT DO RUSSIAN FAMILIES WANT TO SPEND MATERNITY CAPITAL ON?



a.	REPAIRS OF A HOUSE, LIVING QUARTERS	52%
b.	IMPROVEMENT OF A HOUSE, LIVING QUARTERS (GAS SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, ETC.)	47%
c.	CAR PURCHASE	40%
d.	FAMILY HOLIDAYS	28%
e.	PROVISION OF MONTHLY (QUARTERLY, ANNUAL) CASH PAYMENTS FOR A CHILD OVER 3 YEARS OF AGE	27%
f.	PAYMENT FOR THE MOTHER'S EDUCATION OF PARENTS	21%
g.	PAYMENT FOR BABYSITTING SERVICES	14%
h.	FARM DEVELOPMENT	8%
i.	OPENING OF A FAMILY KINDERGARTEN	5%

WHAT KINDS OF CHANGES DO FAMILIES LACK TO IMPROVE THEIR WELL-BEING?



a.	LEISURE AND TRAVEL PACKAGES	55%
b.	GOOD JOB WITH A DECENT INCOME	54%
c.	IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING CONDITIONS	44%
d.	OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT	43%
e.	WELFARE PAYMENTS AND SERVICES	22%
f.	OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-EDUCATION AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT	20%
g.	OPPORTUNITIES FOR DAILY LEISURE	15%

2%  
HAVE CHOSEN  
ONE OF THE  
FOLLOWING  
MEASURES:

MATERNITY CAPITAL FOR THE FIRST CHILD (INTRODUCED IN 2020)

MONTHLY ALLOWANCE FOR THE FIRST CHILD UP TO 3 YEARS OF AGE

MONTHLY ALLOWANCE FOR A CHILD AGED 3 THROUGH 7 YEARS

PAYMENT OF SICK LEAVE FOR THE CARE OF A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 8 IN THE AMOUNT OF 100% OF AVERAGE EARNINGS

MONTHLY ALLOWANCE FOR A CHILD FROM 8 TO 17 YEARS OF AGE TO FAMILIES IN A DIFFICULT FINANCIAL SITUATION





## 3.4 ALL-RUSSIAN POPULATION CENSUS: A LARGE-SCALE PROCESS, AFFECTING ECONOMIC, DEMOGRAPHIC, AND SOCIAL CHANGES IN THE COUNTRY OVER THE PAST 11 YEARS

THE ALL-RUSSIAN POPULATION CENSUS WAS HELD FROM OCTOBER 15 THROUGH NOVEMBER 14, 2021. IT WAS THE 12TH AND THE FIRST DIGITAL CENSUS IN THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY USING ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC SERVICES PORTAL OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

In this regard, the Civic Chamber proposes to introduce a new federal project titled “Multi-Child Country” as part of the “Demography” national project. The concept of the “Multi-Child Country” project has been developed by the Civic Chamber with the meaningful participation of the expert community and civil society organizations. This project is designed to eliminate the imbalance currently observed in the “Demography” national project, where less than 8% of the total funds are allocated to support large families. According to the Civic Chamber, it is necessary to increase the level of investment to 40%, which in the future will ensure a steady increase in the population.

A key measure within the framework of the proposed project is the introduction of large family (paternal) capital to be provided at the birth of three or more children into one family. The Civic Chamber notes that it is necessary to pay special attention to the father’s role in a large family and thus not only form gender parity but also support responsible fatherhood. The introduction of paternal capital, according to the Russian Public Opinion Research Center’s survey conducted in 2020, is supported by more than 86% of respondents.

Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova sent a request to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, and Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation to evaluate and study the proposals of the Civic Chamber on the “Multi-Child Country” federal project.<sup>78</sup>

On October 28, 2021, the draft federal law “On Amendments to the Federal Law ‘On Additional Measures of State Support for Families with Children’” was examined at a meeting of the Government of the Russian Federation.<sup>79</sup>

The draft law provides for the extension of the right to maternal (family) capital to fathers raising two or more children with Russian citizenship alone, provided that the woman without Russian citizenship, who gave birth to these children, died or was declared dead. The draft law also establishes the possibility of transferring the right to maternity capital to children in equal shares provided that the man raising two or more children alone died.

The Civic Chamber, together with regional civic chambers, regularly monitors whether and how the main provisions of the Russian President’s addresses to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation are being implemented. In the system of indicators for public evaluation, a significant part consists of measures to support families with children.

This year, the Civic Chamber, supported by the Federal State Statistics Service, has come forward with the initiative to publish a special statistical collection, “Families and Children in Russia.” The analysis of the information provided will allow public experts to more effectively and accurately assess the implementation of new support measures and prepare timely proposals to improve their effectiveness.

A unique feature of the All-Russian Population Census in 2021 was the ability to fill out a questionnaire in ten languages, including English, Chinese, Tuvan, and Yakut. The multi-ethnicity principle was fully implemented as users could choose several answers to questions about their nationality and native language.

To support the census and ensure the participation of as many Russian citizens as possible, the Civic Chamber and the regional civic chambers put in great efforts to raise awareness about the event.

The Civic Chamber emphasizes the special role played by the media and civil society institutions, which contributed to the widespread awareness about the census among young people, and innovative digital ways to take it, which significantly reduced the number of potentially dangerous contacts amidst the pandemic, and about the principles of respect for human and civil rights to privacy and inviolability of dwelling during the course of the event.<sup>80</sup>

Volunteers provided great assistance in conducting the census. About 50 thousand volunteers<sup>81</sup> aged 18–50 provided information support to citizens visiting census stations located at Multifunctional Public Services Centers, worked in field teams at production facilities and offices, and also directly assisted those who chose to participate in the online census.

One of the important tasks of the information community was the fight against fakes, which were aimed at discrediting the very

institution of the census. When preparing the census, the Civic Chamber identified and prevented the spread of about 300 fakes.

The Civic Chamber, in cooperation with public supervisory commissions (PSC), also monitored the ways of creating awareness about and the progress of the census at detention facilities. The Chamber and the public supervisory commissions interacted in real-time via the online chat of the Coordination Council of regional PSCs.

Given the social relevance and importance of the All-Russian population census in terms of collecting official statistical information on the population size and structure as well as the need to ensure the protection of human rights during its conduction, the Civic Chamber had developed recommendations that were subsequently sent to the relevant state authorities.

To streamline the census procedure in the future, the Civic Chamber proposed to provide for a set of questions regarding the reproductive behavior of citizens, and above all, with the desire to have children.





# OVERSIGHT

- 74 The institution of public observation in Russia today
- 76 Election observation domestically and abroad
- 80 Oversight of prisoners' electoral rights
- 82 "Reset" of public councils' activities

"MAKING OUR CITIZENS CONFIDENT THAT THE ELECTIONS ARE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT AND THAT THEIR RESULTS SHOULD BE RESPECTED IS THE MAIN THING."

ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION VLADIMIR PUTIN, DECEMBER 17, 2020

# 4.1 THE INSTITUTION OF PUBLIC OBSERVATION IN RUSSIA TODAY

LARGE-SCALE PUBLIC MONITORING IN THE COUNTRY GAINED MOMENTUM IN 2018 WHEN THE CIVIC CHAMBER AND THE REGIONAL CHAMBERS WERE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO SEND THEIR ELECTION OBSERVERS TO POLLING STATIONS.<sup>82</sup>

Currently, the institution of public observation is an integral and natural part of the electoral process, which ensures the satisfaction of the public’s request for purity, transparency, and legitimacy of voting.

The most important social and political event of 2021 was the elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, which took place from September 17 through 19, 2021, simultaneously with the elections to the regional legislative and executive authorities of Russia.

Given the current epidemiological situation, to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19 infection, norms on holding multi-day voting were included in the electoral legislation. Seven regions of the Russian Federation chose to make use of the remote electronic voting (REV) procedure.

Introducing digital technology into the electoral process made it possible to create the most comfortable conditions for all categories of citizens who decided to take part in the elections: for the elderly – by reducing the number of people voting at polling stations at the same time, for the most economically and politically active age group of voters – middle-aged people, and for young people.

## THE WORK OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER SITUATION CENTER

25+ THOUSAND

MADE BY CALL CENTER OPERATORS

700+ PHONE CALLS

WERE RECEIVED ON THE CIVIC CHAMBER HOTLINE

780+ MESSAGES

RECEIVED VIA THE MOBILNY NABLYUDATEL (MOBILE MONITOR) MOBILE APPLICATION

## RESULTS OF THE WORK OF THE SITUATIONAL CENTER OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER FOR OBSERVATION ON A SINGLE VOTING DAY IN 2021

894 MESSAGES

WERE RECEIVED FROM OBSERVERS WHICH CONFIRMED VIOLATIONS OF THE “GOLD STANDARD”

195 MESSAGES

OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE “GOLD STANDARD” PROVISIONS WERE CONFIRMED

12

MEDIA BRIEFINGS

WERE HELD AT THE SITUATION CENTER

According to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, two-thirds of the participants in the remote e-voting were Russians aged 26 through 55.<sup>83</sup>

Attempts of foreign interference in the election campaign became new threats to the electoral process. Over the entire voting period, there were attacks on the REV infrastructure from IP addresses based in the USA, Germany, Ukraine, and other foreign states.<sup>84</sup> During the voting days, the Civic Chamber’s cyber volunteers recorded almost 20,000 false election reports.<sup>85</sup>

As part of the coordination of the All-Russian Public Observation Process, the Situation Center was deployed at the Civic Chamber, which received and analyzed information from public observers from all over the country in real-time.

Of note, 40 members of the Civic Chamber Volunteer Corps kept in touch around the clock with public observers in all Russian regions, as well as with 85 regional public observation headquarters. In the course of their work, the volunteers made several dozens of thousands of phone calls to public observers at polling stations.

One of the meaningful innovations was the public observation of the e-voting process: the number of transactions was reconciled daily in the presence of public observers and media representatives. At the end of the voting, the entire volume of data received during the voting days was checked for correctness.

Another innovation of the 2021 elections was the unique system of public observation centers (POC), created under the auspices of the regional civic chambers of Russia. All participants in the electoral process, political parties, their regional branches, single-mandate candidates, as well as public observers and interested citizens, had the opportunity to monitor the voting process in real-time anywhere in the country at POCs. This made it possible to prevent possible violations, and in case of their occurrence, to timely identify them and take the necessary measures. Ensuring the possibility of rewinding recordings from CCTV cameras was very important.<sup>86</sup>



# 4.2 ELECTION OBSERVATION DOMESTICALLY AND ABROAD

UNDERSCORING THE IMPORTANCE AND COMPLEXITY OF ORGANIZING ALL-RUSSIAN PUBLIC OBSERVATION, IN DECEMBER 2020, THE COORDINATION COUNCIL UNDER THE CIVIC CHAMBER ON PUBLIC OVERSIGHT OVER VOTING ANNOUNCED THE LAUNCH OF A LARGE-SCALE ALL-RUSSIAN TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ELECTION OBSERVERS, AS PART OF WHICH 250 THOUSAND PEOPLE WERE TRAINED.

## PUBLIC OBSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE

250,000

OBSERVERS

TRAINED IN THE RUN-UP TO THE ELECTIONS

OF WHOM

100+ THOUSANDS OF PUBLIC OBSERVERS

WERE SENT TO POLLING STATIONS ON THE SINGLE DAY OF VOTING

200+ COMPATRIOT OBSERVERS IN 51 COUNTRIES

380+ FOREIGN OBSERVERS AND EXPERTS IN RUSSIA

85 PUBLIC OBSERVATION CENTERS

ACROSS RUSSIA'S REGIONS

37 PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS

AND 11 POLITICAL PARTIES

SIGNED AGREEMENTS WITH THE CIVIC CHAMBER

To implement a large-scale task of training observers, the Civic Chamber entered into agreements with leading all-Russian public organizations, such as the Association of Lawyers of Russia, the Russian Union of Youth, the Russian Union of Journalists, the association of nongovernment organizations "Independent Public Monitoring" and others.

Observers were given basic information about the electoral process, the requirements to meet at polling stations, ways to identify and record violations.

During all the voting days, observers assessed whether the voting process and the quality of its management corresponded to the "Gold Standard."

The "Gold Standard" is a "checklist" containing several dozen checkpoints. Observers used this list to check compliance at polling stations, which made it possible to ensure maximum control over the voting process and promptly eliminate violations.

The "Gold Standard" was also actively used by observers representing political parties and candidates. In preparation for election monitoring, the Civic Chamber signed agreements on interaction and cooperation with 37 public associations and 11 political parties.

Mobile public observation groups were widely used in the last elections, which proved to be an effective mechanism for

coordinating interests and resolving conflict situations at polling stations, as well as for promptly checking headline-making statements about violations during the voting.

A meaningful step to simplify and automate the observation process at polling stations was the launch by the Civic Chamber of the Mobilny Nablyudatel (Mobile Observer) app.<sup>87</sup> All the information on (non-)compliance with the "Gold Standard" entered by the observer in the app was automatically forwarded to the Civic Chamber's Situation Center and promptly processed.

# ACCESSIBILITY OF POLLING STATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

RESULTS OF INSPECTING  
THE COMPLIANCE OF  
POLLING STATIONS WITH  
ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA  
BY PUBLIC OBSERVERS

11 OF WHOM

1,041

MLN VOTERS

HAVE A DISABILITY

MILLION

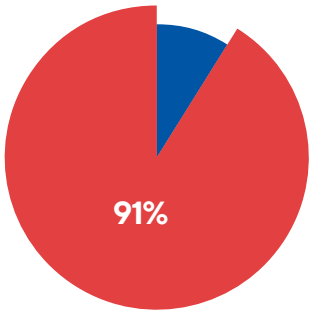
REQUIRE SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR EXERCISING  
ELECTORAL RIGHTS

An important area of the observers' work was the assessment of whether polling stations are accessible to people with disabilities and low-mobility groups of the population. According to the inspection results, more than 91% of polling stations met the accessibility criteria.

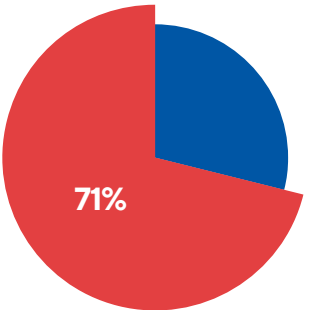
In close cooperation with the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Civic Chamber arranged for public observation at polling stations abroad – in 51 countries, 213 referrals were issued to our compatriots who controlled the transparency and legality of the electoral process.

The institutional partners of the Civic Chamber – delegations of economic and social councils from eight countries that are members of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS) also took part in monitoring the electoral process. The Civic Chamber demonstrated to colleagues from other countries how the Situation Center works. In the process of monitoring the voting, the greatest interest of foreign experts was aroused by topics related to election arrangements, the functions and responsibilities of observers, as well as safety of ballots.

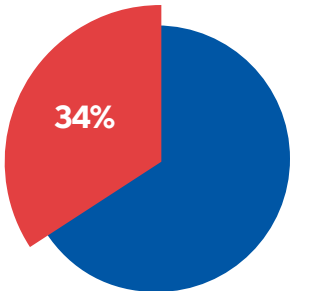
A separate area of the Chamber's international activity this year was the deployment of observation missions in foreign countries. Despite the coronavirus restrictions, the Civic Chamber observers took a direct part in monitoring the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan, early presidential elections in Kazakhstan and Syria, early parliamentary elections in Armenia, and parliamentary elections in Ethiopia.



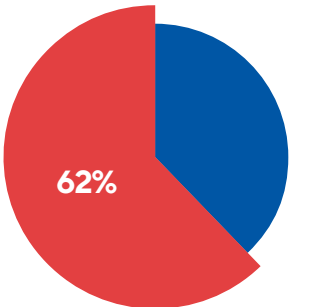
VOTING FACILITIES ARE LOCATED ON THE FIRST  
FLOORS OF BUILDINGS



POLLING STATIONS MEET THE ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA  
(AVAILABILITY OF HANDRAILS, DECKING, RAMPS, HELP  
BUTTONS, AND TACTILE SIGNING)



HAVE STENCILS FOR FILLING IN BALLOTS BY  
THEMSELVES



EQUIPPED FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED VOTERS  
(ADDITIONAL LIGHTING, MAGNIFYING GLASSES, TACTILE  
SIGNING, SPEAKERS, TYPHLOMARKERS)

# 4.3 OVERSIGHT OVER PRISONERS' ELECTORAL RIGHTS

SINCE 2008, THE CIVIC CHAMBER HAS BEEN WORKING ON MAKING UP NEW COMPOSITION OF PUBLIC SUPERVISORY COMMISSIONS(PSC) IN DETENTION CENTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW NO. 76-FZ OF JUNE 10, 2008 "ON PUBLIC OVERSIGHT OVER ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS IN DETENTION CENTERS AND ON ASSISTANCE TO DETAINEES."

The Constitution of the Russian Federation grants persons in custody, unlike convicts serving sentences in places of deprivation of liberty under a court verdict, the right to elect and be elected to state authorities and local self-government bodies.<sup>88</sup>

In order to ensure public oversight over the voting of detainees who wished to participate in the elections, public observation was organized by the regional PSCs. The corresponding agreement was signed in June 2021 between the Coordination Council of the regional PSCs, the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber on Public Oversight over Voting, and the Council of the civic chambers of Russia. Almost all regions of Russia organized public observation groups to monitor the election process at closed-type institutions during the three-day voting.

Public observers noticed a high level of electoral activity of citizens voting at places of detention (more than 98%) and closed medical institutions; each person was provided with the opportunity to vote secretly and safely in compliance with all sanitary and epidemiological norms.<sup>89</sup>

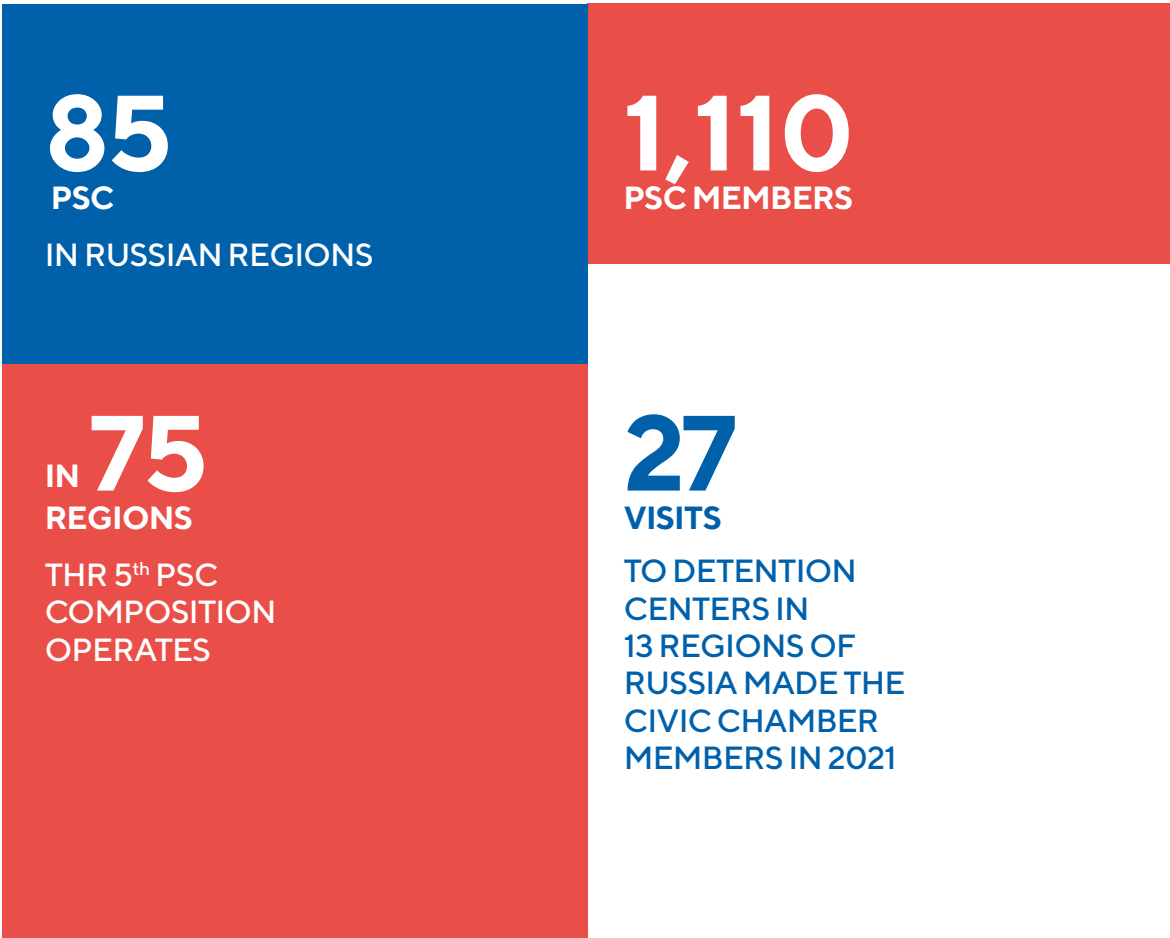
>98%

## CITIZENS

WITHIN PLACES OF FORCED DETENTION AND CLOSED MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS EXERCISED THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE ON THE SINGLE VOTING DAY 2021

# PUBLIC OVERSIGHT OF DETENTION CENTERS

## INFRASTRUCTURE OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT OF DETENTION CENTERS





# 4.4 “RESET” OF PUBLIC COUNCILS’ ACTIVITIES

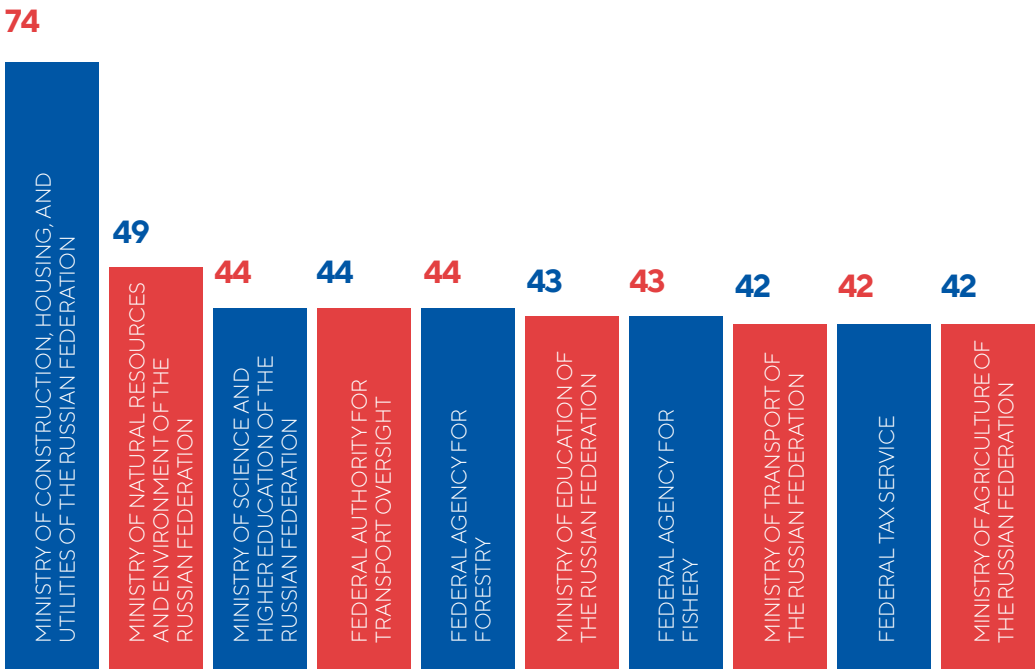
ALONG WITH CIVIC CHAMBERS, PUBLIC COUNCILS UNDER FEDERAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES ARE THE MAIN VEHICLES OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT.

## PUBLIC COUNCIL TRANSPARENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS RATING

THE TRANSPARENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS RATING OF PUBLIC COUNCILS UNDER FEDERAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES, WHICH ARE MANAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF RUSSIA

The Civic Chamber is key institution for forming public councils. For this purpose the Civic Chamber interacts and accumulates around itself opinions, proposals, and initiatives of leaders of public organizations, social groups, and authorities in order to make public councils effective working platforms to concern and ensure a balance of various public and professional interests, and to protect citizens’ rights by federal executive authorities when making socially significant policy decisions.

TOP 10 BEST PUBLIC COUNCILS



Since 2018, the Civic Chamber has been taking major efforts to “reset” the activities of public councils under federal executive authorities. Today, this work is almost completed. In accordance with a single standard approved by the Civic Chamber, all 50 public councils under the Federal Public Administration, which are under the jurisdiction of the Government of Russia, have been formed.<sup>90</sup>

In 2021, for the first time, it was decided to prepare a rating of public councils based on a number of criteria for transparency and efficiency, and first of all to promote the people’s agenda by the councils – whether their work meets the urgent needs of citizens.

The Civic Chamber expects that the results of the rating will urge healthy competition, intensify the councils’ work, change the attitude of laggards to feedback with citizens and that public oversight will develop effectively in this competitive environment.

RATING MODEL FOR EVALUATING THE ACTIVITIES OF PUBLIC COUNCILS

### MAXIMUM POINTS BY THE RATING’S DIRECTIONS

#### TRANSPARENCY



#### SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES



#### REGULATORY ACTIVITIES



#### MEDIA ACTIVITIES (ACCORDING TO MEDIALOGY)



#### EXPERT EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE RESULTS



124 MAXIMUM TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS



# HISTORICAL

# MEMORY

"THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION HONORS THE MEMORY OF DEFENDERS OF THE FATHERLAND AND PROTECTS HISTORICAL TRUTH. DIMINISHING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PEOPLE'S HEROISM IN DEFENDING THE FATHERLAND IS NOT PERMITTED."

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 67.1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- 86 The role of public initiatives in preserving the memory of those who died in defense of the Fatherland
- 90 "The Immortal Regiment"
- 91 "Child-heroes of Russia"
- 92 All-Russian project "Without Time Limits"

## 5.1 THE ROLE OF PUBLIC INITIATIVES IN PRESERVING THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO DIED IN DEFENSE OF THE FATHERLAND

IN THE LAST DECADE, THE STATE HAS DONE A LOT TO LEGISLATE NUMEROUS PUBLIC INITIATIVES RELATED TO PROTECT HISTORICAL MEMORY, AND PRESERVE HISTORICAL TRUTH FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

- # The provision on the preservation of historical memory was enshrined in the Constitution of the Russian Federation. According to the results of the Russian Public Opinion Research Center survey, 88% of Russian citizens supported the amendment to the Constitution of Russia on the protection of historical truth and the prevention of historical falsifications.<sup>91</sup>
- # The declared goals of the State Cultural Policy are aimed at preserving historical and cultural heritage as a basis for the following generations' upbringing and education; the transmission from generation to generation of values and norms, traditions, customs, and patterns of behavior traditional for the Russian civilization as the objectives of the state cultural policy.<sup>92</sup>
- # Bringing up a harmoniously developed and socially responsible generation based on the spiritual and moral values of the people of the Russian Federation, along with historical and national cultural traditions has been established as one of the national development objectives.<sup>93</sup>
- # The long debated amendments to the law "On Education" were adopted. It means that from 1 September 2020, an educational component of patriotic education has been returned into the all levels of educational process.<sup>94</sup>
- # New approaches to working with young audience were considered to the maximum extent in the development of the federal project named 'Patriotic Education of Citizens', which became part of the Education national project.

At the same time, the Civic Chamber noted that the scale and complexity of the set goals and objectives for the protection and preservation of historical memory did not allow them to be implemented solely by ministries and departments and required the active involvement of civil society.

In 2018–2019, important documents were adopted to promote the development of the volunteer movement in Russia, i.e. The concept for Developing the Volunteer Movement Until 2025 and its Implementation Plan,<sup>95</sup> which provided for the extensive involvement of the volunteer movement in patriotic education and preservation of historical memory.

Today, historical and archival volunteering has become one of the most widespread and actively developing lines of joint work between the state and civil society in this area.

In 2020, the President of Russia in his article "75th Anniversary of the Great Victory: Shared Responsibility to History and Our Future" noted that "it is crucial to rely exclusively on archive documents and contemporary evidence while avoiding any ideological or politicized speculations".<sup>96</sup> The Head of State emphasized the special role of the search, military-patriotic, and volunteer movements in preserving the historical memory, along with the "Pamyat Naroda" (Memory of the People) project.<sup>97</sup> The latest served as base for a web-portal that granted access to 425 thousand archival documents of the Red Army fronts, armies, and units in a digital format for the first time ever. The web-portal contains information about the primary burial sites of 5+ million soldiers and officers who died in battle, died of wounds and diseases in stationary and field hospitals.

Today, volunteers provide support in restoring the webs of life of Soviet soldiers who went missing during the Great Patriotic War or are absent from local Memory Books, work with archival documents covering the tragedy of the civilian population in the USSR, prepare and hold historical and cultural events and excursions, help with deciphering

## FEDERAL PROJECT "PATRIOTIC EDUCATION OF CITIZENS" (I)

JANUARY 1, 2021 – DECEMBER 31, 2024

**DUE TO THE ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PROJECT, THE FOLLOWING RESULTS AND INDICATORS WILL BE ACHIEVED BY THE END OF 2024**

**AT LEAST 24 % OF RUSSIAN CITIZENS WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE PATRIOTIC EDUCATION SYSTEM**

**THE "I AM PROUD" PATRIOTIC MOVEMENT WILL BE CREATED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE STUDENT PATRIOTIC CLUB ASSOCIATION**

**3  
MLN CHILDREN**

WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ALL-RUSSIAN PUBLIC-STATE CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH ORGANIZATION "RUSSIAN MOVEMENT OF SCHOOLCHILDREN"

**25  
MLN ONLINE LESSONS**

AIMED AT CIVIL AND PATRIOTIC EDUCATION OF CHILDREN, WILL BE VIEWED

**776**

**MLN RUBLES**

WILL BE ALLOCATED IN 2022 FOR A PROGRAM TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF THOSE DIED IN DEFENSE OF THE FATHERLAND

archival materials, collecting information from libraries, archives, and document stocks. Working with young audiences, volunteers organize All-Russian historical quests based on the key milestones and heroes of the Great Patriotic War,<sup>98</sup> online lessons, school essay contests.<sup>99</sup>

Volunteers actively participate in the formation of the Faces of Victory National Historical Depository<sup>100</sup> in the Victory Museum (Moscow). The main objective of this project is to collect information about the combat path and awards of veterans of the front, received by them during the Great Patriotic War; each case will attributed with a portrait photograph of the veteran. The collected information is verified through the electronic document bank of the Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation.

Also, the All-Russian project "The Fate of a Soldier Online"<sup>101</sup> is being implemented with great success, dedicated to the battlefield history of relatives who died or went missing during the Great Patriotic War. In the course of their work, the participants identified 9.5+ thousand names and clarified fates of the Fatherland's defenders.

An important domain of volunteers' work is public oversight of efforts to perpetuate the memory of those died in defense of the Fatherland, including the fulfillment by municipal authorities of obligations to landscape graves, drawing public attention to the facts of desecration of monuments and graves of soldiers.<sup>102</sup>



In April 2021, the President of Russia signed a federal law,<sup>103</sup> according to which the main forms of perpetuating the memory of those died in defense of the Fatherland are, without limitation, the burial and reburial of their remains, and regional state authorities are entrusted with specific powers in the field of perpetuating their memory.<sup>104</sup> An important part of the law was the ban on construction, excavation, roadworks, and other types of activities which may damage or move from their permanent location the unburied remains of the dead or unknown military graves.

The relevance of the law is confirmed by the construction of a number of facilities within the territory of the Telmanovskoye rural settlement in the Tosnensky District of the Leningrad Region in the summer of 2021, which breached the law.<sup>105</sup>

In June 2021, the Civic Chamber appealed to the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation with a request to check compliance with the law in the development of the above territory and to recommend to the owners (users) of land plots to eliminate violations of the legislation<sup>106</sup> in terms of ensuring the safety of discovered burials, including to suspend any construction activities until the end of measures to perpetuate the memory of those died in defense of the Fatherland. A criminal case was initiated and an indictment was prepared. The case will be referred to the court in the near future.<sup>107</sup>

The most important initiative of the President of Russia was the establishment on July 30, 2021, of the Interdepartmental Commission on History Education.<sup>108</sup> This Commission is a coordinating and advisory body under the President of the Russian Federation to ensure effective interaction between state bodies, the scientific, educational and cultural communities in terms of upholding the national interests to protect historical truth and preserve historical memory, to prevent attempts to falsify historical facts, as well as to develop educational activities

in the field of history. The Interdepartmental Commission included representatives of the Civic Chamber.<sup>109</sup>

With the participation of the Civic Chamber, the book "GROWTH CRYSTAL. For the Russian Economic Miracle"<sup>110</sup> was prepared for publication. The book examines in detail the phenomenon of economic growth in 1929–1955. The authors used archival and previously classified documents to reconstruct and analyze the economic history of our country, offering a unique model of Russia's economic development.<sup>111</sup> The book received an honorary certificate of the Economic Book of the Year Award for its fundamental nature, significance, and relevance.<sup>112</sup>

Vice President of the Civic Chamber Alexander Galushka, author of the book "GROWTH CRYSTAL. For the Russian Economic Miracle" headed the working group on the Russian economy's history promotion established as part of the Commission on Historic Education under the President of the Russian Federation.

Despite the rich historiography, many aspects and events of the historical past have not been studied in full. Fundamental changes in Russia in the last 30 years with strict ideological limits being abolished, and previously classified archive records being put into circulation have opened up new horizons for an objective study of the most complex and tragic pages of our military history. These facts can be used to objectively reconstruct historical events and discover previously unknown pages of national history.

One example of such a project, demonstrating the scale of the wartime tragedy and restoring the chronological sequence of historical events, is the "Frontiers of Petrozavodsk" project.

For more than seven years, information about four defensive lines near Petrozavodsk has been studied, and it was possible to mark them on the ground and improve some of them. There are three memorial sites and one military memorial complex,

# >10,000

## OF MEMORIES

ARE ARCHIVED BY THE "VICTORY VOLUNTEERS" MOVEMENT. THEY WILL BE USED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL VIDEO ARCHIVE OF WORLD WAR II AND WARTIME VETERANS' MEMORIES

## FEDERAL PROJECT "PATRIOTIC EDUCATION OF CITIZENS" (II)

AT LEAST

# 640

THOUSAND PEOPLE

WILL PARTICIPATE IN ALL-RUSSIAN, DISTRICT,  
AND INTERREGIONAL PATRIOTIC EVENTS

# 600

THOUSAND CHILDREN

WILL BE ENGAGED IN ALL-RUSSIAN  
CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MILITARY-  
PATRIOTIC PUBLIC MOVEMENT  
"YOUNG ARMY"

AT LEAST

# 550

THOUSAND  
PARTICIPANTS

WILL PARTICIPATE IN ALL-RUSSIAN  
COMPETITION "BIG BREAK"

where visitors can learn the history of the events that occurred during the Great Patriotic War. In 2021, as part of the project, two milestone events were organized: firstly, the consecration of a chapel at the "Height 168.5" memorial site and secondly, the traditional burial and reconstruction of battles in the "Barrow of Glory" military memorial complex.

The projects to deepen knowledge of the country's heroic past are of particular importance in preserving historical memory. Russian citizens take an active part in the all-Russian campaigns called "The Immortal Regiment", "Ribbon of Saint George", "Without Time Limits", the "Passing the Torch to the New Generation" and "Child-Heroes of Russia" projects, as well as in the activities of the all-Russian public movement for the commemoration of victims of defending the fatherland "Russian Search Movement", "Victory Volunteers", All-Russian Children's and Youth Military and Patriotic Social movement "YOUNG ARMY", Russian Military and Historical Society (RMHS) and in a number of other significant historical and patriotic projects.

Such projects are primarily intended to involve participants into active preservation and expansion of the historical memory about the Great Patriotic War, as well as to develop motivation of the young generation to defend the Fatherland and to prepare them for service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

## 5.2 “THE IMMORTAL REGIMENT”

THE CIVIL INITIATIVE THAT HAS BECOME THE ANNUAL LARGE-SCALE CAMPAIGN “THE IMMORTAL REGIMENT” HAS A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR PERPETUATING THE MEMORY OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND VICTIMS OF THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR. NOT ONLY CITIZENS OF RUSSIA, BUT ALSO RESIDENTS OF MORE THAN 80 NEIGHBORING AND DISTANT FOREIGN COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN THE CAMPAIGN.

IN 2021

5

MILLION PEOPLE

PARTICIPATED IN THE ONLINE  
“IMMORTAL REGIMENT” MARCH

>100

OF THE COUNTRIES

HAVE JOINED THE CAMPAIGN SINCE  
ITS INCEPTION

The idea of this public initiative goes back a long way. Since the 1960s, citizens in various Russian cities have shared the story of their family’s experience in the Great Patriotic War and carried portraits of veterans during various events dedicated to the celebration of Victory Day. In 2012, in Tomsk this public action received its official name “The Immortal Regiment”. At that moment, over 6,000 residents of the city joined the event.

Due to the 2020–2021 pandemic, the event went online. More than 2.5 million people attended it in 2020, twice as many in 2021 – 5 million people.<sup>113</sup>

The Civic Chamber believes that “The Immortal Regiment” is not just a grassroots movement, it is one of the most mass, genuine and truly patriotic human initiatives to preserve the memory of the Great Victory, now joined by more than 100 countries of the world. Members of the Civic Chamber are on the governing bodies of the movement and participate in its development.<sup>114</sup>

In 2021 a provocative event took place. Attackers hacked the site of “The Immortal Regiment” and uploaded photos of veterans with the names of Nazi criminals.

In response to this incident, the Civic Chamber appealed to law enforcement agencies requesting that the investigation of these attacks by all means be pursued until the end.<sup>115</sup> The head of the Russian Investigative Committee ordered to make clear the circumstances of the incident, which resulted in criminal proceedings against the attackers. The Civic Chamber noted that society, together with law enforcement agencies, sent a message that no justification of fascism will be tolerated, the memory of the ancestral feat will be preserved, and the historical truth will remain under protection.

## 5.3 “CHILD-HEROES OF RUSSIA”

THE ALL-RUSSIAN CIVIL AND PATRIOTIC PROJECT “CHILD – HEROES OF RUSSIA” PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS IN OUR COUNTRY WHO HAVE PERFORMED HEROIC AND COURAGEOUS DEEDS, WHO SELFLESSLY CAME TO THE AID OF PEOPLE AND PROVED THAT AGE IS NO BARRIER FOR DARING DEEDS. IT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED SINCE 2014 WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FEDERATION COUNCIL OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION BY THE ALL-RUSSIAN PUBLIC ORGANIZATION “RUSSIAN UNION OF RESCUERS” AND THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF CIVIL DEFENCE, EMERGENCIES AND DISASTER RELIEF.<sup>116</sup>

The project was developed to draw attention to the heroic and courageous acts of children under the age of 16, who in an emergency situation showed awareness, incredible courage and willingness to come to the rescue, despite their age.

The project is intended to popularize the efforts of children’s public organizations and movements and to draw public attention to the country’s young heroes.<sup>117</sup>

In 2021, the Federation Council received 183 nominations for awarding young heroes from 52 regions of the Russian Federation. The Medal “For Courage” was awarded to 109 children from 40 regions of the country.<sup>118</sup>

The Civic Chamber emphasizes that at present there is a pressing problem of finding new means of forming spiritual and moral guidelines for minors, and therefore the ideas of popularizing the heroic past and present, by means of minors’ deeds today are of particular relevance. Despite the ongoing efforts of several important projects in this area, including the All-Russian Children’s and Youth Military-Patriotic Public Movement “YOUNG ARMY” and the All-Russian Public-State Initiative “Burning Heart”, the Civic Chamber is concerned about the decreasing significance of heroic images in contemporary Russia, underscoring the lack of activities in this area.

Given the public importance and significance of patriotic education of the younger generation on the example of the deeds of their peers – child-heroes, the Civic Chamber will continue to support projects to popularize the deeds of child-heroes.

109

OF CHILDREN  
AND ADOLESCENTS

FROM 40 REGIONS WERE AWARDED  
THE COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL  
“FOR COURAGE” IN 2021

## 5.4 ALL-RUSSIAN PROJECT “WITHOUT TIME LIMITS”

A UNIQUE PROJECT HIGHLIGHTING THE FATE OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF THE USSR WHO SUFFERED FROM NAZI WAR CRIMES DURING THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR IS THE PROJECT OF THE RUSSIAN SEARCH MOVEMENT “WITHOUT TIME LIMITS”.

In 2020, the project was awarded the “Victory” national prize in the “Scientific Project” category. During the year, 23 volumes of archival documents on Nazi crimes against the USSR population were prepared, archival documents were exhibited in 22 regions of the country and searches were conducted in seven Russian regions.

Historical memory about the most horrific, but little-known pages of the Second World War was devoted to the International Scientific and Practical Forum “The Khabarovsk War Crime Trials: Historical Lessons and Contemporary Challenges”, dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the International Military Tribunal, held in Khabarovsk from 25 to 30 December 1949.

### CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN THE USSR DURING THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

The forum was supported by the Presidential Grants Foundation and the Ministry of Education of Russia, which once again emphasized that the preservation of historical memory is an integral part of the educational and training process.

The Khabarovsk War Crime Trials is the trial of a group of 12 former members of the Japanese Kwantung Army who were accused of developing and using bacteriological weapons in violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol during World War II. This unprecedented and unparalleled story of testing biological weapons and mass inhumane experiments on living human beings by special units of the Japanese armed forces in the death camps was exposed to the international community by the Soviet Union.

# 13,684,692

KILLED

OVER

**84.8**  
MILLION PEOPLE  
RESULTED IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY

**11,520,379**  
DIED  
IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY

**2,164,313**  
DIED  
IN EXILE ON FORCED LABOR



THE RUINS OF THE CITY OF VYAZMA AFTER THE BATTLES FOR LIBERATION FROM THE NAZI INVADERS. 1941-1945 GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR



The forum included a large exhibition of archival materials and documents on the militaristic Japan’s aggression against the USSR and plans for the large-scale use of bacteriological weapons. The Civic Chamber noted the need for this exhibition in all regions of Russia.

The All-Russian project “Without Time Limits” will preserve the memory of the Khabarovsk War Crime Trials for new generations of Russians by issuing this year a separate collection of declassified archival documents on the history of the 1949 Khabarovsk War Crime Trials of former members of the Japanese Kwantung Army war criminals.<sup>119</sup>

The theme of the Khabarovsk forum continued in a presentation of the film “Khabarovsk Tribunal” in October 2021 at the Civic Chamber within the framework of the All-Russian Forum “Without Time Limits”, demonstrating the horrific tragedy of the mass genocide of civilians in the territories seized by the militaristic Japan.

As a partner of the project, the Civic Chamber stresses the importance of including it in the work programs of educational organizations. With the enormous archival and search work accomplished as part of such projects, today we can no longer speak of the revival of historical memory, but of its preservation and transmission to the younger generations of citizens of our country as part of the historical and patriotic upbringing and education of minors.

Issues of civic and patriotic education of children and youth were the topic of discussion at the All-Russian Social and Patriotic Forum “Raise a Patriot”, which plenary session was held in the Civic Chamber. More than 350 educators, arriving at the forum from different regions of the country, and presented the best ideas of teachers for the promotion of patriotic education in Russia.

# ALL-RUSSIAN FORUM “WITHOUT TIME LIMITS”

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE ALL-RUSSIAN FORUM “WITHOUT TIME LIMITS” FOR UNIVERSITY PATRIOTIC EDUCATION SPECIALISTS

TO EXPAND THE LIST OF PILOT UNIVERSITIES OFFERING THE EDUCATIONAL MODULE “WITHOUT TIME LIMITS”, BASED ON REQUESTS FROM UNIVERSITIES

WORK ON A CLEAR DISTRIBUTION OF CASUALTIES IN THE USSR DURING 1941-1945 GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR BY CATEGORY AND NUMBER, AND INCLUDE THIS IN HISTORY TEXTBOOKS

ENSURE THAT A UNIFIED ACTION DAY IS HELD ANNUALLY ON APRIL 19, DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE MEMORY OF THE GENOCIDE OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE DURING 1941-1945 GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR.

INCREASE THE ACADEMIC HOURS FOR TEACHING THE HISTORY OF 1941-1945 GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR IN THE HISTORY OF THE FATHERLAND AND GENERAL HISTORY COURSES

INTRODUCE THE EDUCATIONAL SECTION “CRITICAL THINKING. COMMUNICATIONS. HANDLING THE INFORMATION” IN THE UNIVERSITIES OF THE COUNTRY

PROVIDE IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES FOR TEACHERS OF EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON “COUNTERING HISTORY FALSIFICATION OF 1941-1945 GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR”.

CONTINUE TO CREATE VIDEOS ON THE PROJECT TOPIC, AND ENSURE MASS DEMONSTRATION TO STUDENTS

"THE STATE OF SCIENCE, INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND CULTURE IS BECOMING A KEY INDICATOR OF THE RUSSIAN COMPETITIVENESS. THE ACHIEVEMENT OF LEADING POSITIONS IN THESE AREAS WILL ENSURE FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE COUNTRY'S DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS, AND WILL CREATE CONDITIONS FOR INCREASING THE INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND ATTRACTING COOPERATION FROM OTHER STATES."

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SECTION II, PARAGRAPH 22

# SCIENCE

## EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY

- 98 The development of national ratings and standards in education, science and culture
- 102 The use of the scientific, educational and innovative potential of Russian universities to achieve national development goals

## 6.1 THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL RATINGS AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE UNIT OF ADMINISTRATION AMID A GLOBAL CRISIS TODAY REMAINS THE STATE.

Preserving state sovereignty is a complex task, which refers not only to the protection of state and territorial integrity, the prevention of any possible military aggression against Russia, but also to the formulation of an independent national policy in science, education and culture, in those areas of public life that are key to achieving the national development goals of the country.

Declaring 2021 to be the Year of Science and Technology by Presidential Decree was an important step and a sign of support from the state for the Russian scientific community. This step was part of a comprehensive state policy in the field of national scientific and technological development, ensuring independence and competitiveness, which today depend on the level of scientific and technological development and qualifications of personnel. During the Year of Science and Technology more than 4 thousand events were held to popularize science and involve young people in research activities, a number of landmark infrastructure projects related to the development of the basis for scientific research in the country were launched.

The scientific community of the country in the updated in 2021 program of scientific and technological development by 2030<sup>120</sup> has set an ambitious goal to take the seventh place in the world ranking in terms of research and development.

At the same time, the share of domestic spending on research and development in GDP by 2030, according to the program of scientific and technological development, will be only 1.64%, which experts say is insufficient.

Qualifying the human resources to replenish the national research corps, it should be noted that in 2019, there were 84.3 thousand postgraduate students in Russia, which is 1.8 times less than in 2010.

The postgraduate education efficiency has also dropped down: the share of postgraduate students who graduated with PhD

theses decreased from 30.3% to 10.4% of the total number of postgraduate graduates.<sup>121</sup>

Low level of demand for the domestic R&D sector on the part of other economy sectors, lack of commercial demand for the scientific findings, weak recruitment of young scientific personnel and scientists, lack of comprehensive monitoring of scientific performance, failure to use the system of scientific and technical evaluation, insufficient level of scientific publications are among the reasons for the low productivity of development and improvement of Russian science.<sup>122</sup>

For many years, the need to improve the system of scientific publications, which determines, in particular, the national scientific prestige at the international level has been discussed at the state level. In the opinion of State Duma deputies, formalized evaluations of scientific publications lead to funding that is insufficient for the effective development of science.<sup>123</sup>

The publication activity and citation rate of researchers is one of the indicators used to rank researchers and institutions around the world. Russia has its own bibliographic database of scientific publications – the Russian Science Citation Index (RSCI). The RSCI accumulates more than 12 million publications by Russian authors with free open access to materials. The RSCI indicators are used to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of research organizations, scientists, and the level of scientific journals.<sup>124</sup>

### SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN RUSSIA

STATE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS AIMED AT DEVELOPING SCIENTIFIC POTENTIAL AND INCREASING THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN RUSSIA:

STATE PROGRAM “SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION”

LONG-TERM PROGRAM OF FUNDAMENTAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (2021-2030)

STATE PROGRAM “SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT”

NATIONAL PROJECT “SCIENCE”

NATIONAL PROJECT “SCIENCE AND UNIVERSITIES”



Despite the fact that Russian scientific and educational institutions are included in the lists of international rankings and fully meet the world educational standards, their share in the published rankings is rather small. Throughout the period of the state program to improve the international competitiveness of Russian universities “5-100”, the number of Russian universities included in the published part of the ratings has increased more than threefold. The focus on global university rankings has forced Russian universities to think about the need to position themselves in the global academic environment. However, the ratings themselves as a tool continue to cause much controversy in the Russian scientific and expert community both in terms of the methodology used and in terms of the subjective nature of individual assessments.

The Civic Chamber supposes that the modern higher education and scientific community of Russia is facing the problem of objective evaluation of the quality of the national educational and scientific sphere. International citation databases are still a key factor in evaluating the effectiveness of Russian universities and scientists. This is not questionable when it comes to the natural sciences, but it is different when Russian scientists talk about the historical, political, and sociological sciences. The international ranking of Russian research in the humanities raises questions about the political subjectivity and biased approach of the rating agencies.<sup>125</sup>

During the Russian Professors’ Forum-2021 “Science and Technology in the XXI Century: Trends and Prospects” President of the Civic Chamber Lydia Mikheeva proposed to change the approach to the ranking system of higher educational institutions and scientific establishments in Russia. The President of the Civic Chamber believes that such rankings should not only give priority to publications published abroad.<sup>126</sup>

The difficulties of developing own national scientific rating system in Russia, the influence of university rankings and publications in international citation systems on national policy in the field of higher education, as well as issues of preserving the importance of the Russian language in scientific publications were discussed in detail at the events of the Civic Chamber in 2021.

In 2021, the Civic Chamber noted a significant reduction in the weight of the Russian language in the global academic space. There is a drop in the volume of scientific information and communication in Russian, the intensity of this information exchange, and the number of participants in this communication – producers and consumers of scientific content in Russian.

This leads to a reduction in the space of the Russian-language scientific picture of the world, the range of ideas and meanings, systems of terms and concepts, discoveries and hypotheses

# PROPOSALS OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER TO PRESERVE THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING SCIENTIFIC AREA

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS INDEXED IN THE INFORMATION-ANALYTICAL SYSTEM OF SCIENTIFIC CITATION “RUSSIAN SCIENCE CITATION INDEX (RSCI)”

DEVELOPMENT OF A PROGRAM TO SUPPORT AND DEVELOP RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS, INCLUDING THEIR PROMOTION IN INTERNATIONAL CITATION INDICES, AS PART OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT “SCIENCE”

CREATION OF A NATIONWIDE DIGITAL SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY WITH AUTOMATIC TRANSLATION SERVICES AND COPYRIGHT PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY USING BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

CREATION OF A CENTRALIZED SYSTEM FOR TRANSLATION AND EDITING OF SCIENTIFIC TEXTS

INCREASING THE PRIORITY OF PUBLICATIONS OF RUSSIAN SCIENTISTS IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN RUSSIAN JOURNALS BY DECIDING ON THE INCLUSION OF A CANDIDATE IN THE DISSERTATION COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG-TERM PROGRAM OF JOINT RESEARCH BY INTERNATIONAL TEAMS OF SCIENTISTS FROM RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND OTHER CIS COUNTRIES

INCLUSION OF INTERNATIONAL BOOK EXCHANGE AS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF LIBRARY COLLECTIONS IN THE STATE ASSIGNMENT TO LEADING ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN RUSSIA

ENCOURAGING THE PUBLICATION ACTIVITY OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS AS PART OF SCIENTIFIC AND SCIENTIFIC-PEDAGOGICAL PERSONNEL TRAINING PROGRAMS IN GRADUATE SCHOOL (GRADUATE WORK)

formulated in the Russian language, inventions and technologies developed in the course of research in Russian language.

The Civic Chamber emphasizes the need to ensure the preservation of the Russian-language scientific area as an essential part of the strategy to strengthen the national sovereignty.

To improve the national science and technology policy, in June 2021 draft law No. 1191150-7 “On Amendments to the Federal Law ‘On Science and State Science and Technology Policy’”<sup>127</sup> was submitted to the State Duma. Amendments envisage improvement of legal regulation of formation and maintenance of the unified state information system of registration of scientific research, experimental and design and technological works for civil purposes, and also creation of the unified register of final recipients of means of state support of innovation activity.

The Civic Chamber in the framework of public evaluation approved the draft law, noting its timeliness and relevance of the goals to improve the system of state support for innovation.

In October 2021, as part of the Year of Science and Technology the Civic Chamber hosted a large-scale international forum of science popularizers of BRICS countries.<sup>128</sup> During two days, scientists, economists, journalists and public figures canvassed the increasing role of science in solving global problems of humanity, the importance of popularizing science for humanistic, scientific-technological and economic development of states. Noting the acuteness of the debate in society on the role of education for the state development and the society’s attitude, the Civic Chamber emphasized that nowadays it is necessary to openly discuss the problems of promotion of scientific activity at the all-Russian and international level.

## 6.2 THE USE OF THE SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL AND INNOVATIVE POTENTIAL OF RUSSIAN UNIVERSITIES TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IS AIMED AT ACHIEVING THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND ENSURING THE TECHNOLOGICAL INDEPENDENCE AND COMPETITIVENESS OF RUSSIA. ONE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLES IN ACHIEVING THESE GOALS IS PLAYED BY RUSSIAN UNIVERSITIES, WHICH ARE IMPOSED WITH A TASK OF INCREASING RESEARCH CAPACITY.

A new national project, "Science and Universities", launched by the Government of Russia in 2021, is aimed at achieving the goals of scientific and technological development of the country. It combines the efforts of the "Science" national project with the efforts of the "Education" national project in the field of higher education.<sup>129</sup>

Considerable work has been done during the Year of Science and Technology as part of the national project; as of mid-November, 60 activities out of 66 planned until the end of the year have been completed. Work has been launched to create world-class inter-university campuses that will become powerful growing points for science, education, and innovation. The work to support young researchers is underway, along with the higher education infrastructure and expeditionary research being shaped and actively developed.<sup>130</sup>

The project provides that by 2030 Russia should be among the top five countries in the development of priority areas of technological development. It is envisaged to enhance the engagement of universities in the national economy and to shift their research toward technological development.<sup>131</sup> The National Project will ensure the availability of quality higher and additional education and increase the appeal of careers in science and higher education.<sup>132</sup>

Members of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on national projects and population preservation formulated their proposed amendments to the "Science and Universities" national project.

### NATIONAL PROJECT "SCIENCE AND UNIVERSITIES"

THE FEDERAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES FOR THE NATIONAL PROJECT "SCIENCE AND UNIVERSITIES" FOR 2022-2024 ARE PLANNED IN THE AMOUNT OF OVER 410 BILLION RUBLES.

IN 2022, THEY MAY EXCEED 121 BILLION RUBLES, IN 2023 – 150 BILLION 433.5 MILLION RUBLES, IN 2024 – 39 BILLION 111 MILLION RUBLES

COMPARED WITH THE CURRENT BUDGET ACT FOR 2021 AND PLANNED PERIOD OF 2022-2023, FUNDING OF THE "SCIENCE AND UNIVERSITIES" PROJECT IN 2022 INCREASED BY ALMOST 6 BILLION RUBLES, IN 2023 – NEARLY 14 BILLION RUBLES, IN 2024 PLANNED TO PRODUCE AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 11 BILLION RUBLES

IN 2022

OVER

121

BILLION RUBLES

IN 2023

150

BILLION RUBLES

433.5  
MLN RUBLES

IN 2024

139

BILLION RUBLES

111  
MLN RUBLES

To further improve the National Project, the Civic Chamber suggested creating youth and student design bureaus at industrial enterprises, expanding the participants of the National Project through scientific and innovative organizations, developing scientific and technological centers, involving young people in solving high-tech problems, a number of measures to support teachers, as well as new forms of project-based learning.

Dmitry Chernyshenko, Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, instructed the responsible agencies to study the proposals of the Civic Chamber.<sup>133</sup>

The new program of strategic academic leadership of Russian universities until 2030, "Priority-2030", launched in June 2021, is also aimed at the development of scientific, educational and innovative potential of universities.<sup>134</sup> The program aims to form a broad group of universities to be leaders in the generation of new scientific knowledge, technologies and developments for their implementation in the Russian economy and social sphere.<sup>135</sup>

The Commission of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation has selected out of 187 programs for the development of higher educational institutions 106 universities that became participants in the program "Priority-2030". The number of universities participating in the "Priority-2030" program is far more than in the previous programs: national research universities – 29 universities, federal universities – 10 universities, the program "Project 5-100" – 21 participating universities.

It is worth noting that the “Priority-2030” program did not consider international rankings and publications. Targeted entry into international rankings has been replaced by tools that will shape the development of higher education institutions.<sup>136</sup>

The program roll-out will increase the scientific and educational potential of universities and scientific organizations, which will increase the availability of higher education in different regions of the country, train in-demand specialists, and actively develop and deploy high technologies in the social and economic sphere, which will contribute to the effective use of human capital and improve the quality of life of the population as a whole.

The Civic Chamber notes that the innovative, breakthrough development requires significant changes in the system of professional training in all sectors of education. The key approaches to modern educational activities are practice-oriented and modular, which allow the student to form a personalized set of competencies.

Members of the Civic Chamber noted the positive role of Federal Law No. 144-FZ “On Amendments to the Federal Law “On Education in the Russian Federation” dated May 26, 2021, which entered into force on September 1, 2021, in improving the existing mechanism for the application of professional standards in the field of professional education.

## “PRIORITY-2030” PROGRAM

“PRIORITY-2030” IS AIMED AT CREATING MORE THAN 100 PROGRESSIVE MODERN UNIVERSITIES IN RUSSIA BY 2030 – THE CENTERS OF SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL AND NATIONAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Given the value of involving the potential of Russian universities in achieving national development goals, the Civic Chamber sent recommendations to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education on the digitalization of humanities education.

Members of the Civic Chamber believe that humanitarian education today is facing two major challenges:

- # Need to introduce educational components on new intellectual technologies in the field of professional activity into the training of specialists in the humanities profile;
- # Need to update and improve those educational programs of humanitarian orientation which train specialists directly involved in the development and production of innovative technologies.

The vital areas of research and development in such technologies involve the growth of specialists in the analysis of language data by methods of exact sciences, and the Civic Chamber recommends that special attention be paid to their introduction into humanities education.

Russian education and science today are becoming a driver in the technological, economic, innovative and social development of the country. The Civic Chamber is confident that the state strategy, aimed at increasing the scientific, educational and cultural potential of our country, will effectively solve all the problems of Russian society.

“PRIORITY-2030” PROGRAM, OUT OF 191 PROGRAMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, SELECTED

106 INCLUDING 5  
UNIVERSITIES CREATIVE LEARNING ESTABLISHMENTS

UNIVERSITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM

28  
IN MOSCOW

11  
IN ST. PETERSBURG

67  
SPREAD ACROSS 47 RUSSIAN CITIES

SPECIAL PART OF “PRIORITY-2030” GRANT WAS RECEIVED BY

46  
UNIVERSITIES

OUT OF 22  
REGIONS OF ALL FEDERAL DISTRICTS OF THE COUNTRY

GRANT SUPPORT FOR THE “RESEARCH LEADERSHIP” TRACK WILL BE AWARDED TO

18  
UNIVERSITIES

SHARE OF REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES – 39%

SPECIAL PART OF THE GRANT FOR THE “TERRITORIAL AND/OR INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP” TRACK WILL BE AWARDED TO

28  
UNIVERSITIES

SHARE OF REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES – 75%





# ECOLOGICAL

## WELL-BEING

"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IS TAKING MEASURES AIMED AT CREATING FAVORABLE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE POPULATION, REDUCING THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PRESERVING THE UNIQUE NATURAL AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF THE COUNTRY AND FORMING IN SOCIETY A RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD ANIMALS."

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 114 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- 108 Cooperation of government, business and society for solving environmental issues
- 112 Environmental education as a tool for shaping environmental culture in Russian society
- 114 Preserving nature for future generations

# 7.1 COOPERATION OF GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND SOCIETY FOR SOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

THE HIGH-PROFILE ENVIRONMENTAL ACCIDENTS AND NATURAL DISASTERS THAT OCCURRED IN 2020-2021 DEMONSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSOLIDATING SOCIETY, BUSINESS, AND THE STATE IN ADDRESSING COMMON ISSUES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION, MONITORING ACTIVITIES, AND PROMPTLY ELIMINATING THE CONSEQUENCES OF ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS.

Over recent years, civil society’s demand for protection and improvement of our country’s environmental potential has increased significantly. Through active cooperation with nongovernmental organizations, expert and business communities, the state has established the necessary mechanisms for public participation in addressing environmental issues.

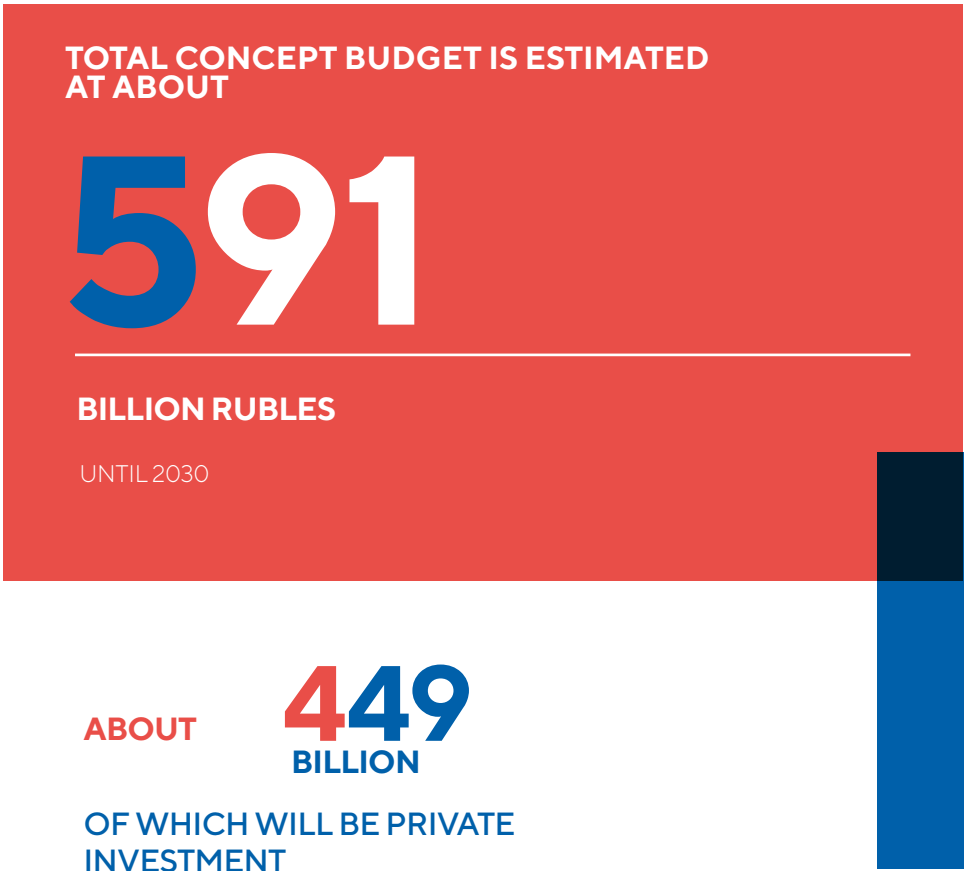
The priority and high importance of ecological well-being was highlighted by the adoption of amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, which compel the Government of Russia to ensure all necessary measures to preserve the natural wealth and biodiversity of the country, to reduce the negative impact on the environment.<sup>137</sup> For the first time the responsibility attitude towards animals was enshrined in the Basic Law fixed, as well as topics of environmental education and education of ecological culture of citizens.

Government efforts must be supported by business interest in preserving the national environmental potential and expanding opportunities for community participation in decision-making in the field of environmental protection and preservation for future generations.

Limiting greenhouse gas emissions and the climate warming associated with

## TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION

CONCEPT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTION AND USE OF ELECTRIC CARS

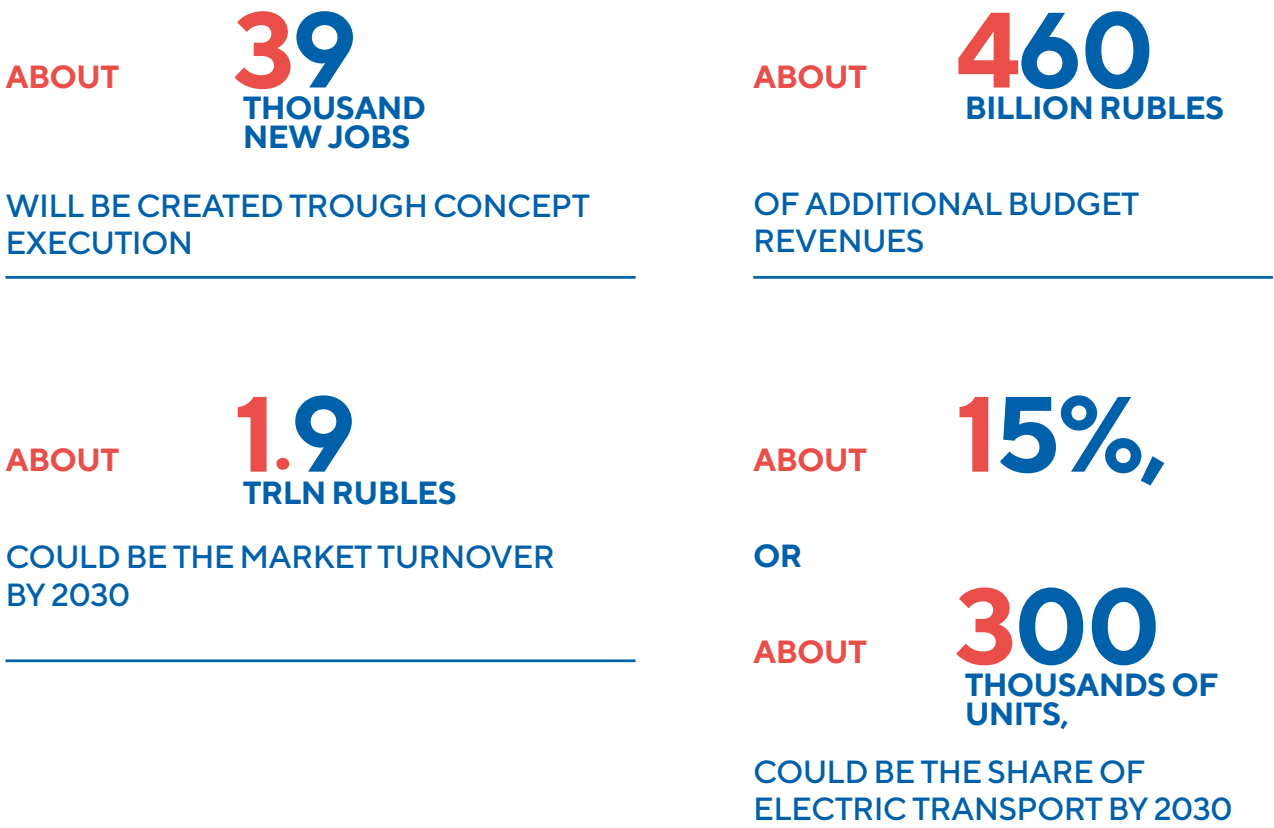


those emissions has become an important focus of the national 2021 environmental agenda.

By ratifying the Paris Agreement in 2019 that requires countries to make every effort to keep global average temperatures within 1.5-2°C, Russia has made a number of commitments, all of which have been met this year.<sup>138</sup>

The Federal Scientific and Technical Program 2021-2030 in the field of environmental development of the Russian Federation and climate change was developed to achieve these goals.<sup>139</sup> Also Federal Law No. 296-FZ “On Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions” was passed in July 2021.<sup>140</sup>

The climate agenda is extremely relevant to Russia, primarily because the growth of annual average air temperature in the country, which is 0.51 °C from 1976 to 2020, has led to a decrease in the Arctic sea ice cover by 5-7 times.<sup>141</sup>





In his address to the Federal Assembly, the President of Russia noted that maximum permissible norms would be established for emissions of harmful substances in all regions of the country where air quality is a problem. The need to adapt industry, agriculture, and infrastructure to the observed climate change was also emphasized.<sup>142</sup>

Given the global significance of the problems of climate change and the need for carbon regulation, as well as the high role of this environmental agenda in Russia, the Civic Chamber in May 2021 organized a session to discuss the draft federal law "On Limiting Greenhouse Gas Emissions". The event canvassed the need to identify tools for a national monitoring system, the creation of a common system for transcarbon regulation, acceptable to all countries. The event offered indicators for the development of corporate strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>143</sup> The Civic Chamber sent its proposals and amendments to the draft law to the State Duma.

Experts emphasize that the key role in ensuring carbon neutrality today belongs primarily to business, its efficient operation and the implementation of statutory regulations.<sup>144</sup>

The Civic Chamber notes that another effective decarbonization tool can be the modernization of transport infrastructure and the transition to electric transport.

In June 2021, the Civic Chamber held a round table dedicated to the future of electric transport. The Ministry of Economic Development of Russia has presented a Comprehensive Concept for the Development of Production and Use of Electric Transport in Russia for the period up to 2030, including the development of technical peripherals for its maintenance, which was approved by the Russian Government in August 2021.

It was stressed that the transition to electric vehicles will solve the problem of exhaust gases in large Russian cities, and the Civic Chamber canvassed with representatives of public authorities

## SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS IN RUSSIA

MORE THAN

25%

OF THE LAND AREA IN RUSSIA IS UNDER PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

109  
NATURE RESERVES

64  
NATIONAL PARKS

62  
NATURE PRESRVES

and business the creation of an effective system for recycling batteries and uninterruptible power supplies for electric vehicles.<sup>145</sup>

Own production of electric vehicles in our country becomes the most important task. Today Russia hosts several pilot projects for the development of electric transport in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Sevastopol, Sochi, Kaliningrad, Kazan and Nizhny Novgorod.<sup>146</sup>

In 2021, the Civic Chamber paid great attention to the development of specially protected natural territories, which are a traditional and effective form of environmental protection. In total, about 25% of the land area in Russia is now under protection of environmental laws.<sup>147</sup>

Within the VI Eastern Economic Forum discussion panel, dedicated to the development of specially protected areas, the Civic Chamber noted that the possibility of broad public participation in the development of these territories is important for environmental education of citizens and promotion of ecological tourism, which allows preserving the unique nature of our country.

Experts of the Civic Chamber believe that the state needs to create additional opportunities for business participation in the development of these protected areas, so that they will not be perceived as an obstacle to economic activity.<sup>148</sup>

The priority of biodiversity preservation in Russia was emphasized by the Head of State during the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Vladimir Putin noted that the comprehensive strategy of sustainable development in Russia is aimed, among other things, at strengthening the system of specially protected territories of Russia. By 2024, it is planned to create at least 23 new specially protected natural territories.<sup>149</sup>

The Civic Chamber believes that the establishment of new nature protection areas is moving the country towards the UN goal of "30 by 2030", whereby 30% of the Earth's surface should receive a protected status by 2030.<sup>150</sup> The emergence of new protected areas will have the expected effect only if there is an active dialog with the population, development and promotion of eco-education programs. If these conditions are combined, such areas will become a driver of regional development through the creation of new jobs for local residents and the development of tourism.

To consolidate efforts and assist in ensuring the environmental well-being of the population, the Civic Chamber Coordination Council on Environmental Wellbeing was established in 2021, bringing together environmental activists, environmental experts, representatives of the authorities and leading public associations.

The key activities of the Coordination Council were the promotion of environmental rights of citizens, the development of environmental volunteerism, education, awareness,<sup>151</sup> and the protection of environmental activists from pressure of business and government.<sup>152</sup>

In addition, one of the key themes of the work is specially protected natural areas. The Council opposed the draft Federal Law No. 1152655-7 "On Amendments to the Federal Law 'On Specially Protected Natural Areas'", concerning the withdrawal of lands of protected areas. Public experts believe that the adoption of this draft law could lead to the threat of destruction of specially protected areas due to mining, logging, or housing development. In this connection, representatives of the Council sent a letter to the State Duma with a request to reject this draft law.

The Coordination Council also sent to the Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation a response to the draft federal law "On Amendments to Article 60 of the Federal Law 'On Environmental Protection'". The proposed amendments do not address the specifics of the object of regulation and contradict the fundamental principles of environmental protection, as well as a number of environmental laws and regulations.<sup>153</sup>



## 7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AS A TOOL FOR SHAPING ENVIRONMENTAL CULTURE IN RUSSIAN SOCIETY

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA IS GROWING IN IMPORTANCE DUE TO PUBLIC DEMAND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT.

Assessing the global ecological situation at the end of 2020, 54% citizens said that it had rather deteriorated over the past two years, 53% – said that it had deteriorated in Russia as well.<sup>154</sup> In September 2021, more than half of Russians (58%) said that they or their family members had done something about environmental issues in the past year.<sup>155</sup>

Opinion polls show that a significant number of our country's citizens are ready to change and are already changing their consumption habits. More than half of Russians in 2021 take environmental friendliness into account when buying products and are willing to buy more expensive products if they are safer for the environment.<sup>156</sup>

This attitude of the citizens of our country shows that an environmental outlook and culture is gradually forming in society, and that in order to strengthen and improve it, an effective system of environmental education in the country needs to be developed today.

The need for a program of environmental education was highlighted by the President of Russia in July 2020 during a meeting with representatives of environmental and animal welfare NGOs. The event resulted in the President instructing the Russian Ministry of Education to prepare proposals for improving environmental education as part of the implementation of basic and supplementary curricula.<sup>157</sup>

Taking note of the President's initiative, the Civic Chamber presented its recommendations to the Ministry of Education for the promotion of environmental education and enlightenment.

Among the proposals made by the public experts were the inclusion of climate change and adaptation to these changes in the federal education standard; compulsory study of the ecology as a subject in high school; the involvement of specialists from specially protected natural areas, scientists, teachers, ecologists and practitioners in the teacher training system in the field of ecology; and the study of foreign experience in ecological education.

Following an extended meeting of the Presidium of the State Council in late October 2020, the President<sup>158</sup> instructed that proposals for the development of a federal project on "Scientific Support of Environmental Activities, Environmental Education and Enlightenment", which provides for educational programs aimed at fostering an environmentally friendly attitude, reducing waste generation and ensuring rational water use.<sup>159</sup>

Given the relevance and federal scale of the project, the Civic Chamber in 2021 engaged in expert and public discussion of the project, where stressed<sup>160</sup> the importance of involving the Ministry of Culture of Russia and including new areas and topics in the project, among them:<sup>161</sup> new educational programs and

positive global practices aimed at reducing waste generation, rational water use and environmental friendliness among the population.

A significant and expected outcome of the new federal project should be the introduction of environmental responsibility and green standards for business.

Recommendations on adjustments to the current National Ecology Project and on necessary additions to the federal project "Scientific Support of Environmental Activities, Environmental Education and Enlightenment" under development have been sent to the Russian Government.

The Civic Chamber underscores that environmental education and enlightenment is a stumbling block in the development of all sectors, departments and the country as a whole; the implementation of this federal project is a strategic goal for Russia.<sup>162</sup>

40

BILLION RUBLES

IS THE DAMAGE TO RUSSIA'S ENVIRONMENT IN 2021 (ACCORDING TO ROSPRIRODNADZOR)



## 7.3 PRESERVING NATURE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

AT A TIME WHEN RUSSIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA IS ACTIVELY DEVELOPING AND GAINING MOMENTUM, SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH SHOWS THAT CITIZENS ARE PRIMARILY CONCERNED ABOUT THE MAN-MADE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS THEY FACE ON THEIR OWN TERRITORIES – POLLUTION OF WATER BY INDUSTRIAL AND SEWAGE RUN-OFF, ILLEGAL LOGGING AND UNAUTHORIZED LANDFILLS.<sup>163</sup>

The events of recent years have shown that the systematic violation of environmental safety standards by large companies and industrial companies has often led to environmental protests and public demonstrations. In August 2021, environmental activists called for an environmental referendum in eight regions of the country. The reason is the construction of environmentally hazardous facilities, incinerators, new roads, the creation of a gas and chemical complex.<sup>164</sup>

It should be noted that many industrial companies are nowadays committed to greening their operations. Companies invest in new environmental technologies that minimize environmental damage and reduce emissions.

Environmental improvements in enterprises are also assisted by the state through the implementation of various projects and programs,<sup>165</sup> including the "Environmental Protection" state program, and the "Ecology" national project and a number of others.

Given the importance of preserving a favorable environment for Russian citizens, the Civic Chamber has been active in monitoring and public oversight of remedying the damage caused by a number of industrial enterprises in the country.

In September 2020, the Civic Chamber established the Environmental Council of the Irkutsk Region in order to prevent environmental disasters and protect Lake Baikal.<sup>166</sup> The Environmental Council, which consists of residents of the region, focuses on public oversight over the elimination of accumulated environmental damage at the industrial site of Usoliekhimprom in Usolye-Sibirskoye, the situation in the Baikal National Park, and work to reduce emissions of harmful

substances into the atmosphere in Bratsk, as well as other environmental issues that are important for the region.

The most important area of the Council's work is public monitoring of the progress in eliminating accumulated environmental damage from the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill (BPPM), whose phased closure was approved by the Russian government in 2013. In April 2021, a participatory working group was set up to address this problem.<sup>167</sup>

The Civic Chamber noted the need to ensure that the opinion of citizens living in the Baikal Natural Area is taken into account when making management decisions to implement the provisions of the Russian Federation legislation on the protection of Lake Baikal.<sup>168</sup>

Particularly important for our country is the Arctic, which is an area of exceptional economic importance. Gradual human development of the Arctic is leading to increasing environmental threats in this important region for the global ecological balance. The Civic Chamber notes that public oversight and the attention of environmentalists to the area are seen as a safeguard against the global problems and irreparable mistakes associated with the development of the region.

## "CLEAN ARCTIC" PROJECT

THE INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT "CLEAN ARCTIC"\*

MORE THAN

2,220

VOLUNTEERS

INCLUDING THOSE SENT BY ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS

ALL-RUSSIAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS

MOLODEZHKA ONF (Youth of All-Russia People's Front)

TIMOFEY BAZHENOV'S ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT "DO IT!"

110

HECTARES OF LAND

HAVE BEEN CLEARED

OF MORE THAN

1,500 TONNES OF WASTE

FOR

34,232 HOURS OF CLEARING

In 2021, the Russian Federation assumed the responsible role of chairing the Arctic Council for the period 2021-2023, a key objective of the Council's work is to maintain the Arctic as a region of peace and cooperation.

A separate contribution to environmental preservation and care for the environment in the Arctic is being made by the Clean Arctic project, the presentation of its ambitious program and the opening of a foundation of the same name took place in the Civic Chamber on July 5, 2021. A public-civic initiative for a "general clean-up" of the Arctic is supported. The project brought together the public, the scientific community, government, and business representatives. The program monitors the state of the Arctic and helps to assess the extent of pollution in order to remedy ecological damage.

Civil society's attention to the environmental agenda in 2021 is concentrated around events and challenges that are shaped not only by the national interest of our country, but also by global trends.

The Civic Chamber regularly monitors citizens' environmental rights, promoting a constructive relationship between government, business and society based on transparency, non-conflict and multi-stakeholder dialog to preserve nature for future generations.

\* Data by December 2021.

# CONCLUSION

The year of 2021 has shown that we live in a world of new challenges and renewed old threats. The protracted fight against the coronavirus infection has “reset” the debate in Russian society on a number of vital economic and social issues directly affecting the social wellbeing.<sup>169</sup>

Proactive action by state authorities to implement comprehensive support measures for citizens, nongovernment organizations and small and medium-sized businesses in the context of the ongoing pandemic has been an important factor in maintaining stability in the country.

At the end of 2020, the Civic Chamber, underlined the high level of solidarity shown by society and the state in the fight against coronavirus infection, anticipated at the start of the vaccination campaign that the pandemic would still affect the lives of our citizens in the coming year, but that we would fight against its consequences. This year has shown that the coronavirus infection will stay with us for months and possibly years to come.

Despite the ordeal, global organizations and national governments were able to mobilize their resources and take emergency measures to avoid the most serious consequences of the spread of coronavirus infection. Today we are witnessing a pandemic habituation effect: society has adapted and learned to coexist with the virus as an unavoidable evil.

During this year, a great deal of experience has also been gained in combating the disease: effective treatment protocols and principles of hospital care have been developed, some of the world’s best vaccines are available in Russia, and the number of hospital beds has been significantly increased.

The Civic Chamber has repeatedly drawn the attention of the state and the entire international community to assess the challenges posed by the pandemic not only from a social and economic perspective, but also from an ethical one.

One of the key ethical issues in the fight against the coronavirus is still the vaccination issue. Although Russia was the first country in the world to register a vaccine against the coronavirus and launch an immunization campaign, collective immunity, including those who had been sick for at least six months, stood at 55.7%<sup>170</sup> at the end of this year but to effectively combat the spread of the coronavirus, immunization needs to cover at least 80% of population.<sup>171</sup>

By the end of 2021, Russia was in the top five countries for morbidity and mortality from the coronavirus infection<sup>172</sup> with the vast majority of patients in hospitals being unvaccinated patients.<sup>173</sup>

One of the main tasks of civil society in the emerging context is to agree on further joint action to make the most obvious measures against the spread of infection a success. Motivating our citizens to adopt safe and socially responsible behaviors that reduce the risks of infection is only possible by involving all parties – government, society, business, media, medical and patient communities. Today, the Civic Chamber, together with regional civic chambers, implements projects to educate nongovernment organizations, conducts extensive promotional work on vaccination and prevention of COVID-19, summarizing best practices in this area and replicating successful practices in the regions. This work will be scaled up in 2022. It is essential to involve the whole civil society in the fight against the pandemic, to ensure that the population has full confidence in the government fighting against the pandemic, conducting vaccination and organizing treatment of patients.

Mutual recognition of vaccines produced in different countries of the world is also becoming important, as well as increasing opportunities for equal access to vaccines for all nations of the world. There is an urgent need to accelerate the assessment of the quality and safety of medicines by authorized international bodies.

The sooner this is done, the sooner global business activity, including the severely affected tourism industry, can be restored. In order to address this issue expeditiously, the Civic Chamber, through its presidency to the AICESIS, plans to build a long-term partnership between the Association and international



organizations concerned with public health and safety, in order to strengthen the voice of civil society and solidarity in combating global challenges in all areas of public life, from health to digitalization.

The monitoring of the national projects will be an active part of next year’s work. The Civic Chamber notes with regret that, so far, the national projects have not been established as a management mechanism in the area of national development goals, but have largely been reduced to yet another way of spending budgetary funds.<sup>174</sup> The national projects also fail to reflect the highest national priority, defined by the head of state in his address to the Federal Assembly, of preserving and multiplying the people of Russia.

This year, the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation signed an instruction that representatives of the Civic Chamber should be included in all public expert councils of national project (program) committees. The Civic Chamber hopes that delegating 27 members of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on

national projects and population preservation to these councils will help to establish constructive cooperation in this area. Russian citizens should feel the exact positive results of the national projects in their daily lives, and see themselves and their future in their goals and results.

A particularly pressing issue in this area in the following year will be the issue of demographic policy, achieving the goals of preserving and multiplying Russia’s population and achieving sustainable population growth.

In 2021, the Civic Chamber proposed a set of long-term measures to update the National Demography Project and also formulated proposals to implement additional support measures for families with children, including those with many children. Active work on the proposed initiatives will require close and constructive interaction between the Civic Chamber and the Russian Government, the legislative and relevant executive bodies of state power.

Noting the significant growth in volunteering, the Civic Chamber sees its future task as maintaining and increasing the potential for social change, that volunteering brings along.

In 2022, the Civic Chamber will promote an initiative on the need for insurance for volunteers working in search units helping to deal with emergencies. The state should be challenged to ensure that the lives and health of people performing this crucial social function are protected.



The Civic Chamber’s partnership with the “Krug Dobra” (Circle of Kindness) Foundation remains an absolute priority. In its first year of operation, the Foundation has become the embodiment of a new paradigm of social justice in Russian society; people with different incomes, positions and statuses have united around the most important social agenda – helping sick children. Despite the considerable success of the Foundation, the Civic Chamber will continue to monitor its work, provide it with direct support to optimize its activities, improve its decision-making mechanisms, expand the list of diseases and categories of patients with whom it works, increase the availability of medicines and advise the state on how these issues should be addressed at a systemic level.

Support for the nonprofit sector remains one of the Civic Chamber’s priorities in the new year. While welcoming the Government’s decision to provide state support to business in a situation of new restrictions and to extend this support to the nonprofit sector, the Civic Chamber considers it important that the state respects the equality of support measures for organizations of all any legal forms.

Noting the effectiveness of previously provided assistance to NGOs and recording the growing need for charitable assistance and outreach work by NGOs due to the intensifying pandemic, the Civic Chamber believes that support to socially oriented nonprofit organizations should not be solely a situation caused by a complex epidemiological situation. The next year, the Civic Chamber will seek to enshrine in legislation the status, role and functionality of the support infrastructure for NGOs along the lines of the SME support infrastructure.

Given the growing demand from civil society for the protection and improvement of our country’s environmental potential, the Civic Chamber notes that the environmental agenda in 2022 will be determined not only by the framework of national interests, but also by global trends, the main one being decarbonization, which has already been reflected in the relevant instructions of the President of Russia. For its part, the Civic Chamber will further strengthen monitoring of citizens’ environmental rights, enforcement of statutory regulations in order to preserve nature for future generations and achieve the stated goal of carbon neutrality.

The most important initiative in the field of environmental policy was the proposal by the President of Russia to “color” the environmental payments that are made to the federal budget. This would allow to direct funds toward ecosystem restoration. The Civic Chamber will pay particular attention to the implementation of this mandate by the responsible state authorities in 2022.

The Civic Chamber plans to take an active part in the World Heritage Committee’s 45th session organized by UNESCO, which will be held in Kazan in 2022. The session will include reports on the state of natural heritage sites such as volcanoes in Kamchatka, Lake Baikal and the Western Caucasus. The Civic Chamber believes that environmental public organizations can provide significant assistance to the authorized state authorities in providing objective and independent information on the state of these natural objects.<sup>175</sup>

By stipulating in the amendments to the Basic Law the need to protect historical memory and preserve historical truth for future generations, the state has shown its readiness to safeguard Russia’s national interests and strengthen its state sovereignty. At the same time, the scale and complexity of the goals and set tasks require the active involvement of all civil society in preserving the memory of generations of citizens of our country and their glorious labor and military deeds.

The Civic Chamber will focus on historical education and the patriotic and moral upbringing of young people and the rising generations within the framework of this theme.

The President of Russia has supported the idea of declaring 2022 the Year of Folk Art and Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Peoples of Russia. The Civic Chamber, for its part, will

help to implement a number of programs and projects aimed at developping and supporting folk art and the arts in the following year to preserve and strengthen the country’s multi-ethnic culture.

In November 2021, the Civic Chamber launched a hotline to monitor the state of local cultural centers in rural areas and small territories. The findings will provide the basis for further work to support the preservation of the system of local cultural centers throughout Russia.

In the State Duma elections, 11 members of the Civic Chamber received a deputy’s mandate. The Civic Chamber considers its colleagues, who became deputies, as a new “public faction” of the State Duma<sup>176</sup>, counting on close cooperation in the new year, expanding the formats and areas of joint work within the preliminary hearings of draft laws, joint discussion and promotion of socially significant initiatives on the topic of family support, motherhood, child protection and traditional family values, youth policy and support for the nonprofit sector.

In the coming year, the Civic Chamber will continue its systematic work to train members of regional chambers, public councils and public supervisory commissions in the practical skills of public oversight, improve their media competence, and actively involve public institutions in the regions in joint promotion of socially significant initiatives and implementation of all-Russian monitoring projects.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the publication of special thematic reports and ratings by the Civic Chamber, which will reflect current points of growth and ensure that the most effective development tools are developed.

The events of 2021 have convincingly demonstrated that dialog between civil society and the state offers excellent opportunities and prospects for the implementation of the most ambitious civic projects aimed at creation and development. But to have such an effective dialog, it is important to go all the way from raising a problem in the public arena to developing exact mechanisms for solving it and communicating this solution in language that the state understands.

The Civic Chamber tries to be a feedback channel so that an individual citizen’s voice can be heard by a specific minister, deputy or head of region. Our main function is to ensure dialog and effective communication between all stakeholders, and the system of civic chambers in Russia is successfully coping with this task today!



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**76** Decision of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on national projects and population preservation dated 24.03.2021

**77** Presentation of findings from the nationwide survey “Family policy: Support measures through the eyes of the family”.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-KdmdnGiI8>

**78** Golikova asks a number of agencies to work on the creation of the “Multi-Child Country” project.  
[http://rapsinews.ru/human\\_rights\\_protec-tion\\_news/20210624/307163406.html](http://rapsinews.ru/human_rights_protec-tion_news/20210624/307163406.html)

**79** A bill to expand fathers’ rights to maternity capital has been submitted.  
<http://duma.gov.ru/news/52629/>

**80** Article 1, Clause 2, of Federal Law No. 8-FZ on the National Population Census dated January 25, 2002.

**81** Rosstat to deny theft of volunteer data from census website.  
<https://tass.ru/obschestvo/12529683>

**82** The President of Russia has signed a federal law expanding the list of public associations entitled to appoint observers to state and local government elections.  
<http://government.ru/activities/selection/525/33164/>

**83** The Central Election Commission: Online voting is demanded by citizens and will develop.  
<https://rg.ru/2021/09/24/cik-onlajn-golos-ovanie-vostrebovano-grazhdanami-i-budet-razvivatsia.html>

**84** DDoS attacks on e-government infrastructure successfully repelled and did not affect the quality of DEV services.  
<https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/41275/>

**85** The Civic Chamber Telegram Channel:  
[https://t.me/oprf\\_official/7701](https://t.me/oprf_official/7701)



**86** Meeting with Central Election Commission Chairperson Ella Pamfilova.  
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/66727>

**87** The Civic Chamber launches Mobile Observer app.  
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/op-rf-zapustila-prilozhenie-mobilnyy-nablyudatel>

**88** Article 32, Parts 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation

**89** The Civic Chamber Telegram Channel:  
[https://t.me/oprf\\_official/7437](https://t.me/oprf_official/7437)

**90** More than 30 public councils have been renewed since 2017.  
<https://ria.ru/20200219/1564958376.html>

**91** Russian Public Opinion Research Center names ideological amendments to the constitution important to Russians.  
<https://rg.ru/2020/04/06/vciom-nazval-vazh-nye-dlia-rossiian-idejnye-popravki-k-konstitucii.html>

**92** President's Decree No. 808 on the Approval of the Fundamentals of State Cultural Policy dated December 24, 2014.  
<https://docs.cntd.ru/document/420242192?marker=64U0iK>

<sup>93</sup> President's Decree No. 204 on the National Goals and Strategic Development Objectives of the Russian Federation for the period until 2024, dated May 7, 2018.  
<https://docs.cntd.ru/document/557309575?marker=7D20K3>

**94** The Civic Chamber Report on the State of Civil Society in the Russian Federation for the Year 2020.  
[https://www.oprf.ru/activity\\_documents](https://www.oprf.ru/activity_documents)  
The Civic Chamber Opinion on the Results of the Public Asssment of the Draft Federal Law No. 960545-7.  
<https://www.oprf.ru/public-examination-opinion>

**95** Volunteering Concept 2025 implementation plan approved.  
<http://government.ru/news/37264/>

96 75 Years of the Great Victory: Shared Responsibility to History and the Future, Vladimir Putin, June 19, 2020  
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63527>

**97** "Pamyat Naroda".  
<https://pamyat-naroda.ru/>

**98** "Blockaded Leningrad", "Kursk Bulge", "Far Eastern Victory". All-Russian Public Movement "Victory Volunteers"

**99** Essay competition "Letter to the Victorious", lessons "Destiny of a Soldier". Volgograd Region ROP 100

**100** "Victory in Faces".  
<https://historydepositoryum.ru/>

**101** The Russian search movement.  
<http://rf-poisk.ru/project/2/>

**102** According to regional civic chambers' information, including the Civic Chamber of the Leningrad Region.

**103** Federal Law No. 119-FZ "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation dated 30.04.2021. <http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/news/65498>

**104** Law signed to improve legal regulation of the commemoration of those fallen in the defence of the Fatherland.  
<http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/news/65498>

**105** Article 6 of Law No. 4292-1 on Commemoration of Victims of Defence of the Fatherland, January 14, 1993

**106** Law No. 4292-1 on Commemoration of Victims of Defence of the Fatherland, January 14, 1993

**107** Businessman who damaged war graves in the Leningrad Region to face trial.  
[https://78.ru/news/2021-10-29/v\\_le-noblasi\\_predstanet\\_pered\\_sudom\\_povredivshii\\_voinskie\\_zahoroneniya\\_biznesmen](https://78.ru/news/2021-10-29/v_le-noblasi_predstanet_pered_sudom_povredivshii_voinskie_zahoroneniya_biznesmen)

**108** The Interdepartmental Commission on History Education under the President of the Russian Federation was established by Presidential Decree No. 442 dated July 30, 2021.  
<http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/47084>

**109** The Civic Chamber Telegram Channel:  
[https://t.me/oprf\\_official/7648](https://t.me/oprf_official/7648)

**110** "GROWTH CRYSTAL. For the Russian economic miracle.  
<https://crystalbook.ru/>

**111** "GROWTH CRYSTAL. For the Russian economic miracle."  
<https://crystalbook.ru/>

**112** Telegram channel "GROWTH CRYSTAL. For the Russian economic miracle."  
[https://t.me/crystal\\_book/608](https://t.me/crystal_book/608)

**113** The number of participants in the online “The Immortal Regiment” march has doubled in Russia.  
<https://ria.ru/20210509/polk-1731606465.html>

**114** Russia's "Immortal Regiment" brings together community leaders in the field of patriotic education.  
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/bessmertnyy-polk-rossii-obedinit-obshchestvennykh-liderov-sfery-patrioticheskogo-vospitaniya>

**115** The Civic Chamber Telegram Channel:  
[https://t.me/oprf\\_official/5590](https://t.me/oprf_official/5590)

**116** Project official website:  
<https://детигерои.рф>

**117** All-Russian Civic and Patriotic Project "CHILD-HEROES OF RUSSIA".  
<https://детигерои.рф>

**118** Valentina Matvienko: Our country has a great generation of young people – strong, brave and compassionate.  
<http://council.gov.ru/events/news/130759/>

119 "Without Time Limits" will preserve the memory of the Khabarovsk War Crime Trials for new generations of Russians.  
<https://onf.ru/2021/09/07/ bez-sroka-davnosti-sohranit-pamyat-o-habarovskom-processe-dlya-novyh-pokoleniy-rossiyan/>

**120** Decree of the Government of Russia No. 1814 "On Amendments to the Russian Federation State Program for Scientific and Technological Development of the Russian Federation dated 22.10.2021".  
<http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202110280022>

**121** "The country's scientific workforce: status, trends and tools for growth".  
<http://council.gov.ru/activity/activities/parliamentary/127381/>

**122** Accounts Chamber names major problems of Russian science.  
<https://www.rbc.ru/politics/07/02/2020/5e3c1bf19a7947c-ce149aa99>

**123** Deputies and experts discuss improving the scientific publication system in the Russian Federation.  
<http://duma.gov.ru/news/44443/>

**124** RUSSIAN SCIENCE CITATION INDEX.  
[https://www.elibrary.ru/project\\_risc.asp](https://www.elibrary.ru/project_risc.asp)

**125** By its own rules: developing a proprietary rating system in Russian science.  
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/po-svo-im-pravilam-razvitie-sobstvennoy-reytingovoy-sistemy-v-rossiyskoy-nauke>

**126** The Civic Chamber Telegram Channel:  
[https://t.me/oprf\\_official/7289](https://t.me/oprf_official/7289)

**127** Draft Law No. 1191150-7 “On Amendments to the Federal Law “On Science and State Scientific and Technical Policy”.  
<https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/1191150-7>

**128** The BRICS Science Popularizers Forum began its work in the CC of the Russian Federation.  
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/v-op-rf-nachal-rabotu-forum-populyarizatorov-nauki-stran-briks?lang=en>

**129** The Ministry of Education and Science hopes to adopt a new national project “Science and Universities” by the end of the year.  
<https://tass.ru/obschest-vo/10220207>

**130** Dmitry Chernyshenko held a meeting of the Project Committee on the National Project “Science and Universities”.  
<http://government.ru/news/43823/>

**131** Falkov announced the priorities of the universities in the new national project.  
<https://na-ria.ru/20201106/nauka-i-universite-ty-1583335747.html>

**132** The Ministry of Education and Science has developed a unified national project on science and higher education.  
<https://ria.ru/20200929/mino-brnauki-1577954284.html>

**133** The government to consider proposals of social activists to improve the national project “Science and Universities”.  
<https://ntp.pf/events/pravitelstvo-rassmotrit-predlozheniya-obshchestvennikov-po-korrektirovke-natsproekta-nauka-i-univers/>

**134** “Priority-2030” Program.  
<https://priority2030.ru/en/about>

**135** “Priority-2030” Program.  
<https://www.minobrnauki.gov.ru/action/priority2030/>

**136** “Priority-2030”: the program of strategic academic leadership of the country’s universities was presented at SPIEF-2021.  
[https://minobrnauki.gov.ru/press-center/news/?ELEMENT\\_ID=35051](https://minobrnauki.gov.ru/press-center/news/?ELEMENT_ID=35051)

**137** Article 114 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation

**138** On Russia’s Participation in the Paris Climate Agreement.  
<http://government.ru/docs/37917/>

**139** The government has developed a program in the field of environmental development and climate change until 2030.  
<http://government.ru/news/43367/>

**140** The State Duma passed a law to limit greenhouse gas emissions.  
<https://ria.ru/20210601/gosduma-1735105891.html>

**141** Clean Future.  
<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4955128>

**142** A recipe from the President.  
<https://rg.ru/2021/04/21/putin-v-poslanii-o-zdorove-podderzhke-semej-obrazovani-ekologii.html>

**143** Greenhouse gas emission law needs immediate revision.  
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/zakon-o-vybrose-parnikov-kh-gazov-trebu- nemedlennoy-dorabotki>

**144** Compulsion to ecology.  
<https://www.rbc.ru/newspaper/2021/04/12/606dbe8e9a7947bf5d5e8ed6>

**145** Nizhny Novgorod can become a pioneer in the transition to electric transport.  
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/nizhniy-novgo-rod-mozhet-stat-pionerom-v-oblasti-perekhoda-na-elektrotransport>

**146** Nizhny Novgorod can become a pioneer in the transition to electric transport.  
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/nizhniy-novgo-rod-mozhet-stat-pionerom-v-oblasti-perekhoda-na-elektrotransport>

**147** Putin declares the general objective of all countries to protect nature.  
<https://rg.ru/2021/10/12/putin-zaiavil-ob-obshchej-zad-ache-vseh-stran-po-ohrane-prirody.html>

**148** WEF 2021: how to attract tourists while preserving protected areas.  
<https://oprf.ru/news/vef2021-kak-privlech-turistov-i-pri-etom-sokhranit-osobo-okhranyaemye-prirodnye-territorii>

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**150** Convention on Biological Diversity.  
<https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-02/documents>

**151** First meeting of the Civic Chamber Coordination Council on Environmental Wellbeing  
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/pervoe-zasedanie-koordinacionnogo-soveta-po-ekologiceskomu-blagopoluciyu-pri-op-rf>

**152** The Civic Chamber will set up a council to protect eco-activists.  
<https://ria.ru/20210310/ekoaktivisty-1600581330.html>

**153** Coordination Council on Environmental Wellbeing.  
[https://www.oprf.ru/structure\\_list/107#nav\\_documents](https://www.oprf.ru/structure_list/107#nav_documents)

**154** Russian Public Opinion Research Center’s poll shows how Russians view the global environment.  
<https://ria.ru/20201130/ekologiya-1586883113.html>

**155** Environmental practices for Russians.  
<https://wciom.ru/analytical-reviews/analiticheskii-obzor/ehkologichnye-prakti-ki-v-zhizni-rossijan>

**156** Green consumption.  
<https://wciom.ru/analytical-reviews/analiticheskii-obzor/ehkologichnoe-potreblenie>

**157** Putin gives instructions after meeting with environmentalists and animal rights activists.  
<https://vz.ru/news/2020/7/6/1048541.html>

**158** List of instructions from the extended meeting of the State Council Presidium.  
<http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/64273>

- 159** Putin instructs a federal project on environmental education and awareness-raising.  
<https://vz.ru/news/2020/10/26/1067424.html>
- 160** Environmental education and enlightenment is a strategic goal for Russia.  
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/ekologicheskoe-obra-zovanie-i-prosveshhenie-strategicheskaya-cel-rossii>
- 161** Decisions of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on national projects and population preservation.  
<https://files.oprf.ru/storage/documents/resheniya-ks-nac-proekty-ekologiya.pdf>
- 162** Letter dated March 4, 2021 No. 70П-6/392
- 163** More than half of Russians see the environmental situation in the country deteriorating.  
<https://www.rbc.ru/society/30/11/2020/5f-c433e59a7947cc76b162a0>
- 164** All-natural willpower.  
<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4965361>
- 165** Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 326 "On Approval of the Russian Federation State Program on Environmental Protection" dated April 15, 2014.  
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- 167** Working group set up to tackle damage from the Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill.  
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- 168** Recommendations of the Civic Chamber of Russia.  
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- 171** Ranking of Russian regions by COVID-19 vaccination rate.  
<https://ria.ru/20210409/vaksinatsiya-1727390452.html>
- 172** The Civic Chamber Telegram Channel:  
[https://t.me/oprf\\_official/7712](https://t.me/oprf_official/7712)
- 173** A virologist says when Russia will defeat coronavirus.  
<https://ria.ru/20211112/pandemiya-1758679494.html>
- 174** Cooperation between society and the authorities on the implementation of national projects was discussed at the "Community".  
[http://rapsinews.ru/human\\_rights\\_protection\\_news/20211103/307506311.html](http://rapsinews.ru/human_rights_protection_news/20211103/307506311.html)
- 175** Letter to Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chairperson of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO No. 70ПК-3/1688 dated 16.08.2021
- 176** Civil Society Caucus in the State Duma.  
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