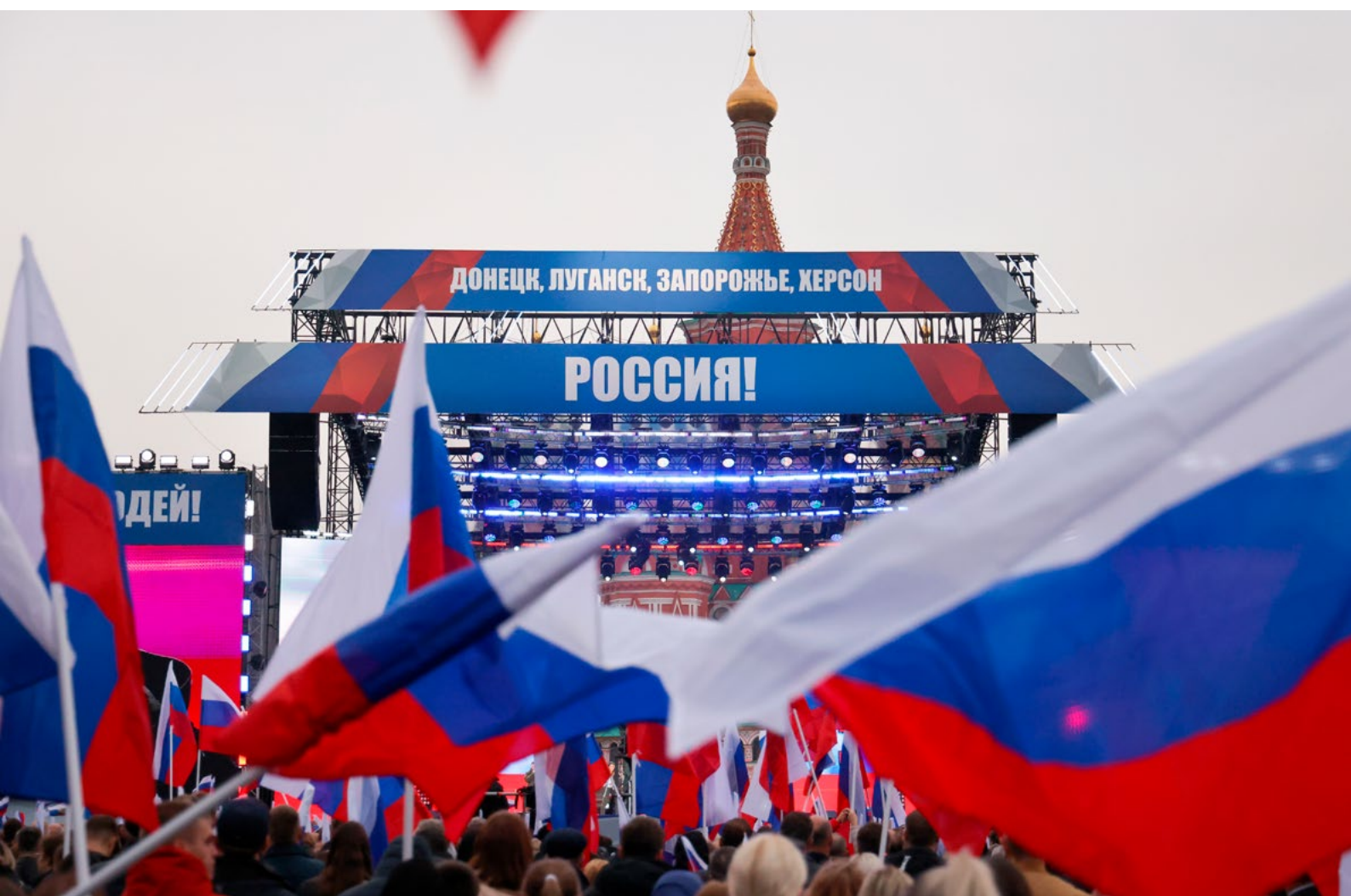




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Российской Федерации
CIVIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

REPORT ON THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



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Prepublishing: *K.A. Franchuk, T.M. Tatishvili, R.I. Kisurin, S.V. Kazakina, I.G. Sementsova, R.F. Bagavieva, S.A. Baikov, O.A. Seredenko, G.A. Seiranyan*

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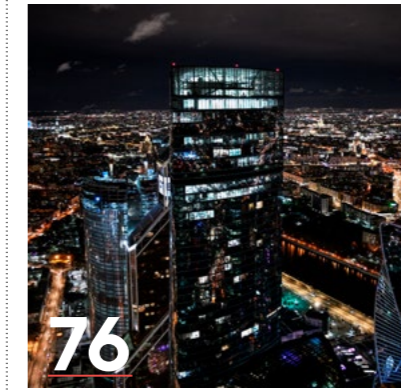
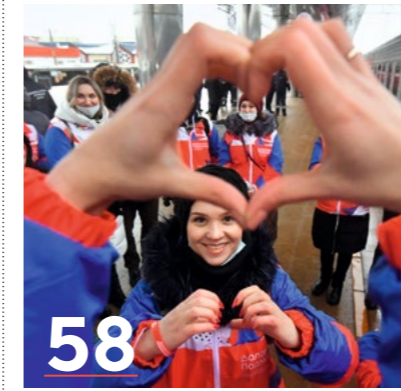
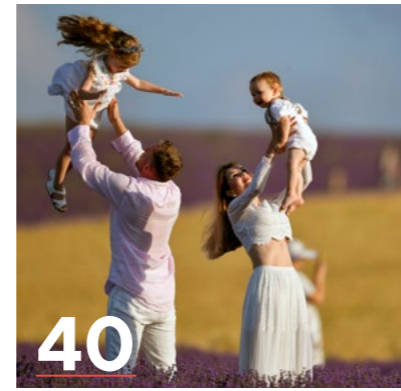
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REPORT ON THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION 2022

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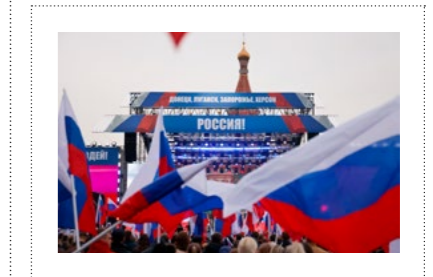
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On the cover:
A rally-concert in Moscow following the results of referenda on joining the Russian Federation of new territories. September 30, 2022. Anton Novoderezhkin / TASS

INTRODUCTION

At the end of every year, with a view to identify and analyze major social trends, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation prepares a report on the state of civil society.

Over the past years, the Civic Chamber has recorded a consistent and gradual expansion of the public-state dialogue in the state, the gradual involvement of nonprofit bodies that have become an equal partner of the state and society in tackling major socio-economic challenges, the growth of civic participation in the volunteer movement, which has enabled thousands of citizens of our country through direct social action to change the world in a constructive manner.

Over these years, Russia has faced many challenges in the economic, social and political spheres, which required reviewing public policy strategies, national development goals, and the foundations of the country's legislation. These challenges include the conflict of values associated with the attempts of the cultural and ideological expansion of the Western system of values into Russia, the long-term sanctions policy of the alliance of Western states aimed at reducing the development potential of the Russian economy, the pandemic that challenged the entire world community, with the politicized counterweight resulting in a significant aggravation geopolitical contradictions between different states.

To address these and many other challenges, special solidarity, cohesion, and consolidation of civil society was put in place. Our country's federal structure, coupled with national and cultural diversity predetermined that consensual form of decision-making, which basis was reinforced by public agreement on key issues of state development and its place in today's world.

2022 has been marked by historical events that drastically changed the ordinary run of things. Crossing the red lines of the country's national security predetermined the decision of the Russian President to launch a special military operation. The Western countries responded to this decision with an unprecedented increase in large-scale multi-year sanctions aimed at bringing about social disruption to Russian society and blocking the expansion of key sectors of the country's economy, something that has never been seen before in recent world history.

In the current predicament, the state faced the most difficult challenges that had to be addressed simultaneously in all strategic areas of development with no exception. Throughout the year, at the state level, at the level of expert communities, and at the sites of civil society institutions, we have promoting active discussion of all these new challenges that determined the fundamental transformations that have stricken the economy, politics, and public life. We talked through the events that took place in 2022 as well as the cardinal transformations of the future that these events bring along; we discussed the elaboration of the patterns of the future that will be the result of our collective efforts and decisions made on key areas of development.

As part of this final report, we have set the goal of looking through the prism of past events at the key trends that occurred and took root in Russian society in the outgoing year.

These trends feature a high level of public consolidation achieved through introducing numerous humanitarian and public initiatives in providing assistance to residents of the territories affected by hostilities, unconditional support Russia's accession of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, Zaporozhye and Kherson Regions – all this has testified to the growing level of trust in Russian society, and in public bodies.

Since the beginning of the special military operation, the establishment of a unified humanitarian space, uniform conditions for public, project-related and socially useful activities covering the new regions' territories has become a paramount task for Russian civil society institutions. The Civic Chamber has become one of the central platforms for implementing humanitarian projects, extending systemic assistance and interaction at the level of public institutions and nonprofit organizations.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, head of the LPR Leonid Pasechnik, head of the DPR Denis Pushilin, head of the administration of the Kherson Region Vladimir Saldo, and head of the administration of the Zaporozhye Region Yevgeny Balitsky at a rally-concert in support of the accession of the Donetsk People's Republic, Lugansk People's Republic, Kherson, and Zaporozhye Regions to Russia. September 30, 2022. Ramil Sitdikov / RIA Novosti

Cooperation has been established with the civic chambers of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic – the bodies signed cooperation agreements with both the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and other civic chambers of Russian regions. Work with public figures and civil activists in the Zaporozhye and Kherson Regions has been arranged, where complex and painstaking work is underway to create and build up the work of civil society institutions – chambers and councils of new regions.

The major direction in the work of Russian civil society institutions in the Donbass have been the projects aimed to promote the expansion of the nonprofit sector and public associations.

Today, resource centers to support public initiatives, numerous nonprofit, educational, charitable organizations, volunteers implementing large and small projects are actively working in the Donbass region, and the task of civil society institutions is to extend maximum support to these initiatives.

The ongoing sanction-supplied pressure on Russia from the Western world has posed serious challenges of economic, technological and educational sovereignty to the Russian society.

Timely and systematic state decisions to support the economy, the actions of the Central Bank of Russia to protect the Russian ruble, the introduction of a "parallel imports" system – all this enables the Russian economy to withstand the onslaught of sanctions and to lay the foundation for brand new approaches to economic expansion, the establishment of a real technological and economic sovereignty.

The issues of mobilizing the Russian economy, reviewing the strategic directions of its development, gaining import independence and building the appropriate scientific and educational potential as the basic for ensuring the implementation of new tasks of the country's social and economic development have become the major areas of expert and public discussions in 2022.

The large-scale sanctions blow to the country's economy also affected Russian NPOs, which in recent years have become the most important participants in public relations. It was the Russian NPO representatives, together with civil activists, who took on an active approach in helping refugees and internally displaced persons, and then extended assistance in the territory of the military conflict from the very first days of the humanitarian crisis in Donbass. The outcomes of this year have conclusively shown that Russian NPOs today account for the most structured part of civil society, supplementing the state where its capabilities or prompt response can be largely limited. A natural step of the state in 2022 was the decision to take extra measures of multilateral support for NPOs.

2022 was declared the year of the cultural heritage of the peoples of Russia by the President's Decree. Numerous events of a scientific, cultural and educational nature, designed to enhance and expand interconfessional and interethnic dialogue, clearly demonstrated that today's ethnocultural, religious associations, interethnic organizations working in this area NPOs have become indispensable institutions of civil society that interact effectively with the state on the widest range of national tasks. The state's long-term work on harmonizing interethnic and interreligious relations in the country is also positively assessed by Russian society. The results of this work today speak for themselves: in spite all external attempts to divide Russian society along national, religious and cultural lines, the state, acting in direct interaction with civil society, managed to maintain international peace and harmony within the country.

One of the major issues in the dialogue of cultures and civilizations in recent years has become the topic of preserving traditional

values. Today, in the face of external challenges, the Civic Chamber notes the growing demand in Russian society for these values to be protected. This request and an intermediate result of many years of discussions about the value orientations of Russian society have been captured in the signing of the Decree "On Approving the Foundations of State Policy for the Preservation and Strengthening of Traditional Russian Spiritual and Moral Values" on by the President of Russia November 9, 2022.

The unprecedented attack on Russian culture in Western countries in 2022 – the so-called cancellation of Russian culture, manifested in attempts to politicize and discredit Russian-speaking culture – to isolate Russia from the international cultural community, has once again testified to the relevance and necessity of implementing Russia's state policy in protecting and strengthening traditional values.

A significant event in the education of children and youth was the establishment of a new Russian Movement of Children and Youth, which brought together the largest Russian public organizations working with the younger generation. The Civic Chamber notes the high demand for a unified children's movement by the Russian society, which would combine the best practices in civil-patriotic and military-patriotic education in its work, contributing to the creative power of patriotism among the young generation of our citizens. The purpose behind creating the movement embody the priority of state policy declared in the Constitution of Russia in a practical dimension, that is, the state's care for children.

The key task of the state in recent years aimed to ensure the demographic stability of the nation. Large-scale work on the practical implementation of key areas of state family policy today provides for the opportunities to talk about the formation, with the direct involvement of civil society in establishing an integral system of measures of social support for families in need. The efficiency of the introduced support measures on a systematic basis is monitored by the Civic Chamber, ensuring that the current needs of citizens are brought to the state in order to correct existing and elaborate on new measures to support families with children. In 2022, the Civic Chamber proposed a new package of measures aimed at supporting the reproductive potential of the women generation aged over 30 and stimulating large families as the basis for Russia's demographic expansion.

Geopolitical turmoil has not become a challenge to the national green agenda. Along with the state, experts, public opinion leaders, and civil activists are actively involved in addressing sustainable development issues. In 2022, the Civic Chamber initiated and established a platform where nonfinancial reports issued by organizations, regions and authorities are discussed and certified.

The public demand for solving environmental problems remains relevant, thus increasing the importance of the development of environmental education and enlightenment.

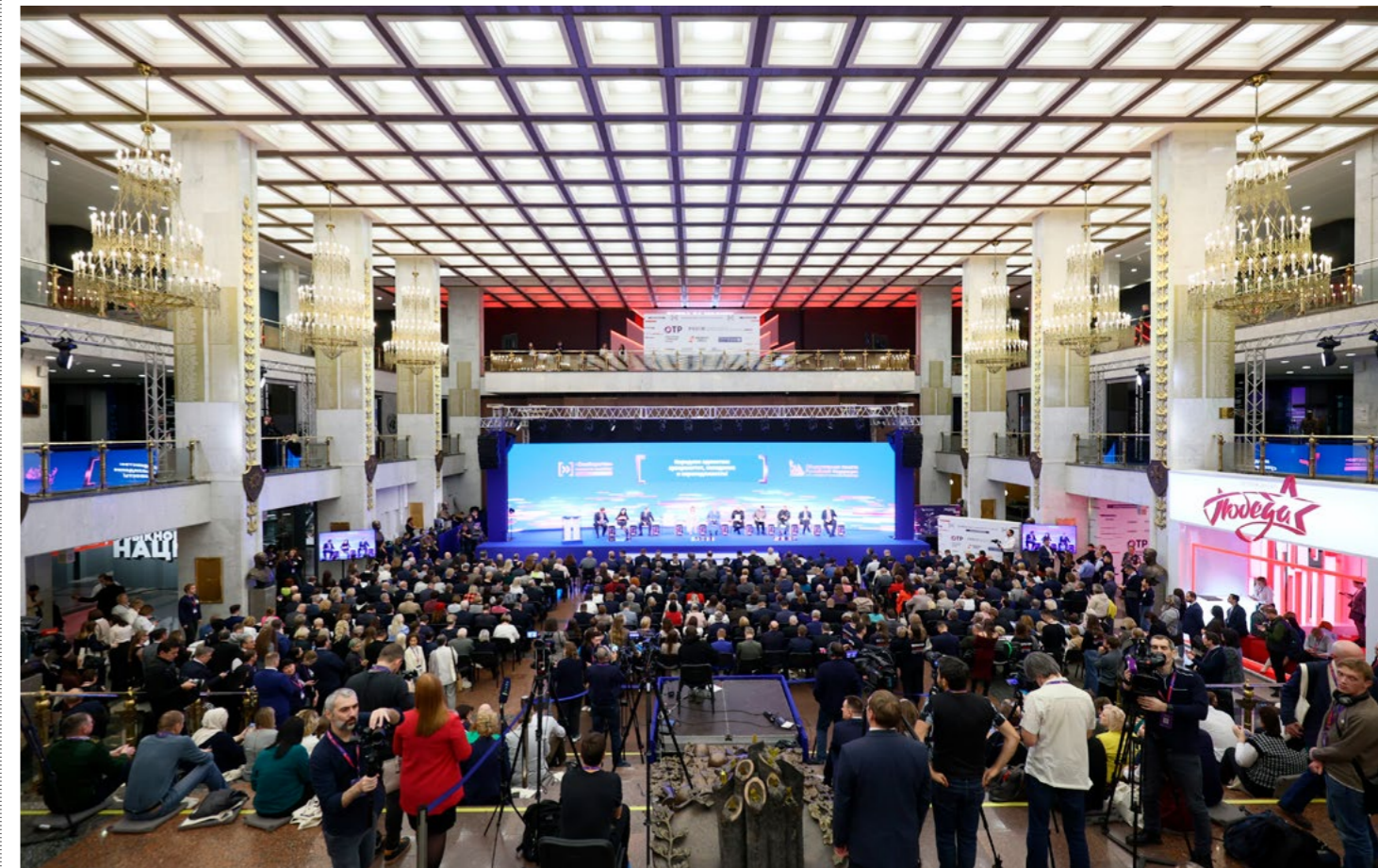
2022 has become one of the most difficult years for our country in international cooperation for the past decade.

Amid an unprecedented crisis in traditional diplomacy, we intensify our efforts in strengthening the role of civil society in establishing dialogue between countries. The experience of international interaction of the Civic Chamber as part its presidency of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS), through the work of international observation missions

at elections and referenda abroad, clearly showed that partnership through civil society institutions and nonprofit organizations opens up vast opportunities for the exchange of experience and the implementation of joint projects, even in conditions when dialogue at the official level is difficult to achieve.

The events of the outgoing year have provided strong evidence for the maturity of Russian civil society, its willingness to consolidate all its institutions in order to ensure efficient cooperation with state authorities for the benefit of national interests, historical identity, independence of culture and traditions, as well as a shared future.

There are many complex, major tasks and goals lying ahead, which achievement is especially important to preserve the consensus that has formed and to ensure further unity of the efforts of the multinational people of Russia. And we got everything it needs – experience, successful practices, and civil solidarity.



On November 2-3, the Victory Museum in Moscow hosted the final "Community" forum, which brought together more than 5,000 participants from all over the country. In 2022, representatives of the Donetsk People's Republic, Lugansk People's Republic, Zaporozhye, and Kherson Regions took part in the traditional annual event hosted by the Civic Chamber of Russia. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



Local residents attending the concert "For Russia! For Crimea! For Donbass!" in the Gagarin Park in Simferopol in support of the residents of the liberated territories of Donbass and Ukraine, where a referendum is being held on joining the Russian Federation. September 23, 2022. Konstantin Mikhailchevsky / RIA Novosti

PATRIOTIC CONSENSUS

01

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|-----------|---|
| <u>10</u> | Challenges for the state – challenges for society |
| <u>12</u> | Trust as a public life factor |
| <u>14</u> | Combining the humanitarian efforts of the society to help and support Donbass residents |
| <u>18</u> | Social and partial military mobilization |

CHALLENGES FOR THE STATE – CHALLENGES FOR SOCIETY

1.1

CAUGHT IN THE HEAT OF GLOBAL INSTABILITY CAUSED BY A SYSTEMIC CRISIS OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THE COORDINATION OF THE INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, ALLIANCES, MILITARY-POLITICAL BLOCS AND ENSURE COMMON SECURITY IN THE WORLD, RUSSIA HAS FACED MANY CHALLENGES THAT REQUIRED REVIEWING THE BASIC FOUNDATIONS AND STRATEGIES OF STATE POLICY, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS, AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS.

The world’s globalization processes that have taken place in recent decades have revealed a fundamental contradiction between the traditional values historically formed through the natural development of states and the universal values of the new ever-globalizing world. Public discussions on preserving and protecting traditional values that have been formed over the centuries in Russian society have become logical in the current situation, resulting in active public participation in the proposal and discussion of amendments to the Constitution, which the President of Russia, in his Address to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on January 15, 2020, proposed to introduce.

The "people’s" amendments, fixing the basic value foundations of Russian society, were proposals to enhance the rule on protecting the family institution and traditional family values as one of the foundations of Russia’s civilizational identity, preserving historical memory and countering history perversion, and legislatively fixing the need to preserve cultural heritage.

During the constitutional plebiscite, the national consensus testified to the relevance and timeliness of introducing amendments to the country’s Basic Law that would enshrine traditional values.

Russia, as well as all of humanity, faced a large-scale challenge – the coronavirus pandemic – that upended, and at the same time united the entire Russian society encompassing the state, civil society, and business. An event that triggered various global processes, the pandemic had a comprehensive and devastating impact on the health of citizens, on their quality of life, and on the global economy, actualizing and sharpening a number of social problems on a national and international scale – problems that urged collective efforts to overcome them.

Along with the extensive measures taken by the state to support the population and the economy, the active work of volunteers, nonprofit organizations, individual volunteers, together with doctors who took the brunt of the pandemic waves, showed that a broad social consensus has formed in society on direct participation in providing assistance, expressed in an unprecedented growth of confidence in the activities of volunteers and socially oriented nonprofit organizations, as well as in the implementation of general civil initiatives.

However, the pandemic has also revealed some serious problems. The global economy, built on the international division of labor and production, under the conditions of a total lockdown, revealed

its weakness while being faced with COVID-19.¹ International cooperation failed the efficiency test because the world was not ready to stand in solidarity and unity in its fight against the virus, and the COVID-19 pandemic, being a full-blown crisis, was superimposed on serious geopolitical tensions and other global threats with unpredictable and dangerous consequences, exacerbating mutual distrust and rivalry.

The ongoing imbalance of international relations resulted in a further split and confrontation in the world community, not only between individual countries, but between military-political associations and unions of states having different ideas of national development and political vision of the future as well. This conflict inevitably affected Russia as well.

In 2021, amid the growing tensions between Russia and a number of Western countries, a significant aggravation of the conflict in the Donbass territory took place. Given another sharp aggravation of the humanitarian and military situation in the Donbass and the ongoing region’s people evacuation into the territory of Russia, the heads of the self-proclaimed Lugansk and Donetsk People’s Republics appealed to the Russian President with a request to recognize the independence of the republics and consider the possibility of concluding an agreement on friendship and cooperation between the parties. The corresponding agreement was ratified by the Russian Federation on February 22, 2022.

On February 24, 2022, in his special address to the state’s citizens, the Russian President announced the start of a special military operation to protect Donbass, explaining the reasons and goals of the special operation, and noting further that the current military infrastructure of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) has come close to our borders, and Ukraine is gradually gaining a new foothold for the alliance, putting Russia’s security and sovereignty in danger.

The Western countries responded to this decision with an increase in large-scale sanctions put up against the Russian economy, which has no precedent in recent world history. As this year has shown, the



A boy during a performance at the “We do not leave our men behind!” rally on Manezhnaya Square in Moscow. September 23, 2022. Ilya Pitalev / RIA Novosti

anti-crisis actions of the Russian Government coupled timely measures taken to increase the stable state of the economy and support citizens facing sanctions pressure on Russia made it possible to avoid crisis options for economy expansion, to find internal points of growth and new promising areas as part of international economic cooperation.

Put under the conditions of external pressure on Russia, civil society institutions note the ongoing formation of a high level of public consent throughout the year – a patriotic consensus, which has proven the determining factor in the positive attitude of the majority of Russian citizens to the adoption of the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics, Zaporozhye and Kherson regions as part of Russia following the referenda results.

Today, the Russian state, together with civil society, faces a large and lengthy work to integrate these new entities into a single socio-economic, legal, cultural, and political space of the Russian Federation.

TRUST AS A PUBLIC LIFE FACTOR

1.2

AMID A SYSTEMIC CRISIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, GLOBAL POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION AND CHANGING MODELS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MAINTAINING THE TRUST-BASED SOCIAL STABILITY OF SOCIETY APPEARS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE. INSTITUTIONAL TRUST IS PEOPLE'S TRUST IN VARIOUS SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS EXISTING IN SOCIETY – A FUNDAMENTAL CONDITION FOR ANY STATE TO EXIST. THESE KEY INSTITUTIONS INVOLVE THE ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE WHO EXERCISE POLITICAL POWER IN THE STATE, ORGANIZATIONS THAT CHARGED WITH SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND ALL ORGANIZATIONS RELATED DIRECTLY TO THE WELL-BEING OF CITIZENS.



Employees of the election commission at a polling station in Donetsk count the votes following the results of the referendum on the DPR joining Russia. September 27, 2022. RIA Novosti

The **Russian President's** policy is gaining ever-growing approval. Based on the results of a survey by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM), over the year the level of trust in his policy has risen by

14.4%²

While in October 2021 the President's trust score was 61.2%, in October 2022 it rose to

75.6%³

At the same time, **80.9% of respondents answered positively when asked about their trust in Vladimir Putin.**⁴ Compared to the previous year (65.6%), this figure increased by

15.3%⁵

- Surveys by the Public Opinion Foundation show a significant increase in the trust score of the **Russian Government**: from 37% of respondents who positively assess the work of the government at the beginning of the year, to 54% in October 2022.⁶
- Most Russians trust the Russian Armed Forces. Survey data from the Russian Public Opinion Research Center shows a consistently high level of support among Russian citizens –

>78%

- Trust in the church and religious organizations based on the nongovernmental research organization Levada Center⁷ this year returned to the 2014 level → **51%**
- Trust in the media is also growing: 27% in 2019, 35% each in 2020 and 2021, in 2022 it rose → **41%**
- Trust in charitable organizations has increased significantly, that is, from 36% → **to 49%**⁸

The growth of public trust throughout 2022 has also affected economic organizations, among which, surveys say, small and medium-sized businesses are most trusted

Today, amid the growing external threats put up against Russia and general political uncertainty in the world, a growing confidence of citizens throughout the year remains both in the main political institutions of the country and in public institutions. Social experts note that similar sharp changes in sentiment were observed in 2014,⁹ when the vast majority of Russian society supported Russia's incorporation of Crimea. Sociological surveys taken 5 years after the referendum testified to the persistence of the phenomenon in Russian society that sociologists and political scientists dubbed the "Crimean consensus", that is, meeting a request for the values of sovereignty, the nation's consolidation and the nationalization of elites in Russian society.¹⁰

Contrary to a number of forecasts that predicted a split in society and a crisis of confidence in the state bodies, sociological

surveys have consistently recorded the opposite trend throughout this year – the unified Russian society, its consolidation while being put up against growing external threats in tackling emerging problems. The growth in confidence has affected political and public institutions and economic organizations.

One of the major civil society institutions in the country, Russian NPOs did not stand aside as well. On February 28, 2022, the leaders and activists of the largest Russian NPOs published an open appeal "Stand with the President and the country!" – this was initiated by the Civic Chamber. Over a 15 thousands active citizens of our country – NPO representatives – expressed their support and confidence in the Russian President and called for unifying all social forces.

The growing confidence level in state and public institutions in Russian society amid a significant aggravation of the military-political situation in the Donbass predetermined a broad social demand for support for humanitarian initiatives aimed at helping and supporting residents of the hostility-affected territories.

COMBINING THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS OF THE SOCIETY TO HELP AND SUPPORT DONBASS RESIDENTS

1.3

THE RECENT-YEAR CHALLENGES HAVE FORCED MANY RUSSIANS TO TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES, WHICH HAVE COME TO BE PERCEIVED AS A SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, A RESOURCE FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE, ALLOWING TO ADDRESS MAJOR SOCIAL TASKS AT THE LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL TOGETHER WITH THE STATE. AMONG OTHER THINGS, PARTICULAR SOLIDARITY IN RUSSIAN SOCIETY WAS FORMED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE PANDEMIC, REFLECTING A BROAD SOCIAL DEMAND BOTH FOR THE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF RUSSIAN CITIZENS IN EXTENDING ASSISTANCE AND SOCIALLY USEFUL ACTIVITIES AND FOR "TAKING CARE OF ONESELF", WHICH WAS REFLECTED IN A RECORD TRUST LEVEL OF OUR COUNTRY'S CITIZENS TO VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY-FOCUSED NPOs. THIS LEVEL OF TRUST STILL REMAINS, WITH A NEW CHALLENGE LOOMING ON THE HORIZON – THE AGGRAVATION OF THE SEVERE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS THAT HAS BEEN UNFOLDING IN THE DONBASS FOR TERRITORY THE PAST EIGHT YEARS.

Since August 2014, by decision of the Russian authorities, humanitarian aid has been delivered to the Donbass on an ongoing basis. Over the years, more than 100 consolidated convoys of the Russian Emergencies Ministry have delivered 85,000 tons of humanitarian cargo in the DPR and LPR territory – food, medicine, and basic necessities.¹¹ On February 18, 2022, put up against the escalated hostilities in the conflict zone, the LPR and DPR authorities announced the evacuation of the civilian population to Russia.¹²

Between February 18 and 23, over 100 thousand people crossed the Russian border searching for refuge from the hostilities.¹³ Refugees were placed in temporary residences, which were deployed

in various country regions, primarily alongside the state border.

Public bodies and ordinary citizens joined the efforts of the authorities, offering refugees assistance in finding employment, adaptation, finding housing, and temporary accommodation.

Charitable organizations in many Russian cities have announced the fundraising and collection of money, warm clothes, medicines, durable food, and hygiene products to help the evacuated Donbass residents. The centralized collection of humanitarian aid started off as part of the #WeAreTogether campaign. In Moscow, collection centers were opened in eleven co-workings of the NPO "Dushevnyaya

Moskva" (Soulful Moscow). Activists of the ANO "Youth of the Capital" accepted stationery for children, and students of the Moscow State University of Food Production collected baby food packages.

The launched special military operation urged a significant expansion and increased support for internally displaced persons as well as assistance for victims of hostilities. Just as during the pandemic, the forces of civil society rallied and acted in unity, supporting humanitarian projects and initiatives aimed to help the Donbass residents. Over the first four months, more than 35,000 tons of essential items, food, medicines, and medical supplies were dispatched, and 1,197 humanitarian actions were taken.¹⁴

In April 2022, as part of promoting volunteer efforts, the Decree of the Russian President "On Supporting Volunteering in the Territories of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic" was issued.¹⁵

The Federal Agency for Youth Affairs, together with the Association of Volunteer Centers, was tasked with determining the procedure for selecting and training volunteers for activities in the Donbass, and the FSB and the Russian Ministry of Defense were instructed to ensure a safe and organized procedure for crossing the state border by volunteers. The Decree provided for lump-sum payments to volunteers who could have suffered through humanitarian operations.

On March 31, 2022, the Volunteer Corps of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, sponsored by the all-Russian action #WeAreTogether, opened the Public Center for raising humanitarian aid. Since the beginning of the special military operation, the center has raised over 5,000 tons of humanitarian cargo for the citizens of Donbass, Zaporozhye and Kherson Regions, and the collection of humanitarian aid continues today. The Center collects and sends humanitarian aid to the affected territories and also coordinates the efforts of citizens, other charity-engaged organizations and associations. The key center partners were the All-Russian Public Organization "Russian Red Cross", the Charitable Foundation for Supporting Family, Motherhood and Childhood "Women for Life", the All-Russian Public Movement of Volunteers in Healthcare "Volunteers-Medics", the All-Russian Public Youth



Medical workers at a temporary accommodation center (TAC) for refugees from Mariupol at Olympic Reserve School No. 13 in Taganrog, Rostov Region. March 17, 2022. Sergey Pivovarov / RIA Novosti

On March 31, 2022, the Civic Chamber of Russia, supported by the Russian Red Cross, the All-Russian Student Rescue Corps and sponsored by the #WeAreTogether volunteer project, opened the Public Center for raising humanitarian aid for Donbass residents



The Center accepted and dispatched about 6,000 unique items of humanitarian aid to Donbass with a total weight of

>7.5 tons



The eighth truck carrying food and veterinary drugs being dispatched as part of the ZooFriend project to help animal volunteers, shelters and equestrian clubs of the Lugansk People's Republic. The initiator of the ZooFriend campaign, member of the Civic Chamber of Russia Elena Sharoikina, professor and TV presenter Nikolai Drozdov, chairman of the Civic Chamber of the LPR Alexei Karyakin took part in dispatching the cargo. November 2, 2022



"Mom's Window" project
<https://womenprolife.ru/projects/24>



"Share Sunshine" foundation
<https://sunlightfond.ru/>



All-Russian campaign "ZooFriend"
https://t.me/zoo_drug

THE CENTER'S PARTNERS ARE:

- The "Mom's Window" project, which provides food for women with children in the Donbass. The project is being implemented by the "Women for Life" charitable foundation, which helps women in complex life situations. The Civic Chamber site allocated for the project has already raised

>1.5 tons

of humanitarian aid

- The "Share Sunshine" foundation, which extends support to perinatal centers and medical institutions, families and children in rehabilitation, payment for operations and obtaining medical advice. The Foundation raises funds for procuring medical equipment needed in the Donetsk perinatal center, accepts medical supplies, baby food, hygiene products, and clothes
- The All-Russian campaign "ZooFriend", which provides assistance to zoos and shelters in Donbass. The campaign raises money, feed and veterinary drugs. Help is sent to zoos and animal shelters.

>6 tons

of feed and veterinary drugs were raised as part of the project at the Civic Chamber site alone

- In total,

150 tons

of cargo for animals were dispatched to Donbass as part of the project

Organization "The All-Russian Student Rescue Corps and Charitable Foundation "Share Sunshine".

The "ZooFriend" project aimed to raise aid for Donbass zoos and shelters has become resident of the Public Center for raising humanitarian aid for the Donbass residents in the Civic Chamber. As part of the campaign, eight trucks of veterinary drugs, household chemicals, building materials, and animal feed have already been sent to Donbass, and the total weight of the delivered aid has exceeded 150 tons.¹⁶ Civic chambers of regions of the Russian Federation also joined in raising humanitarian aid.

To date, over 870 humanitarian aid collection centers have been opened in 81 Russian regions based on the #WeAreTogether regional headquarters, schools, public organizations and regional branches of the Russian Red Cross.

The Russian regions also took an active position, taking patronage over certain Donbass territories that suffered the most during the hostilities. Over 40 regions of the Russian Federation have decided to provide comprehensive assistance in restoring the region infrastructure.¹⁷ The Russian capital has become the Donetsk and Lugansk supervisor.

Since June 14, convoys with the necessary assistance for restoration work have been arriving in the most affected Donbass cities and towns.¹⁸

Projects to support the nonprofit sector and public associations in the liberated territories have become the most important area of work for Russian civil society institutions in the Donbass. As part of the corresponding Civic Chamber project,¹⁹ resource centers are being set up on the territory of the republics, a single base of organizations that are willing to help develop the nonprofit sector, and training seminars are held for social activists is being formed.

In June 2022, the Resource Center for Support of Nonprofit Organizations and Public Initiatives "NPO House"²⁰ was

established in the Lugansk People's Republic, which is working on an active basis to foster the formation and development of civil society institutions, promotes familiarization of public associations, nonprofit organizations and initiative groups with the practices of the nonprofit sector of the Russian Federation, and mutual integration of civil society institutions. Today, this experience is being broadcast to all territories of the new Russian regions.

For its part, the state actively supported public initiatives aimed at helping the Donbass region. From July 15 to August 15, a Special Competition of the Presidential Grants Foundation was held, aimed to provide grants from the President of the Russian Federation for implementing social, charitable, educational, and environmental projects in partnership with Donbass nonprofit organizations and volunteer communities. Following the competition results, 493 projects out of 2,141 submitted were supported.²¹ 2 billion rubles of fund-raised support was allocated to finance projects. 121 out of 493 supported projects will be implemented in the new regions' territories: residents will be provided with humanitarian assistance, will be taken care of by doctors, psychologists, rehabilitation specialists, and volunteers will work in the conflict zone to help carry out urgent home repairs and prepare for the winter season. 234 initiatives are aimed at supporting people who were forced to leave their homes: They will collect winter clothes and shoes for them, help them complete documents, get a new profession, medical and psychological assistance, find and pay for tutors for children.²²

The Russian President also decided to allocate 1 billion rubles to support cultural projects for integration the Donbass and the annexed territories as part of the work of the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives. The competition was held in six thematic units: "We are proud", "We do not leave our men behind!", "New opportunities", "Heroes of Donbass - Heroes of Russia", "We are together", and "Cultural code". Projects representing the historical unity of Donbass with Russia, the succession of history, the development of sister city ties between Donbass and new territories with regions and cities of Russia, the harmonious coexistence of people of different ethnicities and cultures, educational, volunteer and partnership projects, including media and culture, have gained state support.²³

This year has testified to the maturity of Russian civil society, which is manifested every dimension. Civil society has shown its unity and was able to come to the aid of those who really need it in the most difficult moment. Charitable foundations, public organizations, Russian regions and volunteers are working in the Donbass, putting into practice the call that has become the meaning and value of life for all participants in humanitarian projects — "We do not leave our men behind!".

SOCIAL AND PARTIAL MILITARY MOBILIZATION

1.4

THE EXTRAORDINARY NATURE OF THE SITUATION WHERE THE PARTIAL MOBILIZATION WAS ANNOUNCED IS EMPHASIZED BY THE FACT THAT THE LAST TIME IN THE HISTORY WHEN OUR COUNTRY WAS MOBILIZED WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR. THE PROCEDURE FOR PARTIAL MOBILIZATION, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED IN THE COUNTRY FROM SEPTEMBER 21 TO OCTOBER 31, 2022, WAS REGULATED BY THE FEDERAL LAW OF FEBRUARY 26, 1997 NO. 31-FZ "ON MOBILIZATION TRAINING AND MOBILIZATION IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION", WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN APPLIED SINCE IT WAS SIGNED.

Given the absence of the Decree on mobilization and official explanations about the procedure for its implementation in the first days, the total number of citizens summoned and the order and criteria for being summoned to state authorities, public institutions began to receive complaints concerning the legal character of summoning individual citizens. Some cases were widely reported in social media, which contributed to the escalated tension and anxiety in Russian society.

To promptly inform citizens, the Russian Ministry of Defense launched a hotline for those summoned during partial mobilization and relatives of those mobilized.²⁴ The Russian state authorities promptly began active work to enhance legislation. Extensive measures were taken to support mobilized citizens and their families, the rights to payment holidays were secured for both individuals and entrepreneurs, labor guarantees, and guarantees in the housing and communal services sector were provided.²⁵ Servicemen involved in the special military operation are recognized as military veterans.²⁶

From the very beginning of the special military operation, the volunteer assistance to servicemen and military volunteers has become a separate significant area of volunteer activity.

In May 2022, the All-Russian Popular Front launched a large-scale fundraising project to support the power units of Donbass "Everything for Victory".²⁷ The project brought together the efforts of war correspondents, actors, athletes, bloggers, volunteers, and numerous concerned citizens all over Russia who organized the purchase of necessary things for military units engaged on the front lines. Russian war correspondents played a major role in arranging this work, who became a link between fighters and volunteers, directly conveying information about what military units on the front line needed²⁸ — this stimulated a significant expansion of volunteer activities in this direction, while private entities, individual entrepreneurs, public organizations, journalists, and public opinion leaders joined the activists.



Drivers of military equipment who delivered an infantry fighting vehicle with the RF Armed Forces military personnel, called up as part of partial mobilization, to the place of combat missions in the Lugansk People's Republic. October 24, 2022. Viktor Antonyuk / RIA Novosti

The heads of a number of Russian regions organized fundraising for those mobilized for the purpose of equipping military personnel with the highest quality items,²⁹ special platforms were provided, and regional funds were opened to transfer funds more easily, which first contributors were often representatives of the relevant state authorities.³⁰

Assessing the complexity of the current predicament, civil society institutions joined in monitoring and tackling the problems identified through the partial mobilization almost immediately after it was announced.

On September 25, 2022, the All-Russian Popular Front deployed centers in the Russian regions to assist citizens whose rights were violated during partial mobilization. The initiative authorities noted that chaotic actions are unacceptable, when, for the sake of fulfilling the "order list", those who follow the law and directives of the Ministry of Defense are enlisted and sent to the front line illegally, and the life and supply of the mobilized are not arranged in a proper way.³¹

Volunteers of the Russian public movement #WeAreTogether, supported by the All-Russian Popular Front, established a round-the-clock hotline for families of mobilized and servicemen engaged in the special military operation. As part of the hotline, legal consultations were carried out jointly with the Russian Ministry of Justice, and psychological assistance was extended by the Russian Red Cross, the Russian Ministry of Education and Science and volunteer psychologists. In just the first four days of the hotline's operation, more than 16,000 mobilized servicemen turned to specialists and volunteers for help. The overwhelming majority required clarification as to which categories of citizens are subject to partial mobilization. Over a thousand appeals in this short period were related to errors in documents, when summons came to people who were not supposed to be mobilized. Due to the coordinated work of public organizations and relevant departments, they made it back home safely.³²

For its part, the Civic Chamber, noting the well-shaped request in society, proposed to provide the costs of full reserve logistics of the mobilized, as well as to review the stocks and additional supply of the population means of protection against emergency situations for 2023 budget and for the 2024 and 2025 planning period.

On September 29, 2022, during a meeting with the permanent members of the Russian Security Council, the Russian President noted that there has been many issues related to the organization of conscription, the quality of supplies, and the provision of living conditions that cause concern among citizens as part of the mobilization-related activities. The Russian President demanded that all mistakes be corrected and avoided further on, examining each such case on a separate basis.

On October 19, 2022, the Council for the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights under the President of the Russian Federation submitted a report on the results of monitoring the implementation of the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation "On the Announcement of Partial Mobilization in the Russian

Federation" to the Government of the Russian Federation and corresponding State Duma and Federation Council committees. The report analyzed the legal and regulatory framework for partial mobilization, assessed the problems identified during its implementation, and prepared legal and substantive recommendations.

In particular, human rights activists, noted significant shortcomings in the information interaction of the authorities with the population on conducting mobilization-related activities. The low degree of awareness of military commissariats on citizens subject to conscription, the absence of medical commissions at recruiting stations in a number of cases, as well as the absence of information on the military specialty or advanced training of medical workers called up for mobilization were noted. Numerous issues in the servicemen conscription were related to the legislatively unsettled issue of the possibility of alternative civilian service by conscripted persons as well as inaccuracies in the criteria for granting a deferment from military service on mobilization in the relevant law.

The submitted report emphasized further that all mobilization-related efforts should be targeted and exercised by authorized bodies in relation to a single citizen, but in no case by the "raids" methods in transport, at home, or at work.

Based on paragraph 8 of the Decree on mobilization, the provision of servicemen conscription was entrusted to the highest officials of the Russian regions. In this regard, the Council under the President of the Russian Federation for the Civil Society and Human Rights noted that not all heads of regions treated the implementation of these powers with due responsibility. The discriminatory character of the measures provided to support citizens called up for mobilization was observed at the regional level. This was expressed both in the financial volume of support as well as the complete absence of additional benefits, social protection and payments in a number of regions. The Council noted that the practice of refusing assistance to persons called up for military service for mobilization in the regions, which would be justified by a lack of funds, is unacceptable.

On October 21, 2022, to enhance the coordination of the activities of federal executive authorities and executive authorities of the Russian regions through the special military operation, the Russian President signed a Decree on establishing a Coordination Council led by the Government of the Russian Federation to meet the needs of the Russian Armed Forces, other troops, military units and bodies.³³ The head of the Government of the Russian Federation became the chairperson of the newly-established Council.

The Council will make decisions on all issues related to the provision of the armed forces with the required equipment and material resources, as well as ensure control over their implementation. The Council will further coordinate digitalization, automation, and information and analytical support in defense, including the establishment of databases of country mobilization base.

As the Russian President noted during the first meeting of the Coordination Council, it is important to do all this "now, when we are



A serviceman of the Russian Armed Forces unloading humanitarian aid raised by civilians in Russia, the Zaporozhye Region. Servicemen called up as part of partial mobilization were provided with medicines, means of communication, and entrenching shovels. October 9, 2022. RIA Novosti

also faced with the need to resolve at a faster pace issues related to conducting the special military operation and to the fight against those restrictions in the economic sphere we are currently facing."³⁴

On October 31, the Russian Ministry of Defense announced the completion of all mobilization-related activities. Following the department's initiatives, the further work of the military commissariats in recruiting the Russian Armed Forces will only be organized to accept volunteers and candidates for enlistment by contract.³⁵

Partial mobilization, in turn, has yielded a high level of social mobilization of Russian society, its ability to pose problematic issues to the state as well as offer effective solutions, together with the state involved directly in their implementation.

Partial military mobilization has been completed but the economy mobilization is still in progress. The goal is to provide a response to geopolitical challenges and to seize new opportunities and full potential in establishing economic and technological independence. The success of this transition will rest upon the unified efforts of state authorities, civil society institutions, and every country citizen.



Medical examination at the training facility of the Russian Armed Forces in the village of Pakino in the Vladimir Region, where the collection point for men called up for military service during partial mobilization is located. September 26, 2022. RIA Novosti



ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

02

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Visitor at the model of integrated security systems, stand of FSUE "Russian Broadcasting and Alert Networks" at the International Exhibition of Means of State Security "Interpolitex 2022" held in Moscow. October 18, 2022. Pavel Bednyakov / RIA Novosti

CRISIS AS A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITIES – CIVIC SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

2.1

SINCE 2014, THE ECONOMY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION HAS BEEN UNDER INCREDIBLE PRESSURE. THE NUMBER OF SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON OUR STATE BY THE COUNTRIES OF THE SO-CALLED COLLECTIVE WEST CURRENTLY EXCEEDS 10,000,³⁶ AND MORE THAN 7,000 OF THEM WERE IMPOSED AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE SPECIAL MILITARY OPERATION. THE NUMBER OF SANCTIONS IMPOSED AGAINST RUSSIA IS MORE THAN IN ANY OTHER STATE IN HISTORY. HOWEVER, THE POLICY OF ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS FAILS.

Unprecedented government decisions to support the economy, actions of the Central Bank of Russia to protect the Russian ruble, temporary introduction of the “parallel import” system, disagreement of a number of states, including superpowers, with the policy of refusing to cooperate with the Russian Federation, inadequate elaboration of sanctions, which caused more damage to their initiators, allowed the Russian economy not only to withstand this pressure, but also to lay the basis for completely new approaches to economic development, formation of technological and economic sovereignty, as well as conditions ensuring the formation of a multipolar world order.

The special military operation emphasized the relevance of a multipolar world order, while demonstrating the non-Western world’s demand for strategic autonomy expressed, among other things, in supporting our country

(refusal to break trade ties and exclusion of Russia from global chains, active participation in the development of alternative payment systems and transportation routes for Russian goods).

As repeatedly stated by the President of Russia, “the era of a unipolar world order has come to an end. No matter how the beneficiaries of the current globalist model cling to the usual state of affairs, it is doomed to failure. Geopolitical changes of historic proportions are going in a completely different direction [...]. Russia will actively and proactively participate in such coordinated joint work together with its allies, partners and like-minded people, improve the existing mechanisms of international security and create new ones, consistently strengthen the national armed forces and other security structures by providing modern weapons and military equipment.

POSITIVE DYNAMICS OF THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY



Despite the sanctions’ pressure exerted by a number of Western countries, which began after the reunification of Crimea with Russia in 2014, the policy of economic restrictions did not have a destructive impact on the development of Russia. According to Rosstat,

Russia’s GDP (at current prices) increased during the period from 2015 to 2019

by **31.9%**

Due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a decrease in the indicator by 2%. However, in 2021, GDP growth (at current prices) resumed and was equal to

21.9%

compared to the previous year



Positive dynamics was also noted in terms of GDP per capita. Despite the imposed sanctions and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, this indicator in 2021 increased by

→ **5.2%**³⁷

It is required to ensure our national interests and protect our allies and take other steps towards building a more democratic world where the rights of all peoples and cultural and civilizational diversity are guaranteed.³⁸

It appears that Russia, acting as the initiator of the ongoing processes, should be one of the first to demonstrate success in the new economic reality. Already today, our country, having significant experience in countering the unfriendly actions of the West since 2014, is trying to find solutions to emerging threats by forming a new industrial and production policy.

The unconditional priority of the Russian Federation against the background of the existing challenges is the well-established system of cooperation between civil society and the state. Thus, in 2021, the Government of the Russian Federation, with the participation of representatives of civil society, selected a number of relevant and popular initiatives that were transformed into government decisions and projects.

In order to search for and generalize the most promising ideas, five working groups, which included representatives of the

business community, experts and employees of scientific organizations, as well as regional and federal authorities, were formed. 42 out of 250 initiatives were selected. As a result of the work performed, the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of October 6, 2021 No. 2816-p approved strategic initiatives (projects aimed at improving the quality of life of people and transforming the domestic economy).³⁹ These social and economic development initiatives will be implemented until 2030. All of them are divided into six areas: social issues, construction, ecology, digital transformation, technological breakthrough, state for citizens.⁴⁰

Industry associations representing business communities have actively joined the ongoing processes and come up with initiatives aimed at increasing the economic activity of the population and fulfilling the entrepreneurial potential of the country.

Thus, at a meeting with the President, representatives of the All-Russian Public Organization “Business Russia” suggested introducing a moratorium on initiating criminal cases regarding a number of tax issues in case of full payment of arrears. As a result of the meeting, the President of the Russian Federation gave a corresponding instruction. In June 2022, the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation submitted for discussion a draft law on the abolition of criminal liability for a number of tax crimes in case of payment of arrears, penalties and fines.⁴¹

In order to avoid liability for entrepreneurs’ failure to perform their obligations to counterparties, including due to any

1 imposed restrictions, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation began issuing force majeure documents free of charge.⁴² Following the consideration of Draft Law No. 216303-8 "On Amendments to the Tax Code of the Russian Federation," the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation also proposed to exempt the income of all employees, who expressed a desire to participate in the activities of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation as part of the special military operation, from taxes and contributions.⁴³

On March 2, 2022, "Opora Russia" proposed to develop a new program of concessional lending for supporting export businesses with funding for banks in the amount of 500 billion rubles.

The program is to be launched by the end of 2022.⁴⁴ "Opora Russia" also made a

3 request to grant a deferment from partial mobilization for key and highly qualified employees of small and medium-sized businesses. The document stated that small and medium-sized businesses should continue to work and cover the needs of the state and the population during the period of conscription. To do this, it is worth setting quotas for conscription from one enterprise, and in case of mobilization of the director of the company, provide several days as the relevant transitional period, so that the director can entrust own business to someone else.⁴⁵ On October 22, 2022, the transition period was granted.⁴⁶

Individual proposals of particular associations caused a mixed reaction in society. Thus, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs made proposals (more than 40 initiatives) to lower any requirements of industrial ecology in order to reduce "financial and administrative risks". These proposals concerned both current regulations and those that are not yet into force. However, a number of proposals were not supported by representatives of environmental associations. In particular, the proposal to abolish fines and payments for any damages to the environment was considered as extremely controversial.⁴⁷

6 A striking manifestation of the consolidation of the business community in Russia was the signing of the Declaration of Solidarity of Russian Business as part of the nationwide #WeAreTogether campaign.⁴⁹ While understanding the significance of the ongoing processes, the business community took an active position by proposing various initiatives to strengthen the economy and satisfy state needs, as well as providing direct assistance to participants of the special military operation and the population of new territories.

However, there were also negative examples. Individual entrepreneurs faced with a choice: They should suffer financial damages and overcome difficulties together with Russia, or, on the contrary, maintain a focus on making a profit and not provide proper and necessary support to the country. They preferred the interests of business and left the country.

Along with direct interaction, another well-established way of implementing civil initiatives is the publication of scientific and other theoretical materials on current issues. Several fundamental scientific works are used in the activities of federal and regional authorities. One of such works is "Growth Crystal. For the Russian Economic Miracle" (authors: Aleksander Galushka, Artur Niyazmetov, and Maksim Okulov) published in 2021.⁵⁰ The publication was recommended for use by representatives of political parties,⁵¹ state authorities and the expert community. The proposals of the authors were supported by the "Socially Significant Initiatives" working group of the Supreme Council of the "United Russia" party, as well as by the Civic Chamber,⁵² at the venue of which various presentations of the publication and autograph sessions of its authors were repeatedly held. According to "Labyrinth", largest publishing and bookselling holding in Russia, the book became one of the best-selling publications in the field of Economics at the end of 2021.⁵³ In 2022, it was awarded a special diploma of the prestigious Economic Book of the Year award.⁵⁴

In 2021, the authors of the publication in dialogue with representatives of civil society, experts, government bodies and auditors of the Accounts Chamber at the venue of the Civic Chamber actually tested the main ideas of the book through the analysis of the practical implementation of national projects. The work was performed as part of the activities of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. Based on its results, the relevant report with detailed proposals for adjusting and improving both the entire system of national projects and individual projects was prepared for the President of the Russian Federation. The positive resolution of the President of our country on the report became a proof of the quality of the work done.⁵⁵

According to the authors of the book, the formation of own economic sovereignty is a strategic task for the Russian Federation due to its historical peculiarities and current geopolitical challenges. At the same time, our state already has such examples, as evidenced by its historical experience. In particular, record economic growth rates during the period from the late 1920s to the 1930s, as well as remarkable recovery rates after the victory in the Great Patriotic War.

Modern planning, advanced technologies and sovereign monetary system subordinated to the goal of national economic growth should be the basis of the country's economic sovereignty.

An important issue on the agenda of creating a sovereign economy is the abandonment of the US dollar as the key currency used in mutual settlements between states. In 2022, Russia achieved certain success in this area: an agreement with the Republic of Belarus on the refusal to pay in US dollars for the supplied energy resources was reached;⁵⁶ certain types of settlements with Iran were agreed to make in national currencies;⁵⁷ EAEU countries reduced the use of the US dollar in mutual settlements up to 21%, payments in national currencies reached 75%.⁵⁸


Changes in the terms of payment for natural gas supplied from Russia to the countries of the European Union became a significant step towards strengthening the national currency. According to the new terms, all payments are to be made in Russian rubles.⁵⁹

The analysis of existing trends shows that the state and civil society are united in their desire to form not only political, but also economic sovereignty of the Russian Federation. In the new realities, Russia has a unique opportunity to form and propose a new model of economic organization to the world, while considering its past experience.

THE BANKING SYSTEM OF RUSSIA DEMONSTRATES A HIGH LEVEL OF RESILIENCE TO NEW CHALLENGES.

It was stated in the speech of Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, at the plenary session of the Valdai Discussion Club held on October 27. He pointed out that the volume of lending increased.

In November, Elvira Nabiullina, Head of the Bank of Russia, confirmed the continued growth potential in lending. She noted that the Russian banking system not only withstood the shocks of 2022, but also improved lending indicators for 2022 according to the updated forecast of the Bank of Russia.

 **Growth rate of lending to the population increased**

from **5–10%**
to **7–10%**

 **Mortgage lending forecast improved**

from **13–18%**
to **14–17%**

 **Corporate lending forecast improved**

from **5–10%**
to **10–13%**⁴⁸

SOVEREIGNIZATION OF THE RUSSIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

2.2

IN APRIL 2022, THE PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA SIGNED THE DECREE DECLARING 2022-2031 THE DECADE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION. ONE OF THE MAIN TASK MENTIONED IN THE DOCUMENT FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS IS TO INVOLVE TALENTED YOUTH INTO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE PRESIDENT NOTICED THAT "THE ACCESS TO A NEW QUALITY OF PERSONNEL TRAINING IS A PRIMARY TASK, AS WE WILL NOT HAVE A TECHNOLOGICAL FUTURE WITHOUT ITS PERFORMANCE. THIS WORK SHOULD BE DONE ALREADY AT SCHOOL. IN ANY CASE, THIS WORK SHOULD BEGIN AT SCHOOL."⁶⁰



IT specialist checks the performance of the robot for industrial purposes in the industrial robotics laboratory at Innopolis University in Tatarstan. April 12, 2022. Maxim Bogodvid / RIA Novosti

In order to achieve this goal, a single educational space, which ensures equal opportunities for the development and professional self-determination of each child, should be formed in the system of general and vocational education. The most important initiatives adopted in 2022, among which it is necessary to point out the establishment of the Russian Movement of Children and Youth and the adoption of the Concept for the Development of Additional Education, as well as the declaration of 2023 as the Year of Teacher and Mentor, are aimed at contributing to it.

In this regard, the formation of efficient and modern educational spaces in Russian schools is also important. In 2022, a large-scale program "Modernization of School Education Systems," including the overhaul and renovation of school infrastructure and the advanced training of teachers, was launched. Until the end of 2026, it is planned to renovate 7,300 schools across the country. The public oversight over the implementation of the Program is performed by the Federal Headquarters of Public Council established under the Civic Council of the Ministry of Education of the Russian



First-grade pupils at the Knowledge Day ceremony held at School No. 158 in Moscow. September 1, 2022. Ramil Sitdikov / RIA Novosti

Federation with the support of the Civic Chamber.

In 2022, the issues of forming a unified educational space were widely discussed at the venue of the Civic Chamber. The proposals of the participants of the events expressed in the framework of public hearings and discussions of the substantive basis of the regulatory support for the activities of the Russian Movement of Children and Youth, unified substantive standard for the organization of general education ("School of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation"), concept of a unified list of school textbooks formed according to the recommendations of the Civic Chamber sent to Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation.

In 2022, the development of the Russian higher education system is a key item on the agenda of the country's scientific community.

The need to reform the domestic economy in terms of sanctions pressure made it necessary to accelerate the transformation of the higher education system and refocus universities in the training of specialists on ensuring the performance of new tasks.

The process of sovereignization of the higher education system is currently implemented as a result of the joint efforts of relevant state authorities, scientific community and civil society as a whole. In April 2022, at the venue of the Civic Chamber, representatives of civil society considered various proposals for the creation of the national system for evaluating the efficiency of scientific research and development within the framework of the "Science and Universities" national project in terms of indicators of publication activity, development of leading Russian scientific journals, organization of evaluation of scientific activity by experts and related regulatory framework. Various recommendations were formulated during the event for performing the considered tasks, which determined the structure and content of the system for evaluating the efficiency of scientific activities, including: defining targets for evaluating the efficiency of research; development of the national system for the presentation of scientific results and scientific communication; establishment of a highly respected and



Participants of the student tournament for negotiations with a foreign partner of the School of Export of the Russian Export Center (REC) at the "Made in Russia" International Export Forum. October 22, 2022. Grigory Sysoev / RIA Novosti

trusted national corps of experts; development of the state system of scientific expert evaluation.

The creation of a national system for evaluating the efficiency of scientific research and development was almost completed by the end of August 2022. Valery Falkov, Head of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, noted that the evaluation of scientific performance would be performed in accordance with the national metrics, which make it possible to consider any contribution to the performance of national tasks and the achievement of national goals. However, the approach to the evaluation of scientific activities is still in the process of transformation.⁶¹

In the new economic conditions, special attention is paid to the training of personnel at universities, including future scientists.

At a meeting of the Presidential Council for Strategic Development and National Projects, Valery Falkov, Head of the Ministry

of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, pointed out the main areas for developing the system of training scientific personnel, including: social support for young scientists (in 2022, about 1 billion rubles were allocated for such purposes under the program of providing housing certificates); stimulation of scientific leadership (distribution of professional training programs for postgraduate students at universities aimed at improving the competencies of young candidates and doctors of sciences); development of the format of "industrial postgraduate studies" involving the implementation of thesis projects in the interests of and together with companies; development of the institution of targeted postgraduate studies in regional universities making it possible to send the best graduates to the country's leading universities, but with a guarantee of returning to a well-paid job after defending a thesis.⁶²

In addition to the training of scientific personnel, the training of IT specialists, who can positively influence economic development and ensure national security, is of strategic importance. In 2022, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation allocated 160,000 state-funded places in this area.

The launch of a project to establish digital departments at universities became an important step to meet the demand

in the public and business sector for IT specialists. In 2022, digital departments were established at all 106 universities participating in the "Priority 2030" program.⁶³

Russian universities are actively involved in the economic activity of the country not only as a key link in the training of qualified personnel, but also as agents of economic growth for their regions and developers of popular technologies. In September 2022, Valery Falkov announced the beginning of the competitive selection of participants for the "Priority 2030. Far East" program during the Eastern Economic Forum.⁶⁴ The goal of the program is to transform regional universities and promote the social and economic development of the Far Eastern Federal District.⁶⁵ In October 2022, following the results of the competitive selection, eight universities were announced as the participants in the "Priority 2030. Far East" program, while 20 universities of the region took part in the competitive selection. The winners of the competition are located on the territory of six regions of Russia: Primorsky Region, Amur Region, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Republic of Buryatia, Khabarovsk Region, and Kamchatka Region. In 2022, each of the eight universities received state support in the amount of 71.25 million rubles. Such funds will be used to support teachers and students, improve the material and technical base and purchase new educational and laboratory equipment. Until 2024, 5.77 billion rubles will be allocated for the development of universities participating in the "Priority 2030. Far East" program.⁶⁶

High human resources potential is a key for ensuring technological sovereignty and sustainable social and economic development of the state in general and regions in particular. The principles of formation of personnel forecasts and programs for providing regional enterprises with highly qualified specialists were considered within the framework of the round table ("Highly Qualified Personnel for the Development of Regions") held at the venue of the final "Community" forum. The experts emphasized the importance of integrating universities and organizations in the real sector of the economy in order to provide a practice-oriented project approach to the organization of educational

activities. Special attention was paid to the evaluation of the results of implementing the network form of education and aspects of expanding its use.⁶⁷

Today, representatives of civil society pay considerable attention to academic mobility in the new conditions. The sanctions imposed by unfriendly countries also affected higher education: many Russian students studying abroad faced various issues related to the impossibility of continuing their education. In this regard, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation took measures aimed at supporting such students and creating opportunities for their education at domestic universities.⁶⁸

Considering that academic mobility is still an important component in the preparation of students and the development of scientific and pedagogical personnel, the creation of a sovereign system of higher education does not imply its closeness. The refusal of unfriendly countries to cooperate with Russia stimulates the expansion of academic mobility in partner countries.

In July 2022, representatives of the scientific and civil society held a round table on the issues of increasing academic mobility in the EAEU countries at the venue of the Civic Chamber. The proposals of the participants formed the basis for the recommendations of the Civic Chamber sent to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation. One of the key initiatives contributing to the development of academic mobility in the EAEU countries is the establishment of the Eurasian Network University and the study of issues of its legal status, as well as the unification of requirements for educational standards and programs.

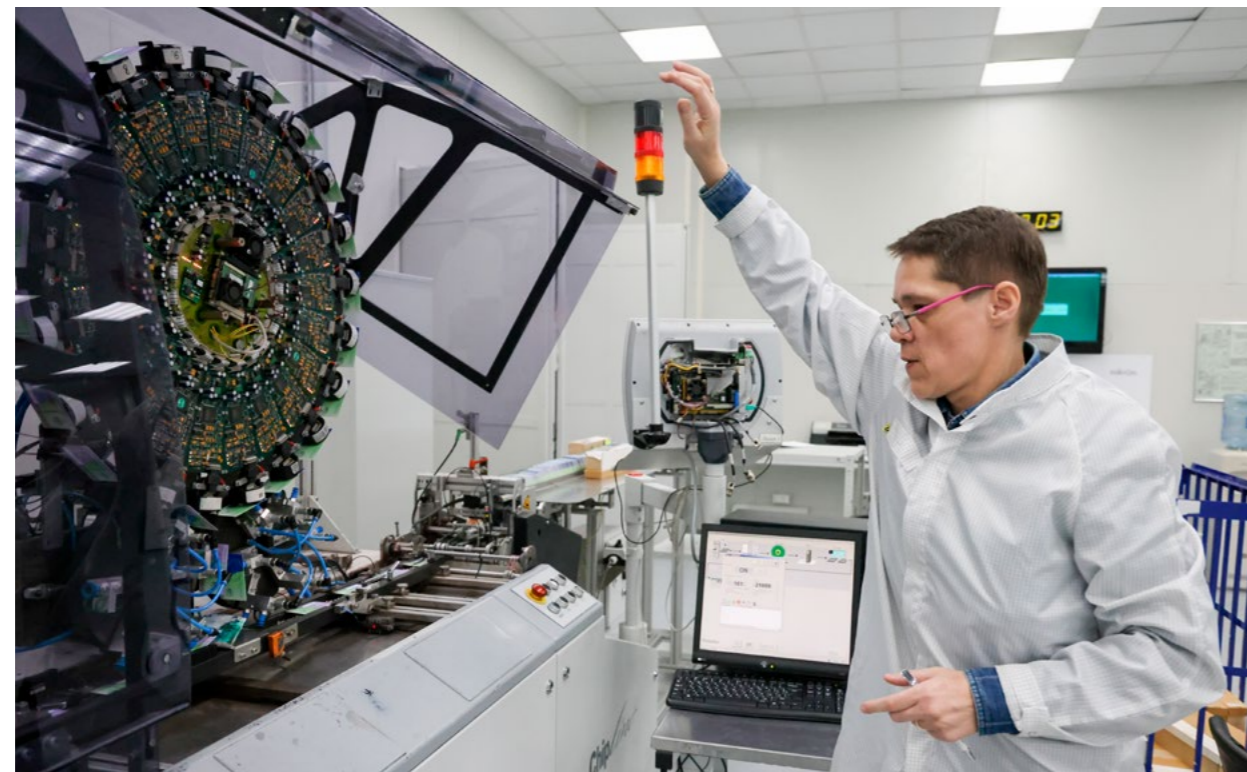


Mikhail Mishustin, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, talks with the winners of economic olympiads on the sidelines of the Moscow Financial Forum held at the Manezh Central Exhibition Hall. September 8, 2022. Dmitry Astakhov / RIA Novosti

KEY PRINCIPLES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY

2.3

TODAY, ECONOMIC MOBILIZATION IS BECOMING ONE OF THE KEY DIRECTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT. BACK IN JULY 2022, VLADIMIR PUTIN SIGNED THE FEDERAL LAW "ON AMENDING CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE ACTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION" REGULATING THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE ARMED FORCES DURING COUNTER-TERRORISM AND OTHER OPERATIONS OUTSIDE RUSSIA.⁶⁹ ACCORDING TO THE FEDERAL LAW, LEGAL ENTITIES ARE NOT ENTITLED TO REFUSE TO SIGN A NUMBER OF CONTRACTS, WHICH WILL ALLOW TO MOBILIZE THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR ACHIEVING THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES.⁷⁰



Production of tickets and cards with chips at the Mikron plant. The Mikron Group of Companies, which is the largest manufacturer and exporter of microelectronics in Russia, produces more than 700 types of products, including integrated circuits for secure storage media, identification, payment and transport documents, power management and labeling solutions, for various sectors of the digital economy. Moscow (Zelenograd), March 23, 2022. Anton Novoderezhkin / TASS

The scenario of economic mobilization in the macroeconomic forecast was also discussed at the meeting of the State Duma Committee on Budget and Taxes in October 2022. The mobilization economy will make it possible to create prerequisites for increasing the role of public investment, since the business sector has become less active in investing for development issues in terms of uncertainty. Fears are caused by certain elements of the mobilization economy, such as forced state orders and money emission, which cause inflation, but there are no signs of such trends at present.⁷¹

The mobilization economy does not exclude the wide use of market mechanisms. In turn, the creation of the strategic planning system, including accountability mechanisms and the subordination of monetary policy to the goals of economic growth and increase in the welfare of the population may have a positive effect. Similar economic model is currently used, for example, in China.⁷²

While considering the currently achieved level of unity between society and the state, the formation of a new, socially-oriented and independent economy as a tool for ensuring a decent life for each person and fulfilling his or her talents and opportunities is of particular relevance.

In turn, while understanding the unprecedented importance of technological sovereignty, the Government of the Russian Federation is taking measures aimed at developing and supporting the independence of Russian technologies and launching own production facilities.

In particular, Dmitry Chernyshenko, Deputy Prime Minister, while noting the significant role of programmers in achieving technological sovereignty, said that the Government provides IT specialists with a whole range of support measures: from tax preferences and preferential mortgages to deferment from military service.

According to the President's instruction, the quality of their training in universities

is being improved, and the number of state-funded places is growing every year. Within the framework of the "Digital Economy" national program, the "Digital Professions" project is being implemented.⁷³

Separate work is being performed on the development of quantum computing solutions as part of the joint activities of the Government and the Russian Academy of Sciences aimed at achieving technological sovereignty.⁷⁴

During the VIII Russian Forum "Microelectronics 2022," Dmitry Chernyshenko noted that, according to the current situation, microelectronics is one of the most demanded and promising areas of the coming years, which means that it is an integral part of our joint work to achieve technological sovereignty, the importance of which is repeatedly mentioned by the President. The era of globalization in the global semiconductor industry has come to an end. And in the context of a global trend towards the creation of local closed technological ecosystems, the only way for Russia is to create its own high-tech radioelectronic industry.

From February to April, the Government held several strategic sessions, where leading industry experts proposed various scenarios for supporting and developing microelectronics. Many initiatives are included in the activities of new federal projects, the formation of which is at the final stage. At the same time, as a result, an increase in the investment attractiveness of the industry is already noted.⁷⁵

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Innovation Promotion Foundation hold the "Student Startup" competition, which is aimed at supporting business ideas, helping to bring innovative products to the market and filling vacant niches. 1,000 students became the winners of different competition grants of 1 million rubles each for the implementation of startups. Their implementation will contribute to the performance of the tasks set by the President to achieve the technological sovereignty of the country and ensure its economic security.⁷⁶

As part of the work on the transition of Russian enterprises to domestic software, 335 projects (216 projects were selected and approved) were proposed. For such purposes, the budget provides more than 28 billion rubles. At the same time, businesses will invest more than 155 billion rubles in selected projects. It will satisfy the needs of customers and achieve the export potential of Russian solutions. The first results are expected to be seen in 2023 and 2024. It is also planned to systematize and approve the projects of competence centers for the development of system-wide and applied software in the near future.

IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS SPIEF-2022 SPEECH, VLADIMIR PUTIN POINTED OUT **SIX** MAIN PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY OF RUSSIA

- 1** **OPENNESS**

Despite the sanctions pressure, Russia does not seek to isolate itself from the whole world, but is ready to contribute to global development and expand interaction with everyone who is interested in equal cooperation.
- 2** **RELIANCE ON BUSINESS FREEDOM**

Each private initiative aimed at the development of Russia should receive support and opportunity for its implementation. The state intends to continue reducing the administrative burden on the business sector. In particular, by refusing to inspect businesses whose activities are not associated with a high risk of harm to the environment and the health of citizens.
- 3** **RESPONSIBLE AND BALANCED MACROECONOMIC POLICY**

This approach has already demonstrated its efficiency in practice, and Russia intends to adhere to it in the future.
- 4** **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

The development of the economy should, first of all, lead to a reduction in inequality in society. The growth of real incomes of citizens and the reduction of poverty are an indicator of the efficient work. The well-being of people remains the most important factor in the economic development of the country.
- 5** **ADVANCED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

By increasing budget expenses to strengthen any transport infrastructure, the state sets the task of repairing at least 85% of the federal highway network over the next five years. It also provides a comprehensive modernization of housing and communal services, solution of issues of citizens living in emergency housing, overhaul of residential buildings.
- 6** **ACHIEVEMENT OF TECHNOLOGICAL SOVEREIGNTY**

Independence from foreign institutions is a crosscutting principle that unites the goals and tasks of economic development. It is necessary to strive to create an integral system of economic development and develop our own technologies.⁷⁷



Girl wearing VR glasses at the IX International Technological Development Forum "TECHNOPROM 2022" in Novosibirsk. August 24, 2022. Rostislav Netisov / RIA Novosti

In order to ensure the competitiveness of products of Russian developers in foreign markets, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation jointly created a digital attache service.⁷⁸

On November 10, 2022, the Government included the RuStore app store in the list of applications for mandatory pre-installation on electronic devices.

It will provide Russian users with uninterrupted access to popular digital services and applications in the context of external restrictions.

RuStore was developed on behalf of Mikhail Mishustin, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation. It was developed by VKontakte together with the largest Russian IT companies with the support of the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation.⁷⁹

At the end of 2022, it can be stated that Russian business currently has an active position in filling niches vacated due to the departure of foreign companies. At the same time, in order to support entrepreneurs, the Government currently implements the principles of the new economy by creating conditions for the development of Russian citizens, showing openness, relying on the initiatives of the scientific and professional community in the preparation of state decisions, thereby laying the basis for the rapid development of the economy and the achievement of full technological sovereignty.

IMPORT INDEPENDENCE AS THE BASIS OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECURITY. SUBSTITUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

sanctions. Thus, the ban on the import of grain from Russia introduced by Ukraine in 2016, led to the mobilization of the efforts of entrepreneurs and the state to find new markets. As a result, already in 2016, Russia became the world leader in sales of wheat for export purposes,⁸² while the record grain exports from Russia caused the bankruptcy of US companies in 2018.⁸³ Therefore, even today agriculture has every chance of becoming a driving force of the Russian economy.

In addition, representatives of the public⁸⁴ highly appreciate the natural and climatic potential of the new annexed territories for the development of various areas of agriculture. However, they note that today, due to prolonged hostilities, significant damage has been caused to all socially significant infrastructure, including the agro-industrial complex the indicated regions.

At present, volunteer work is being actively performed to establish interaction with representatives of state authorities in the field of agriculture in the new territories, as well as with representatives of agricultural manufacturers for their adaptation and legal education.⁸⁵

An emerging need to develop our own production capacities and base of genetic resources and produce veterinary drugs is a factor for the development of Russian industry and science for industry purposes with thoughtful and purposeful state support for the relevant activities.

The Government of the Russian Federation has adopted a whole list of measures aimed at stabilizing the domestic food market and supporting agricultural manufacturers.⁸⁶ In particular: a temporary ban on the export of rapeseeds (until February 2023), temporary introduction of an export duty on soybeans (until August 31, 2024), stabilization of prices for agricultural products through the use of reserve funds of the state fund, building of new breeding and genetic centers, preferential loans to farmers.

2.4

THE FOOD SECURITY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION STIPULATES THE STATE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY, WHICH ENSURES THE FOOD INDEPENDENCE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION; SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF THE MAIN TYPES OF DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, RAW MATERIALS AND FOOD; GUARANTEED PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC ACCESS FOR EACH CITIZEN TO FOOD PRODUCTS THAT COMPLY WITH MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS AND RATIONAL STANDARDS.⁸⁰

The analysis of the state of the agro-industrial and fishery complexes⁸¹ as of May 1, 2022 showed that the shortage of tractors in Russia is about 70 thousand units, combine harvesters – 37 thousand units, share of imported equipment used in keeping farm animals and poultry – high, annual imports in dairy cattle breeding – about 35-50 thousand heads, import of semen of sires – about 4.8 million doses. In 2021, 211 types of vaccines for veterinary use are imported into the Russian Federation. The need for amino acids and vitamins, especially those that are not produced in the Russian Federation, is satisfied by the import of raw materials. The production of food eggs is performed using 9 crosses of poultry, of which 6 are of foreign selection (with different scope of initial, grandparental and parental forms). In 2021, the import volume of fish, fish products and seafood compared to 2020 increased by 91.7 thousand tons (by 15.3%).

The importance of achieving import independence as a necessary and possible solution to most of today's economic issues has been repeatedly noted not only by the government, but also by representatives of civil society.

Both the state and society are unanimous in their opinion that the withdrawal of a number of foreign manufacturers of food products from the Russian market in terms of growing sanctions pressure from the "collective West" has vacated a niche for the activities of domestic agricultural manufacturers, including small-seized (individual entrepreneurs) and peasant (farms, etc.) manufacturers, which previously found it difficult to break into the market due to the dominance of foreign "giants."

The basis for this consolidation may be the accumulated experience of dealing with



Agricultural machinery at the stand of the Rostselmash company at the International Agricultural Exhibition "YUGAGRO 2022" in the Krasnodar Region. November 22, 2022. Vitaly Timkiv / RIA Novosti



Harvesting wheat near the Talniki village, Uzhursky district, Krasnoyarsk Region. September 22, 2022. Ilya Naimushin / RIA Novosti

According to representatives of civil society and agricultural manufacturers, the measures taken by the state to support the agro-industrial complex may create all the necessary conditions for the development of the industry and the full provision of the country's population with high-quality food (meat, milk, flour, etc.) of domestic production, as well as attract new farmers and investors and turn farming into a prestigious and profitable business.

The announced partial mobilization served as another challenge to maintain the stable functioning of the industry and ensure the relevant food security.

Representatives of the rural community and agricultural manufacturers, which fully supported the patriotic, political and social significance of the decision to perform partial mobilization and actively drew the attention of the state to the issues of farmers regarding this process.⁸⁷

In response to the request, amendments stipulating that all mobilized citizens, who are individual entrepreneurs, founders (participants) of organizations, as well as exercising the powers of the sole executive body, are not subject to any restrictions and prohibitions under the Federal Law "On Status of Servicemen" regarding the performance of entrepreneurial activities. Such citizens are entitled to make a decision on the performance of entrepreneurial activities via proxies and have the possibility of providing five working days for resolving organizational issues related to the further performance of entrepreneurial activities, were made to the current legislation.⁸⁸

This year, active cooperation between the state and civil institutions has already shown good results.

On September 12, 2022, at a meeting with the Deputy Prime Ministers, Mikhail Mishustin announced that, according to the President's instruction, the Government had updated the strategy for the development of the agro-industrial and fishery complexes for the period up to 2030.

He also noted that the President set the task to consider the current challenges in this strategy and create conditions for the expansion of the industry in all major areas.

Today, Russia is in the top ten countries of the world in terms of value added in the agro-industrial sector and one of the largest suppliers of wheat and sunflower. Domestic farms fully satisfy the needs of the country in such important products as meat, fish, grain, sugar and vegetable oil.

According to the information available in the official Telegram channel of the Government of the Russian Federation, the record grain harvest was reached in Russia in 2022. The production of potatoes, greenhouse vegetables, fruits, soybeans and rapeseed also increased.⁸⁹

At the same time, the creation and expansion of the range of domestic goods and technologies is certainly a popular direction in terms of sanctions pressure and restrictions on imports to Russia. However, the efficiency of import independence is determined not by the quantity of substituted products, but by their quality and competitiveness. The main indicator of the evaluation is the demand for Russian-made goods not only in the external, but also in the domestic market.

It should be noted that Russian society is currently expressing its readiness for transition to domestic products. Thus, according to the PRO Brand communication agency, prior to the imposition of anti-Russian sanctions in February 2022, only 7% of Russians were interested in the country of origin when buying goods. In May 2022, the indicator increased to 40%. At the same time, in some cases (cosmetics,⁹⁰ washing powders⁹¹), voluntary refusal of citizens from any imported products was noted. According to the results of a joint survey conducted by the Vprok.ru online hypermarket, "Perekrestok" and the "ResearchMe" research center, 44% of Russians are ready for the full transition to domestic products.

Representatives of civil society are also actively working to educate and promote domestic products. Various groups in the VKontakte social network (for example, "Buy

Russian!",⁹² "RU MARKET"⁹³), which are aimed at promoting Russian goods, are created.

In this vein, industrial tourism, the purpose of which, among other things, is to promote Russian brands, gets special significance. The Agency for Strategic Initiatives (ASI) and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation are implementing the Acceleration Program for the Development of Industrial Tourism as a mechanism for improving the image of Russian enterprises and building consumer loyalty to Russian brands.⁹⁴

According to the results of 2021, 250 enterprises as part of 30 regional teams were trained; 285 excursions to enterprises were organized as part of the accelerator; 150 routes were developed by regional teams; 30 regions prepared own industrial tourism development strategies and 53 regions applied for participation in the accelerator.⁹⁵

In addition, there is an active development of the agritourism industry. For Russian manufacturers, there is an additional opportunity to promote and sell their products, while it is another direction of domestic tourism for citizens, which helps to know more about the rural lifestyle, culture and customs, familiarizing with local handicrafts, cooking traditional dishes, agriculture and farming.

In 2022, a special measure of state support ("Agritourism" grant) helped in the implementation of 51 projects for the development of rural tourism. According to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, next year the amount of grant support will increase, while the number of funded projects will increase to 71.

The image of Russian food products is also improved by numerous events to promote the goods of Russian manufacturers, which traditionally attract a lot of attention and arouse interest among the citizens of our country. One of them is the "Tastes of Russia" national competition organized by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.⁹⁶

The project is aimed at introducing consumers to the diversity of Russian tastes and stimulating the development of regional food brands.

Thus, while considering the experience of resisting sanctions pressure from 2014, as well as the readiness and interest of citizens in providing support to domestic entrepreneurs (Russian business in occupying vacant niches, and state authorities in ensuring such activities), it can be assumed that the fundamental foundations for the transition to the new Russian economy are currently formed.



TRADITIONAL VALUES

03

<u>42</u>	Preservation and strengthening of traditional spiritual and moral values
<u>46</u>	Interethnic and religious diversity and unity
<u>48</u>	Family and childhood protection
<u>52</u>	Patriotic education
<u>56</u>	Protection and preservation of national treasure and historical and cultural heritage

Family with children on a lavender field in Crimea. Lavender plantations occupy more than 120 hectares in the Bakhchisaray district near the Turgenevka village.
Konstantin Mikhailchevsky / RIA Novosti

PRESERVATION AND STRENGTHENING OF TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL AND MORAL VALUES

3.1

THE TOPIC OF PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF RUSSIAN TRADITIONAL VALUES BY THE END OF THE FIRST DECADE OF THE 2000s BEGAN TO GRADUALLY COME TO THE FORE (FIRSTLY, IN EXPERT DISCUSSIONS, AND THEN IN PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS), WHICH WAS CAUSED, FIRST OF ALL, BY THE ISSUE OF NATURAL EXPANSION OF THE WESTERN VALUE SYSTEM TO RUSSIA AND THE FORMATION OF A MASS CULTURE OF CONSUMPTION IN THE COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO EXPERTS' OPINION, THE CURRENT SITUATION ALLOWED TO TALK ABOUT THE "LOST" GENERATION, GROWING CONFLICT OF GENERATIONAL IDENTITIES, AND OPPOSITION OF VALUE WORLDS INSIDE RUSSIAN SOCIETY.



Girl draws a picture at the Church of the Hieromartyr Kirill of Kazan, Kazan. In July, the Russian Orthodox Church celebrates the day of memory of Saints Peter and Fevronia, patrons of the family and marriage. July 8, 2021. Maxim Bogodvid / RIA Novosti



Photo exhibition ("Heroes with an Eternal Russian Heart") held in the Muzeon Park of Arts in Moscow. October 12, 2022. Eugeny Odionkov / RIA Novosti

In recent years, a request for the preservation and protection of traditional values, which was reflected in their gradual specification in the Constitution of the Russian Federation and state strategic planning documents determining the vision of the goals and tasks of state policy for years to come, such as the Fundamentals of State Cultural Policy, Strategy for the Development of Education in the Russian Federation for the Period up to 2025, Information Society Development Strategy, National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation, etc., is formed in society.

The most important changes in the legislation occurred in 2020-2021 when amendments establishing traditional values as the basic values (value orientations) of Russian society were enshrined in the country's Basic Law following the results of the constitutional referendum.

The Decree of the President of the Russian Federation⁹⁷ established the need to

protect the traditional Russian spiritual and moral values and the country's culture and historical memory defined by the Constitution of the Russian Federation in the new version of the National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation.

On June 27, 2022, during a meeting of the Council for the Implementation of State Policy in the Sphere of Family and Children Protection, the President of the Russian Federation once again drew attention to the importance of unifying the concept of "spiritual and moral values." Vladimir Putin instructed the Government of the Russian Federation to harmonize and unify the definitions of the concepts ("spiritual and moral values" and "spiritual and moral upbringing") in legal acts regulating issues of patriotic upbringing.⁹⁸

Moreover, the President instructed the Government of the Russian Federation to enshrine the relevant state financing (in particular, for shooting feature films for children and youth and organizing visits to cinemas by schoolchildren on a budgetary basis in order to watch feature, documentary, popular science, educational and animated films aimed at the comprehensive development of children and adolescents basis of traditional Russian spiritual and moral values) in the current legislation.

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On September 30, 2022, the President of the Russian Federation made an appeal to the nation, in which, among other things, attention was focused on such a trend characteristic of the current state of Western countries as a transition to a radical denial of moral standards, religion and family customs as institutions where the worldview of children and, consequently, the entire civil society in the future was formed.

A further continuation of the work on defining the system of goals, objectives and tools for implementing the strategic national priority ("Protection of Traditional Russian Spiritual and Moral Values, Culture and Historical Memory") became the draft Decree of the President of the Russian Federation "On Approval of the Fundamentals of State Policy for the Preservation and Strengthening of Traditional Russian Spiritual and Moral Values" prepared by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation in accordance with the previously adopted National Security Strategy.

The text of the draft decree reproduced the list of traditional Russian spiritual and moral values published in Article 91 of the National Security Strategy, proposed a

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definition of traditional values, contained the thesis on the need to develop a scientifically based system of indicators of the efficiency of state policy to preserve and strengthen traditional Russian spiritual and moral values, as well as included the need to establish an interdepartmental coordination body endowed with broad powers in the field of their protection.

While considering the wide public outcry caused by the publication of the draft decree⁹⁹ and the different positions taken with regard to the evaluation of the submitted document, the Civic Chamber performed the examination of the published draft decree, during which various opinions of citizens and public organizations were considered and analyzed.

Having supported the main idea of the draft decree on implementing the principle of protecting the traditional values of the peoples of Russia as a national priority at state and national levels, the Civic Chamber formulated proposals and comments on the draft decree on the basis of results and opinions expressed during the examination, while indentifying that the draft decree submitted by the ministry should be further discussed and significantly revised.

Based on the results of public discussions in mid-February 2022, the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation suspended public debates of the draft decree in order to develop new approaches to the preparation of the document. The Civic Chamber noted that the continuation of work to consolidate the efforts of civil society and representatives of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian

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Participants of the "Candle of Memory" action near the Victory Museum in Moscow. Veterans, honored guests and volunteers lit exactly 1,418 candles from the Fire of Memory and Glory (according to the number of days of the Great Patriotic War). June 22, 2022. Eugeny Odinkov / RIA Novosti

Federation in the future will make it possible to objectively consider all opinions, arguments and comments and develop a high-quality strategic document that will help preserve and strengthen the traditional system of values and historical memory in the Russian Federation.

On November 9, 2022, this Decree was signed by the President of the Russian Federation. The approval of the strategic document became an important event in the life of Russian society. It is especially significant that the final document was prepared considering the numerous opinions and positions of various groups of society, including religious organizations, whose teachings formed the basis of traditional spiritual and moral values.

The final version of the strategic document also considered the proposals of the Civic Chamber regarding the preservation and enhancement of human potential, religious diversity, as well as threats to cultural sovereignty.

The Civic Chamber noted that it is necessary to perform further substantive work to develop mechanisms for implementing the requirements of the Decree, explain it to public organizations and associations and determine specific activities of all state authorities responsible for its implementation. Today in Russia, at the legislative level, various protection mechanisms preventing any propaganda of suicide, drugs, extremism and criminal behavior as negative and socially dangerous phenomena are created. At the same time, there has been no formal legal prohibition on the promotion of nontraditional sexual relations.

On October 20, 2022, the deputies of the State Duma introduced relevant draft laws in order to establish a mechanism for protecting society and children from any destructive information related to the promotion of nontraditional sexual relations.

The adoption of the proposed draft laws has become another important step for protecting the traditional ideas about the family, motherhood and childhood, which ensure the continuous change of generations, is a condition for the preservation and development of the multinational people of the Russian Federation. Therefore, people need special protection from the state.



Participants of the motor rally in support of the special military operation in Ukraine in one of the public gardens of Sevastopol. Several public movements, such as "Blockpost Sevastopol" and "Sevastopol without Fascism" as the organizers of the motor rally. March 3, 2022. Anna Sadovnikova / RIA Novosti

INTERETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY AND UNITY

3.2

INTERETHNIC AND INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS DURING THE LONG HISTORY OF RUSSIA HAVE BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL POLICY OF THE STATE. THEIR UNDERESTIMATION REPEATEDLY LEAD TO SERIOUS POLITICAL CRISES THREATING ITS INTEGRITY.



Participants of the "Waltz of the Peoples of Russia" action dance to Georgy Sviridov's "Snowstorm" in front of the Friendship of Peoples Fountain, Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy (VDNH), Moscow. The action is held on the International Day of Peace as part of the Year of the Cultural Heritage of the Peoples of Russia. September 21, 2022. Vladimir Vyatkin / RIA Novosti

In recent years, the state and civil society have come a long way in the formation and implementation of the current and efficient model of state national policy, the Presidential Council for Interethnic Relations and the Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs are established, and the Strategy for State National Policy for the Period up to 2025 is developed, in the implementation of which the role of civil society institutions in the sphere of interethnic and interreligious relations is fundamentally increased. The measures taken to form a new management system and infrastructure for the implementation of the national policy made it possible to restore the ethnocultural sovereignty of Russia and ensure the return of the state to the sphere of ethnopolitics.

Today, ethnocultural and religious associations, interethnic organizations and their NPOs actively interact with the state on the widest range of key national tasks. Among such public organizations and associations, the Assemblies of the Peoples of Russia, Eurasia, representatives of indigenous peoples, All-Russian Public Movement "Senezh Forum," Russian cultural centers, ethnovillages, houses of ethnicities and ethnocultural centers in various regions of the country, and many other nongovernmental organizations

dealing with issues of the country's national policy and harmonization of interethnic relations may be pointed out.

Acting as partners of state authorities, they are those irreplaceable institutions of civil society, without which the coordination of relations between citizens and the state in the field of interreligious and interethnic relations at the present stage may be significantly difficult.

The high importance of maintaining and improving harmonious interethnic and interfaith relations in Russian society was confirmed by the signing of the decree on holding the Year of the Cultural Heritage of the Peoples of Russia in 2022,¹⁰⁰ within the framework of which a large number of events, scientific conferences, round tables, actions, master classes, forums, exhibitions and projects dedicated to languages, religions, traditions and customs of the peoples of Russia, by the President of the Russian Federation on December 31, 2021.

The Civic Chamber also conducted its work within the framework of the Year of Cultural Heritage. Under the auspices of the Civic Chamber, the VI Media Forum of Ethnic and Regional Media,¹⁰¹ All-Russian Musical Project "EthnoLife",¹⁰² International Online Forum "Linguistic Diversity as the Basis of the Ethnocultural Identity of the Peoples of Eurasia",¹⁰³ Conference "Meaning of Teachings of Saints Cyril and Methodius for the Preservation of the Slavic Civilization",¹⁰⁴ Scientific and Practical Conference "Role of the Religious Factor in the Formation of the All-Russian Civil Identity",¹⁰⁵ III All-Russian Conference "Sustainable Development of the Ethnocultural Sector",¹⁰⁶ and a number of other events for strengthening and expanding the interconfessional and interethnic dialogue in the country were performed. One of the clearest evidence of the rise of interest in the ethnic and religious diversity of our country among Russians was the growing popularity of the account of Margarita Lyange, member of the Civic Chamber, in the TikTok social network. There the founder of the Guild of Interethnic Journalism regularly publishes colorful videos about the traditions of various peoples and ethnic groups living in Russia.

By the end of October, the number of channel subscribers reached 800,000 people, while the number of views of the video content posted on the channel in October exceeded 21 million views.¹⁰⁷

The state's long-term work on harmonizing interethnic and interreligious relations in the country is also positively assessed by Russian society. According to the results of a survey conducted by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM), 81.1% of Russians highly appreciate the state of interethnic relations. Citizens of the country specify a number of achievements of national unity. They include the strengthening of the status of the Russian language and bringing the study of the national languages of the peoples of Russia from 80% today to 100% by 2024, the establishment and strengthening of the Houses of Friendship and the Houses of Ethnicities and the Assembly of the Peoples of Russia and the ongoing expansion of the House of the Peoples of Russia in Moscow.¹⁰⁸

It allows us to conclude that the current model of the state national policy has justified itself, while showing its efficiency and being in demand by Russian society.

Today, in the face of new geopolitical challenges, this model needs to be adjusted. It is necessary to mobilize and strengthen the unity of the multinational people of Russia, strengthen the responsibility and attention of all branches of state power for preventing any discrimination and possible infringement of the interests of citizens of our country on ethnical and confessional grounds.

One of the primary tasks of the implementation of the national policy in terms of new challenges is the preservation and enhancement of traditional spiritual and moral values, which are an inseparable part of the entire diversity of national cultures of the Russian Federation.

The strengthening of the role of the family, improvement of the quality of life of families with children and promotion of family values as the basic values of Russian society uniting of all the peoples of Russia are becoming primary tasks not only for the state demographic policy, but also for the formation of national identity.

While considering the large-scale changes that have taken place this year in the country and the world, in October 2022, the State Duma together and the Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs began to develop an updated law on the basis of the state national policy.¹⁰⁹

The issue of interethnic and interreligious relations has always been a very delicate and in many ways acute issue. This year has shown that, despite all attempts to quarrel the multi-confessional people of Russia and challenge its unity, the state managed to maintain interethnic peace and stability in the country in direct interaction with society.

FAMILY AND CHILDHOOD PROTECTION

3.3

IN RECENT YEARS, THE SITUATION IN THE SPHERE OF DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT IN RUSSIA HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY COMPLICATED. THE GROWTH OF THE POPULATION LOSS CAUSED BY THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND SERIOUS BIRTH RATE PROBLEMS ACQUIRED A THREATENING CHARACTER OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS INDICATE THE NEED TO SEARCH FOR NEW APPROACHES TO THE ISSUES OF ENSURING THE DEMOGRAPHIC STABILITY OF THE NATION.

On May 25, 2022, during a meeting of the State Council Presidium on Social Support for Citizens, the President of the Russian Federation noted that a strong and prosperous family with many children should become the basic response to the country's demographic challenge. Vladimir Putin emphasized that it was necessary to return the historical tradition of large families, which had to be established as a standard and value orientation for society and the most important priority for the state.¹¹⁰

Over the past decade, the Russian Federation has performed a large-scale comprehensive work on the practical implementation of key areas of the state family policy intended to promote the birth and upbringing of children, as well as to ensure their protection. With the direct participation of civil society, the state has built an integral system of measures of social support for families with children in need. Today, the state provides support for women during pregnancy and childbirth and possibility of treating children in case of illness, helps in the upbringing and education of children and creates opportunities for organizing their recreation. Special conditions are created by the state for families with children who are in difficult living conditions.

The existing support measures for such families include direct cash payments and a

wide range of nonmaterial assistance in the form of various social services.

From April 1, 2022, a new payment for children from 8 to 17 years old who are brought up in low-income families began to be made. With the introduction of such measure, the support system was expanded to children of all ages and covered all categories of low-income citizens. The introduction of the new payment will make it possible, if necessary, to provide targeted support to the family throughout the entire period of the child's growing up, from the early stages of the mother's pregnancy and the birth of the child up to the age of majority.

In 2022, an important decision in the framework of providing assistance to Russian families was the adoption of a federal law developed in pursuance of the President's instructions to create an integrated system of measures of social support for families with children.¹¹¹ By the provisions of the law, instead of the current support measures for pregnant women registered in the early stages of pregnancy and families with children under 17 years of age, a single allowance is introduced for such categories of citizens with incomes below one regional subsistence minimum (together with a comprehensive evaluation of needs). The changes will come into effect on January 1, 2023.



Child sleeps in the mother's arms during the receipt of the Russian birth certificate at the City Administration of Vasilievka, Zaporozhye region. August 10, 2022. Konstantin Mikhailchevsky / RIA Novosti

The draft law was considered during the public examination at the venue of the Civic Chamber by representatives of various civil society institutions. The idea of the draft law, which stipulates to take various measures aimed at the formation of a cross-cutting and integral system of the state family policy, unified approach in all regions of the Russian Federation for preventing poverty and increasing the social security of the family, was supported.

However, the participants came up with proposals to establish additional guarantees for family support during periods of unstable situation on the labor market, social security for large families, as well as child care benefits for certain categories of citizens.

The Civic Chamber notes that, in making decisions on social support for families with children, especially those families who are in difficult life situations for one reason or another, while taking the position of society, the state responds quite flexibly to requests

for possible adjustments to existing mechanisms support. The constant expansion of opportunities for the use of maternity capital may be considered as an example of such interaction between representatives of the authorities and society.

Currently, they may pay for the services of a private teacher, nonstate kindergarten or school.¹¹²

In May 2022, the proposals of the Civic Chamber on measures to support large families were included in the Report of the State Council "On Tasks of the Regions of the Russian Federation in Supporting Families with Children."

A significant step in supporting large families as a traditional family value and a basic response to the current demographic challenges of the country was the establishment of the highest honorary title of the Russian Federation ("Mother Heroine"). On May 25, 2022, at a meeting of the State Council Presidium on Social Support, the President of the Russian Federation¹¹³ supported the initiative of social activists to establish and, in fact, return the highest title of "Mother Heroine".

On August 15, 2022, the President of the Russian Federation signed the decree on the establishment of this

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highest title awarded to Russian women who had given birth and adequately raised ten or more children. It also stipulated the payment of 1 million rubles.

At the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation increased lump-sum payments up to 500,000 rubles for the Order of Parental Glory awarded to families with seven or more children.¹¹⁴ A new lump-sum payment of 200,000 rubles was also established for parents who were awarded the medal of the Order of Parental Glory and raised four or more children.¹¹⁵

It is impossible not to mention the Father's Day,¹¹⁶ a holiday celebrated for the second year in the country and symbolizing the formation of a strong paternal social movement in Russia. Today, fathers' councils, where socially responsible fathers are engaged not only in raising their children, but also helping other families, implementing projects in the field of children's environment safety and helping

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single fathers, as well as being engaged in the patriotic education of children and youth, may be found in almost every region.

The continuation of the state's activities in forming strategic value orientations based on the high role of the family led to the establishment of the Day of Family, Love and Fidelity on July 8 by the relevant decree of the President of the Russian Federation.¹¹⁷ The Day of Family, Love and Fidelity was celebrated in 2022 for the 15th time as a significant date in our country and for the first time as a public holiday of the Russian Federation.

The annual awarding of families with medals ("For Love and Loyalty") established by the Foundation for Social and Cultural Initiatives became a good holiday tradition. This year, such an award was also presented to 40 families from the Lugansk and Donetsk People's Republics. The awards became a symbol of the unity of families, people and civil society.¹¹⁸

The Civic Chamber, for its part, has repeatedly noted that in order to perform the tasks of the demographic agenda, the comprehensive interdepartmental implementation of medical, social, economic and cultural measures, where, in addition to protecting family health and strategies for

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The large Amelin family participates in the population census through the "Gosuslugi" website at their home in Murmansk. October 20, 2021. Kirill Kallinikov / RIA Novosti

strengthening social guarantees, the issues of creating health saving environment and forming proper reproductive behavior should occupy a key place, is required.

In order to ensure the reproductive potential of the generation of women over the age of 30 and encourage large families, the Civic Chamber sent its proposals to the head of the Social Policy working group of the State Council of the Russian Federation, including the introduction of federal family payment for many children in the amount of 1 million rubles and an educational subsidy of up to 250,000 rubles per year for children from large families to receive education, increase to the subsistence level of the minimum monthly allowance for pregnant women being registered in the early stages of pregnancy and standard tax deduction for children when calculating personal income tax. In the near future, the relevant payments will be made to large families of the Primorsky Region in a pilot mode.¹¹⁹

Today, in the context of the special military operation in Donbass, issues of support and social and economic protection of the families of mobilized servicemen come to the fore in public discussions.

The resolution to grant a deferment for men raising three or more children or

children with disabilities became an important step in supporting large families in terms of partial mobilization. A large number of questions from citizens on this topic were sent to the Commissioner for Children's Rights under the President of the Russian Federation and the Commissioner for Children's Rights in the regions. On October 4, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation supported the proposals of the children's ombudsmen and granted a deferment to fathers of three or more children under 16 years of age, as well as fathers of three or more children under 18 years of age (in case of disability or palliative status of a child).¹²⁰

Other measures applied to family members of servicemen include credit holidays for mobilized citizens, exemption from penalties for late payments on housing and communal services, as well as labor guarantees, according to which mobilized citizens and volunteers will retain their jobs. The State Duma is considering expanded and additional measures to help mobilized citizens and their families. In addition, the regions of the Russian Federation are developing and implementing their own measures.¹²¹

The Civic Chamber notes that in the context of demographic challenges faced by the state and Russian society large families should become a value target and social norm in Russian society, and young people must strive to create families and be focused on having children.

Today, the education of the younger generation on the basis of traditional spiritual and moral values is the most important task. A prosperous large family as the basis of Russia's demographic development will become a sign of its successful solution.



Participants of the "Prosperous Large Family – National Idea and Basic Response to Demographic Challenges" session held as part of the final "Community" forum of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. Moscow, November 3, 2022. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

PATRIOTIC EDUCATION

3.4

A WIDE PUBLIC DEMAND FOR THE PATRIOTIC EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH HAS BEEN FORMED IN OUR COUNTRY OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. IN 2022, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW RUSSIAN MOVEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH FOUNDED BY 26 LARGEST CHILDREN AND YOUTH PUBLIC-STATE AND PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS WAS ONE OF THE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THIS SPHERE.



Visitor during the XI Interregional Festival of Slavic Art "Russian Field" at the Kolomenskoye Historical and Architectural Museum and Reserve in Moscow. August 27, 2022. Kirill Kallinikov / RIA Novosti

The idea of establishing the movement was first voiced at a meeting of the Supervisory Board of ANO "Russia – the Land of Opportunities".¹²² Diana Krasovskaya, a student of school No. 54 named after Yuri Gagarin in Sevastopol, came up with this initiative. She proposed the President of the Russian Federation to establish a children's movement that would unite children of all ages throughout the country. While supporting the idea of a young activist, Vladimir Putin noted that any initiatives to establish such an organization should come

from society, and the relevant support would be the task of the state.¹²³

The need for the emergence of a children's movement has been repeatedly discussed by participants in various youth projects, and this idea is close to both children and parents. According to surveys conducted by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM), respondents approved the establishment of an all-Russian children's organization comparable in scale to the pioneer movement. More than 80% of parents reacted positively to the initiative.

On May 19, 2022, day of the 100th anniversary of the All-Union Pioneer Organization, several draft laws on the establishment of the Russian Movement of Children and Youth "Big Change" were submitted to the State Duma of the Russian Federation.¹²⁴ The explanatory note to draft laws noted that the new movement should become a platform for preparing children and youth for a full life in society, including the formation of their worldview based on traditional Russian spiritual and moral values.

One of the most important directions and declared goals of the movement is patriotic education, as well as the formation of love and respect for own Fatherland.¹²⁵ The publication of draft laws on the establishment of a youth movement uniting the largest public organizations dealing with youth attracted wide public attention.

On May 31, 2022, the Civic Chamber held the public evaluation of draft federal laws stipulating the establishment of the movement, defining its legal status and mission and ensuring its participation in legal relations related to the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of children and youth, as well as the organization of their upbringing, recreation and recovery.

By giving a positive opinion on the submitted draft laws, the Civic Chamber noted the need to adjust them in terms of clarifying the goals of the movement, requirements for mentors and provisions for the inclusion and exclusion of participants from the movement. Additional attention in the draft law was proposed to focus on issues of patriotic education, formation of civic identity, strengthening of interethnic relations, as well as prevention of extremism and xenophobia.

The proposals and recommendations of experts made during the public examination of draft laws were heard by the authors of the legislative initiative. A significant part of them was considered in the final version of the draft law.¹²⁶ On July 14, 2022, the President of the Russian Federation signed the law on the establishment of the "Russian Movement of Children and Youth".¹²⁷

On July 20, 2022, the first constituent meeting of the new "Russian Movement of Children and Youth" was held. The President of the Russian Federation agreed to head the Supervisory Board of the organization and once again

emphasized the special attention on the part of the state to dealing with the younger generation, as well as opportunities proposed by the new movement to children and young people in Russia.

From December 18 to 20, Moscow hosted the First Congress of the "Russian Movement of Children and Youth", where young delegates from 89 regions of the country discussed the attributes and symbols of the new movement, main activities and development program for the coming years at numerous discussion platforms. According to the results of voting by the congress delegates, the "Russian Movement of Children and Youth" received a new name - "Movement of the First".

In April 2022, a strategic session was held at the Civic Chamber, during which the Russian Movement of Schoolchildren updated its development strategy for 2022-2025. The updated strategy considered the modern realities affecting the implementation of educational projects and defined the main approaches and tasks in the performance of the movement's activities. Since its establishment in 2015, the "Russian Movement of Schoolchildren" has become an important component of the system of patriotic education in educational institutions.¹²⁸

The successful work of the movement with schoolchildren in the field of civil-patriotic and military-patriotic education would be impossible without the broad support of their parents. Sociological surveys confirm that the majority of citizens of our country support the idea that schools should participate in the patriotic education of young people. This position is shared by 67% of VCIOM survey participants.

This year, two important innovations were included in the educational process. The flag-raising ceremony and the performance of the anthem of the Russian Federation in all schools of our country became one of the innovations in the field of patriotic education implemented within the framework of the federal project ("Patriotic Education of Citizens of the Russian Federation"). The idea of holding such a ceremony in general education institutions evoked a positive response from Russian citizens; 59% of Russians polled by VCIOM supported the patriotic initiative to raise the flag of the Russian Federation and sing the national anthem before each school week.¹²⁹

Another educational initiative aimed at creating a sense of pride in own Fatherland was the introduction of a number of extracurricular activities ("Talks About the Important") in all Russian schools. In the classroom, students discuss issues related to the history and culture of our country and its role in world processes.¹³⁰ On September 1, 2022, the President of the Russian Federation held the first "Talks About the Important" open lesson.¹³¹ The meeting with schoolchildren, winners of olympiads and competitions in culture, art, science and sports was held in the format of questions and answers: about supporting youth projects, personal development, future of various industries and the country as a whole, goals and tasks of the special military operation in Donbass.

One of the topics for discussion was the work of the Association of Young Historians "Strength is in Truth!" and the possibility of

replicating experience in preparing thematic expositions using objects of material heritage (evidence of the era) in electronic form. The President supported the initiative to create electronic exhibitions and museums, while paying attention to the fact that such work should be based on reliable sources of information and material objects confirming the course of past events.¹³²

Today, the "Patriotic Education" federal project is one of the key tools aimed at the development of educational work in general and vocational education institutions. On February 9, 2022, the discussion of the results of the implementation of the federal project in 2021 was held at the Civic Chamber.

In the course of the discussion with representatives of the Ministry of Education

of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh), public experts identified a number of topics and areas that need to be given special attention as part of the further implementation of the federal project. In particular, the importance of broad coverage of the progress of the project and the achievement of the main indicators of its efficiency was emphasized, while the need for more active involvement of veteran organizations in the performance of activities under the project was noted.¹³³

In order to strengthen the component of the patriotic education and to widely involve youth in passing the standards of the All-Russian Physical Culture and Sports Complex "Ready for Labor and Defense," the Civic Chamber in November 2022 supported the initiative of social activists to include the "Zarnitsa" military sports game and new types of physical tests, which consider the peculiarities of military training, in the All-Russian Physical Culture and Sports Complex "Ready for Labor and Defense."

WAYS OF DISTRIBUTING THE VALUES OF PATRIOTISM IN RUSSIAN SOCIETY

From October 27, 2022 to November 22, 2022, the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Youth Affairs, Development of Volunteering and Patriotic Education conducted the following survey: "Actual Issues of Patriotic Education".

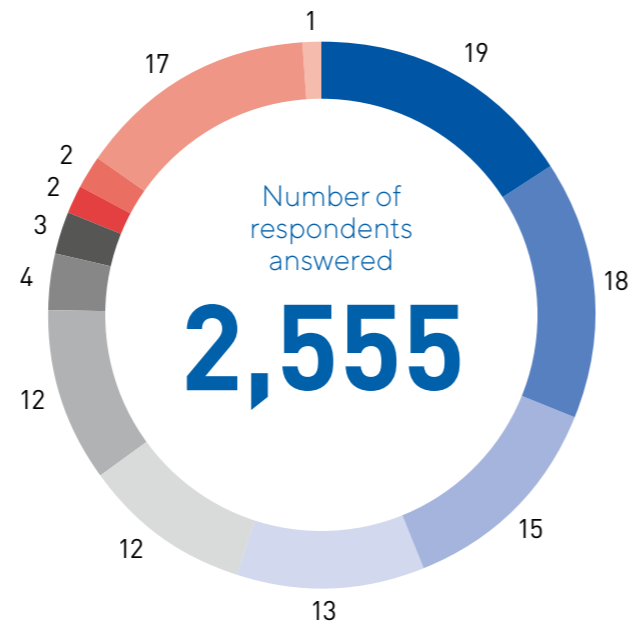
As part of the survey, respondents were asked to identify the most and least efficient ways to spread the values of patriotism in Russian society.

The survey was participated by **2,555** respondents

MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO DISTRIBUTE THE VALUES OF PATRIOTISM IN RUSSIAN SOCIETY*

- Active work in the information space: promotion of the achievements of Russia and its heroes
- Holding of patriotic actions and events, organization of meetings with famous personalities and heroes of Russia
- Patriotic education of the younger generation in the family circle
- Promotion and creation of conditions for increasing the interest of Russians in the history, culture and traditions of the country and native land

Share of the total number of respondents, %



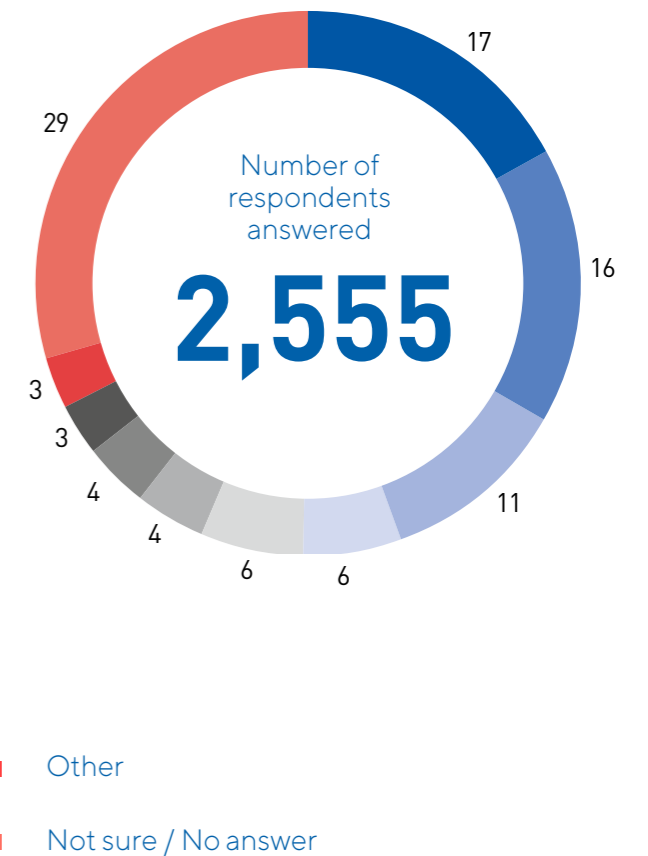
- Patriotic education in educational institutions
- Creation of favorable social and economic conditions within Russia
- Expansion of motivational mechanisms in order to involve Russians in socially significant activities

- Formation of unified idea and system of patriotic education in Russia
- Military and patriotic education
- Establishment of new patriotic organizations
- Not sure / No answer
- Other

LEAST EFFICIENT WAY TO DISTRIBUTE THE VALUES OF PATRIOTISM IN RUSSIAN SOCIETY*

- Visiting of military patriotic clubs and participation of military sports games
- Usage of tools of coercion and pressure to spread the values of patriotism
- Publications in mass media and the Internet
- Demonstration of personal examples, organization of conversations
- Lectures and patriotic literature
- Formal approach to the development and implementation of state policy in spreading patriotism
- Holding of patriotic actions and events
- Promotion of the Western way of life

Share of the total number of respondents, %



*Open question. All survey participants were given the opportunity to answer freely. When processing the results, all answers of respondents were grouped into thematic categories. When answering the question, the respondent could identify several ways to spread the values of patriotism in Russian society (most/least efficient). All methods named by the survey participants were considered and distributed into the appropriate categories. Thus, the value of the total share of answers of respondents exceeded 100%.

PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL TREASURE AND HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

3.5

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS OF ANY STATE AND DEVELOPED SOCIETY IS THE PRESERVATION OF ITS HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE AS ONE OF THE PRINCIPALS OF ENSURING NATIONAL SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY, THE LOSS OF WHICH LEADS TO SPIRITUAL DEPLETION, LOSS OF MEANINGS AND GOALS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION AND STATE. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, AS A STORAGE OF HISTORICAL MEMORY, DIRECTLY PARTICIPATES IN FORMING THE PERSONALITY OF EACH HUMAN AND HIS/HER COMMON CIVIC IDENTITY. TODAY, ITS ROLE AS THE DEEPEST BASIS OF CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY IS STEADY INCREASING.

In recent years, large-scale work has been done in Russia to legislate numerous public initiatives related to the protection and preservation of historical memory.

The obligation of the state to protect its historical truth and the inadmissibility of underweighting the significance of the people’s feat in defending the Fatherland are enshrined in the Constitution of the Russian Federation.¹³⁴ The new version of the National Security Strategy, adopted in 2021 defines the strengthening of traditional Russian spiritual and moral values and the preservation of the cultural and historical heritage of the people of Russia as the national interests at the present stage.¹³⁵

Numerous public projects of civil and military-patriotic education and volunteer activity in the field of preserving historical and

cultural heritage, which is expanding every year, indicate that the adopted changes are expected and demanded by Russian society.

Over the past few years, civil society and the state have been actively resisting attempts to rewrite and destroy the historical, cultural and material heritage of the Great Patriotic War. Russian civil society expressed a consolidated position rejecting the destruction of the historical heritage of Russia and its peoples in the course of the special military operation. The public project for restoring the monuments of the Great Patriotic War,¹³⁶ which is participated by representatives of the Civic Chamber and such public organizations as “VICTORY VOLUNTEERS”, “Russian Search Movement”, and “Immortal Regiment”, is being implemented on the territory of Donbass.



Participants of the patriotic action dedicated to the Day of Remembrance and Sorrow organized by the Public Movement “Donetsk Republic” within the framework of the “Echo of Times” project implemented on the territory of the “Savur-Mohyla” memorial complex. Donetsk People’s Republic, June 22, 2022. Pavel Lisitsyn / RIA Novosti

Within the framework of the project, the register of monuments requiring restoration and preservation is being formed; various public organizations and volunteers are working to take care of monuments and burials.

An unprecedented attack on Russian culture and history in Western countries in 2022 became the continuation of the policy of “abolishing” and destroying historical and cultural values associated with Russia. The so-called cancellation of Russian culture against the background of the special military operation has become the dominant attitude of a number of Western states towards the cultural and historical heritage of Russia. According to a VCIOM survey, every second Russian was concerned about the attempts of Western countries to withdraw Russian culture from the public international space.¹³⁷ A significant part of Russians expressed the opinion that their rights in the cultural sphere should be protected. At the same time, 73% of the citizens surveyed believed that it was not necessary to take mirror measures and “cancel” Western culture in our country.

The response to such attempts to politicize and discredit Russian culture was the actualization of the public demand for national cultural projects in the country, which was also supported by the state, by allocating an additional 1 billion rubles as part of the second grant competition of the Cultural Initiatives Foundation in 2022 for supporting projects related to “Russian cultural identity, traditional spiritual and moral values.” According to the results of the second competition, 905 projects in the field of culture, art and creative industries received grant support. They will be implemented in 80 regions of the country. Cultural figures, who fell under sanctions, also received support.¹³⁸

The attitude to the special military operation split the cultural community of our country. Some of the cultural figures spoke out against it. Many of them left Russia. Nevertheless, the majority of patriotic representatives of the cultural community not only supported the decisions of the President of the Russian Federation, but also took an active part in supporting citizens and servicemen in Donbass. Popular musicians, poets, actors, journalists and people of other creative professions collect funds, medicines and essentials, organize meet-the-artist events free of charge, participate in concerts for wounded servicemen and those who are on the front line, support the historical and cultural unity of Greater Russia not only in word, but also in deed.



Volunteers attending a meeting of the evacuated DPR and LPR residents at the railway station in Aprelevka near Moscow. February 22, 2022. Alexey Kudenko / RIA Novosti

NPOs: NEW CHALLENGES – NEW SOLUTIONS

04

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STATE AND NPOs: EXPANDING SOCIAL INTERACTION BASED ON TRUST AND SUPPORT

4.1

IN RECENT YEARS, THE ROLE OF THE THIRD SECTOR IN THE LIFE OF RUSSIAN SOCIETY HAS INCREASED MANY TIMES OVER, AS EVIDENCED BY THE UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH OF CIVIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE NPO AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES. OWING TO THE GROWTH OF PUBLIC TRUST IN THE THIRD SECTOR ACTIVITIES, NPOS TODAY ACT THE MAJOR PARTICIPANT IN PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND THEIR PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES HAVE BECOME A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE STATE AUTHORITIES AGENDA.

Having faced new challenges that have become a major threat to national security, the nonprofit sector has shown its best qualities – involvement, integrity, charity, and self-sacrificing approach.

It was the representatives of NPOs, civil activists, volunteers, philanthropists who, from the very first days were took an active part in helping refugees who were forced to leave their homes caught by military aggravation of the Donbass conflict. To further coordinate volunteer efforts, the All-Russian Student Rescue Corps (ARSRC), the Russian Red Cross (RRC), in cooperation with the Civic Chamber, have set up a volunteer crisis headquarters.¹³⁹

The volunteers coordinated the distribution of humanitarian aid 24 hours a day, extended psychological support to citizens residing in temporary accommodation centers, and organized leisure activities for children.

The volunteers were further involved in sending and escorting humanitarian aid to the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics. Student rescuers delivered necessities to the Lugansk Republican Clinical Hospital intended to help children with cancer, their mothers and employees of the oncohematological department.¹⁴⁰

A huge portion of work was done by the Russian Red Cross representatives. Through the combined efforts of the organization, from February to July 2022, over 1,442 tons of humanitarian aid were collected and transported, more than 90,000 people received humanitarian support, and over 480 million rubles of financial assistance were raised.¹⁴¹ The organization ensured the work of temporary accommodation points, procured personal hygiene items, water, infant formula, dishes, household appliances, as well as vitamins for children and adults. In addition, the Russian Red Cross extended targeted assistance by tackling problems and supporting people in need.¹⁴²

Assistance to seriously ill and wounded children has made up for a separate area of work for nonprofit bodies. Since 2014, the “Doctor Liza’s Fair Aid” charitable foundation has been treating seriously ill and wounded children from the DPR and LPR territories. In 2021, 824 appeals for assistance were received from Donbass, all addressed and satisfied.¹⁴³ On June 11, 2022, the project of the organization “To Live and Win”, aimed at extending medical care to seriously ill children and adults from Donbass, won the competition of the Presidential Grants Foundation. 36.8 million rubles were allocated for continuing these socially relevant activities.¹⁴⁴

The consolidation of numerous Russian nonprofit bodies that acted as a united civil front produced a synergistic effect in civil society, making it possible to both reinforce multilateral support and systematize common efforts in its major areas.

Representatives of the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics civil society highly appreciated the work of Russian NPOs.¹⁴⁵ On July 12, at the active citizens’ forum “Community” forum, the Civic Chambers of the LPR and the DPR signed memoranda of cooperation with the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

The document sets forth the provisions on cooperation in common spiritual and moral values, preserving interethnic and interreligious harmony, as well as enhancing cultural ties between fellow countrymen. The memo touched upon the issues of restoring the economic and cultural infrastructure of Donbass, as well as the return of its inhabitants to their ordinary lives.

In addition, the LPR and the DPR Civic Chambers have signed cooperation agreements with regional civic chambers covering over 20 regions of the country. These include Sevastopol, the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug – Yugra, Voronezh Region, Kaluga Region, Nizhny Novgorod Region, Rostov Region, Ryazan Region, Saratov Region, Altai Region, Krasnodar Region, and others.

Serving as an additional impetus to the further development of civil society institutions, these agreements have become efficient tools for interaction and the spread of civic activity in the LPR and DPR territories even before they became part of Russia.¹⁴⁶

The major project to support public initiatives and expand the third sector in the Donbass territories was the work establishing resource centers for NPOs, which was guided by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. As part of this work, a unified database of nonprofit organizations from Russian regions is maintained, helping and staying at ready to help expand the nonprofit sector in new territories. Together with the Institute of Public Administration and Management of the RANEPA and in cooperation with the civic chambers of the Lugansk and Donetsk People’s Republics, a series of training seminars was held for



Volunteers loading up boxes of humanitarian aid for refugees from southeastern Ukraine into a truck for onward shipment to the Rostov Region. Measures to receiving humanitarian aid are arranged on the Russian Red Cross initiative. March 23, 2022. Alexander Kryazhev / RIA Novosti



Raising humanitarian aid for refugees and residents of the DPR and LPR as part of the “We do not leave our men behind!” campaign on Nakhimov Square in Sevastopol. Volunteers of the headquarters #WeAreTogether, Sevastopol, representatives of the Russian student groups, the “Russian Youth Union”, the “Young Guard of United Russia”, medical volunteers call on Sevastopol residents to unite in helping refugees and residents of the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics. March 6, 2022. Anna Sadovnikova / RIA Novosti

the public of the new Russian regions, dedicated to the issues of state support and registration of NPOs, establishment of partnerships and interaction of NPOs. For representatives of the public and authorities involved in elaborating and implementing programs and measures aimed to support public associations and SO NPOs of the Lugansk People’s Republic, Donetsk People’s Republic, Zaporozhye, and Kherson Regions, targeted free training was organized at the IGSU RANEPa under the advanced training program “Issues of interaction with socially oriented nonprofit organizations and involvement of socially oriented nonprofit organizations in service provision in the social sector”. The training aims to foster the rapid development of the nonprofit sector in the new Russian regions

and the formation of regional teams hosting modern practices, technologies and methods for implementing measures to support socially oriented NPOs.

The work of nonprofit organizations in the Donbass has shown that the third sector appears the most structured part of civil society, providing the entire Russian society with opportunities and tools to implement a whole range of public, humanitarian, social, and economic initiatives. The third sector does not replace the state but complements it, ensuring the required level of horizontal interaction in society, based on long-term ties, practices of joint activities and mutual assistance, making it possible to efficiently, quickly and specifically address socially significant tasks, raising state resources as necessary.

For its part, the state has significantly expanded the interaction with nonprofit organizations over the past few years.

An example of this work was the gradual expansion of access for NPOs to providing services in the social sector. The social order has proven a mechanism in demand for expanding such of NPOs involvement in the social sphere in 2022. One of the goals of implementing the law on social contracting¹⁴⁷ in 2020 was to expand the share of NPOs in providing services in the social sphere. Today, with this mechanism introduced, social services are becoming more accessible and offer higher quality for vulnerable categories of citizens.¹⁴⁸ Based on the Report on the Status and Problems of the NPO Supplier involvement in the System of State Social Procurement,¹⁴⁹ the number of nonprofit organizations (SO NPOs and small and medium-sized businesses) participating in and winning the competitive selection is also growing. If we take 2021, when 63 organizations took part in such a selection and 45 nonstate service providers became its winners, the number of participants in the competitive selection almost tripled in 2022 and amounted to 184 organizations, and 138 nonstate organizations have won.

One of the most notable effects of the practical approval of the law on state social order for the provision of public services in the social sector was the establishment of coordination platforms (“dialogue platforms”).¹⁵⁰ Such platforms are mainly formed based on the civic chambers of the regions of Russia, as well as on regional branches of the All-Russian public organization of small and medium-sized businesses “OPORA RUSSIA”. Civic chambers being engaged in testing the new mechanisms of this law has made a significant contribution to further enhancing the efficiency of NPO involvement in the provision of state (municipal) services in the social sphere in the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug, Novosibirsk, Pskov, and Kaliningrad Regions.

At the “Head-to-head competition” conference held in the Civic Chamber, the experience of coordinating platforms aimed to promote the implementation of social contracting mechanisms in pilot regions was presented, and steps were introduced to extend the NPO involvement in its implementation.

On January 1, 2022, with the amendments to the Tax Code of the Russian Federation taking effect, a unified register of SO NPOs receiving support was launched. Today it includes over 46 thousand NPOs from all country regions. The register is tasked primarily with implementing the Tax Code provisions, based on which a business that donates to an NPO in the register is entitled to certain tax preferences.¹⁵¹

The large-scale sanctions imposed by Western countries against Russia, coupled the subsequent restructuring of the Russian economy, yielded an impact on the third sector as well. A major step of the state aimed at expanding the third sector in the current conditions was the decision to take extra measures to support NPOs.

On March 16, 2022, the President of Russia signed a Decree,¹⁵² which includes the adoption of extra measures to support socially oriented NPOs engaged in social services, social support, and civil protection, extending assistance to refugees, implementing activities in patriotic education, as well as contributing to the development of internal labor migration. For over a year, a number of changes were adopted at the legislative level, including administrative relaxations, the abolition of scheduled inspections of NPOs in 2022, easing penalties for administrative offenses committed by NPOs for the first time, etc.

On July 14, 2022, the President signed a law aimed at preserving the target capital of NPOs faced with external pressure imposed by sanctions.¹⁵³

The new wording considered the proposal of the Civic Chamber on suspending the legal norms established in clauses 5 and 6 of part 1 of Article 14 of the Federal Law of December 30, 2006 No. 275-FZ “On the Procedure for the Formation and Use of Endowment Capital of Nonprofit Organizations”. These articles laid down the grounds for the forced dissolution of endowment capital in response to a decrease in the value of net assets as a result of property trust management.

In 2022, the state showed its willingness for its multilateral support towards the third sector, which was shown at the legislative level as well as in the financial provision of nonprofit organizations by way of subsidies and grants from development institutions, such as the Presidential Grants Foundation and the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives.

Despite the systemic support measures and the widespread demand for the NPO activities, one of the major problems of the third sector today is its imbalanced development at the regional level.

To identify and eliminate discrepancies in the development of the third sector in the Russian regions,

the project of the Civic Chamber rating “Region-NPO” is introduced. The results of the third sector rating for 2022 were presented at the final “Community” forum in Moscow. Over the years of the project implementation, the rating of the “Region-NPO” third sector has proven an effective management mechanism for making strategic decisions on the NPOs expansion, its results are taken into account by the Russian government, and the rating in the regions is used as a basic basis for elaborating roadmaps for its further development.

Given the high importance of the NPO sector in the social sphere expansion, Tatyana Golikova instructed the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia and the Civic Chamber to work out possible

mechanisms to stimulate the executive authorities of the Russian regions to take measures to reduce disproportions in developing the nonprofit sector.¹⁵⁴

The Deputy Prime Minister asked further to elaborate on proposals for reducing bureaucratic barriers in extending subsidies and grants to SO NPOs and to develop recommendations for more active SO NPO involvement in implementing regional programs of national projects.

The Civic Chamber submitted its proposals to the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, where it noted that in overcoming the disproportions in the third sector development, supplementing the list of indicators for assessing the efficiency of the senior official activities of Russia’s regions and the activities of the executive authorities with the indicator “The number of people employed in socially oriented NPOs” and establishing incentives for achieving the indicators of this assessment.¹⁵⁵



Volunteers of the benefactor association “White Flower” holding a charity fair after the XI Elisabeth Cross Procession. The funds received will be used to help seriously ill children in the Odintsovo and Krasnogorsk urban districts. Moscow Region. September 18, 2022. Alexey Filippov / RIA Novosti

MEASURES FOR THE BENEFIT OF NPOs PROPOSED BY THE CIVIC CHAMBER

- 1  Distribute reduced tariffs when paying insurance premiums to SO NPOs included in the register formed in accordance with the Decree of the Russian Government dated July 30, 2021 No. 1290 “On the register of socially oriented NPOs”.
- 2  Extend the stay on scheduled inspections of SO NPOs, with the exception of activities associated with a risk to the life and health of citizens.
- 3  Extend the program of concessional lending to small and medium-sized businesses for SO NPOs.
- 4  Extend programs to support small and medium-sized businesses associated with the risks of cutting off Russia from international payment systems to SO NPOs (compensation for small and medium-sized businesses to use the fast payment system, reimbursement of bank fees for the purchase of goods and services through the payment service of the Bank of Russia, and others).
- 5  Provide subsidies for labor cost reimbursement for SO NPO employees.
- 6  Consider the possibility of extending additional support to SO NPOs that help people in complex situations, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and families of servicemen.
- 7  Temporarily ease the rules for redistributing the areas of use of budgetary funds allocated under subsidies and grants, which will enable SO NPOs facing unforeseen price increases to carry out expenses for one item of expenditure from the budget allocated for another expenditure item.
- 8  Maintain the possibility of receiving budget funds allocated in 2022 to support SO NPOs, including federal and regional budgets

ESTABLISHING AN INCLUSIVE CULTURE IN RUSSIAN SOCIETY

4.2

FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INCLUSIVE CULTURE HAS BEEN IN SPOTLIGHT OF BOTH SOCIETY AND THE STATE, AND IT HAS BEEN ACTIVELY DISCUSSED IN THE SCIENTIFIC AND EXPERT COMMUNITY AT THE DISCUSSION PLATFORMS HOUSTED BY PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES AND IN ONLINE COMMUNITIES.

Up until now, the concept of inclusion as a process of practical involvement of people experiencing difficulties in physical development, including those with disabilities and mental disabilities in the active life of the society, was limited to consideration of the development of social practices, related to a greater extent to educational processes.

Today, owing to the active nonprofit sector interaction, the expert community and the state, the concept of inclusion as involvement in the everyday life of society is considered in a broad socio-cultural context that embraces all possible forms of social adaptation of people with disabilities.



Members of the Vdohnovenie dance movement therapy club (Kemerovo Region) performing at the gala concert of the 10th Inclusive Dance International Charity Dance Festival at the Crocus City Hall, Krasnogorsk, Moscow Region, October 31, 2022. Anton Novoderezhkin / TASS

>800
requests

on protecting the rights of persons with disabilities received by the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation Tatyana Moskalkova in 2021 and early 2022.

The include:



Sociological research results say over 60% of Russians are personally acquainted with people with disabilities. Russian citizens are also well aware of the problems of people with disabilities and believe that such people require state support and care. At the same time, 69% our fellow citizen believe that the state currently puts insufficient or too little effort on the disabilities agenda.¹⁵⁶

In May 2022, the House of Human Rights, with wide involvement of civil society representatives held public hearings on analyzing the implementation in Russia of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities over a 10-year period.

The event participants discussed the implementation of the action plan for exercising the recommendations listed in the Concluding Observations of the Committee

on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the initial Report of Russia on implementing the Convention provisions, prepared in 2014, as well as the involvement of all-Russian organizations of persons with disabilities in public oversight over the UN Convention implementation.¹⁵⁷ The hearings participants noted that Russia, having assumed obligations for the urgent transition of all authorities to active actions for the comprehensive integration of persons with disabilities, the identification and suppression of discrimination against their rights, is meeting these expectations to a large extent. At the same time, an analysis of citizens' appeals to authorities and civil society institutions yields that certain problems in this area still remain and urge proper decisions by state bodies.¹⁵⁸

The problem of protecting the rights and interests of citizens with mental disabilities, employing people with disabilities, accompanying them in employment and enhancing the system of job quotas, increasing the level of accessibility of services and objects in culture, establishing equal access to technical and other services, including high-quality equipment for rehabilitation, for people with disabilities living in territories with different levels of infrastructure development.

In medium and small towns of Russian regions, the issues of expanding the availability of public transport, free parking spaces, and creating an accessible environment in residential premises and yard areas remain on the agenda. The introduction of all buildings and structures of the rules of universal design at the design stage, ensuring the ubiquitous accessibility of objects without the need for further adjustment to the needs of people with disabilities remains, which will save significant both temporary and financial resources, is still pressing.¹⁵⁹

A need for citizens with disabilities to use digital tools and resources to help them overcome limitations and to set up opportunities for full involvement in modern society is imperative.

The departure of foreign IT companies from the Russian market has complicated the access of citizens with disabilities to the required software. This problem was addressed in detail at the Civic Chamber site.¹⁶⁰ The experts noted that the current situation urges the need to bring about special measures of state support (grants, subsidies) aimed at stimulating domestic IT companies to intensify work on the elaboration and implementation of domestic analogues of software and hardware used by people with disabilities in their everyday life, such as screen readers and speech recognition.

With that, the key point in this work should be the comprehensive involvement of people with disabilities as experts in creating and testing new digital solutions, which will help meet the needs of this social category to ensure their digital accessibility.

A successful example of work aimed to ensure the availability and safety of financial services for citizens with disabilities was the cooperation of the Civic Chamber with the Bank of Russia. Owing to that, with the direct participation of disabled people, adapted

banking applications have been established, special units for servicing people with disabilities are being formed, and the physical office availability is expanded. The work yielded a high assessment of the financial institution accessibility by citizens – 70% of bank customers with disabilities consider financial institutions to be suitable for their service.¹⁶¹

As part of the public examination, the Civic Chamber conceptually supported the draft order for the Ministry of Digital Development of Russia, ensuring access to the state authorities and local self-government websites for people with disabilities, noting a number of comments and additions to the draft normative act that concerned the technical features of the site adjustments, their design, integration, and use of ready-made software solutions.¹⁶²

A promising project scheduled for short-run implementation will be a rating system for infrastructure facilities based on their accessibility for people with disabilities. It is assumed that the results of such a rating will be integrated into navigation systems based on accessible and popular Russian applications, which will help a person with a disability in determining the accessibility and assessing the comfort level of social, transport and engineering infrastructure, obtaining information on possible obstacles on a specific route to a hospital, shopping center, or financial institution.¹⁶³

The rating development has become one of the instructions of President Vladimir Putin to the Russian Government and the Civic Chamber following the meeting with people with disabilities and representatives of public organizations in 2020.

A letter with proposals for implementing the project was submitted to the Civic Chamber by the Ministry of Digital Development of Russia, proposing to create a rating system based on the federal state information system “Unified Digital Platform for Spatial Data”, which is scheduled to be launched in 2024. In addition, the agency proposed dividing objects into residential, social, public, cultural, sports, etc., and specifying information for people with disabilities of the motor system, vision, hearing, and mental disabilities on a separate basis.

As part of the Inclusive Platform project, the Russian Ministry of Culture also supported the proposal of the Civic Chamber on a user rating of the accessibility of cultural institutions. Thanks to the assessments given by citizens with disabilities, volunteers and employees of cultural institutions, the top 10 accessibility of cultural institutions in the regions of the Russian Federation was compiled.¹⁶⁴

ACCESSIBILITY RATING OF CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

As part of the Inclusive Platform project, the Russian Ministry of Culture of Russia supported the proposal of the Civic Chamber on developing a system for creating a user rating for the accessibility of cultural institutions.

Launched in a pilot mode, the rating contains the results of rating by citizens with disabilities, employees and volunteers of cultural institutions in three regions.

Thanks to the ratings given by the citizens, the top 10 accessibility of cultural institutions in each of the regions was compiled.

The rating covered

190

cultural establishments

549.2 ths.

of people with disabilities

The project aims to make sure that the accessibility passport – a real checklist for cultural institutions – is up-to-date in digital format: information about the accessibility of institutions is posted on large platforms and portals, such as Kultura.RF, in mobile applications, and geoservices.

1
VENUE
Khanty-Mansi
Autonomous Region



100%
of availability

- Regional Park “Russia – My History” (for people with disabilities experiencing motor system disorders)
- Cultural Center “Yugra-Present”
- Centralized library system of Yugorsk (for people with mental disabilities)

>90%
of availability

- Museum of Nature and Man
- Palace of Culture “Neftyanik”
- State Art Museum (for people with disabilities experiencing motor system disorders)

2
VENUE
Belgorod Region



100%
of availability

- Cultural Development Center “Molodezhny” (for people with disabilities experiencing motor system disorders)

>90%
of availability

- Belgorod State Puppet Theater (for people with disabilities experiencing motor system disorders)

3
VENUE
Republic of Tatarstan



100%
of availability

- Republican State Song and Dance Ensemble (for people with disabilities experiencing motor system disorders)

>60%
of availability

- Kazan Tatar State Theater of Young Spectators named after Gabdulla Kariev
- Buninsk State Drama Theater (for people with impaired hearing)¹⁶⁵

“BLAGOSPHERA” – PARTICIPATION OF CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS IN SOLVING THE MOST IMPORTANT SOCIAL PROBLEMS

4.3

BASED ON THE GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY INDEX, IN 2022 RUSSIA REACHED A HISTORICAL LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT OF PHILANTHROPY. OUR COUNTRY HAS RISEN FROM 67TH POSITION IN 2021 TO 30th PLACE. THE RUSSIAN INDEX OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS HAS YIELDED SIGNIFICANT GROWTH – 6 YEARS AGO, THE COUNTRY OCCUPIED 124th PLACE IN THE RANKING. IN 2022, ALL THREE KEY INDICATORS – HELPING STRANGERS, DONATING MONEY, AND VOLUNTEERING – INCREASED.¹⁶⁶

The study results indicate the constant growth of the Russian citizens’ involvement in charity and their willingness to support each other. Another major indicator of transforming the culture of charity in our country is the growth of trust in charitable NPOs constantly recorded by polls.

2022 has proven a challenging year for many charities and organizations. Despite the general positive changes in charity, following the start of the special military operation, charitable foundations, like other representatives of the nonprofit sector, faced certain difficulties in their activities, primarily related to the reduction in the number of regular donations.

With the departure of international payment systems such as Visa and Mastercard from Russia, it has become difficult for charities to receive donations from abroad. In addition, contributors would often unsubscribe from regular write-offs in favor of charitable foundations on their own.

In some cases, there has been an increase in write-off errors due to lack of funds on the card, as contributors withdrew cash or transferred money to another bank¹⁶⁷.

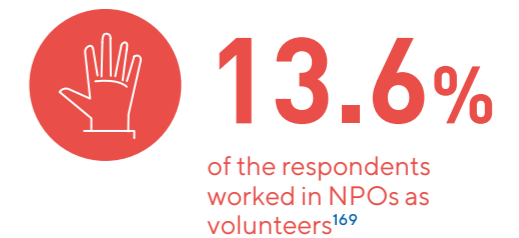
Charitable organizations also faced difficulties in procuring specific medicines, in particular anticonvulsants and antidepressants. The reason for this was an increase in shipping prices, a growing demand in pharmacies for various drugs, and suspended supplies.

Another major problem was the exit of foreign companies that developed corporate philanthropy or launched partnership projects with Russian charitable foundations.¹⁶⁸

Despite positive trends towards a recovery in donations in the fall of 2022, today the timeframe for planning the activities of charitable organizations is largely limited. At the start of 2023, with the amount of traditionally received funds decreasing amid the complexities caused by the sanctions, the funds may once again face difficulties.

CHANGES IN THE CHARITY CULTURE OF RUSSIANS

Sociological surveys conducted in 2022 say 75% of respondents participated in charitable activities at least once



- Citizens most often donate funds for the treatment of children, help for homeless animals, and support for the poor, orphanages and nursing homes, and orphans.¹⁷⁰
- A major indicator of transforming the culture of charity in our country is the growth of trust in charitable NPOs. Citizens who trust charitable foundations and organizations known to them are twice as likely as others to provide them with financial support – 38% versus 20%.
- At the same time, 30% of respondents mentioned a high level of trust in charitable foundations and organizations they know.

The trust indicator is also related to the experience of interaction with charitable NPOs: the trust score among those who received any assistance from NPOs is



In addition, in 2022, compared to 2021, the number of people who believe that no funds can be trusted has decreased from





Performance by the "UralOperaBallet" artists under the windows of the Regional Children's Clinical Hospital as part of the Children's Swan charity project hosted in Yekaterinburg. June 1, 2022. Pavel Lisitsyn / RIA Novosti

Still, despite all the obstacles that philanthropists and other contributors have faced this year, they continue to participate in tackling the most important social problems. Charity is becoming not merely targeted and humanitarian aid and is not "patching holes" and urgent fees for operations but brings serious systemic changes and yields a real impact on the quality of people's lives.

Charitable NPOs and foundations can provide a quick response to an emerging problem, and that also helps the state. Authorities are often shackled by bureaucracy and a cumbersome regulatory framework in tackling with social issues. Seriously ill children, elderly citizens, and refugees, however, have no time to wait. Charitable NPOs can provide immediate assistance, making them real supporters for the state in solving socially relevant problems and providing to save lives and preserve the willingness to move forward among a large number of people.¹⁷³

Assistance to refugees, incurably ill children and adults, homeless animals, and the poor is extended on a constant and prompt basis and demonstrates the empathy of our citizens to each other, their willingness to jointly solve various social problems.

Worth noting is that in recent years the state has shown its interest and has been assisting the development of charity in the country. These intentions are reflected in the Concept for Promoting the Development of Charity until 2025 adopted by the Russian Government in November 2019.¹⁷⁴ In addition, various mechanisms of motivation and involvement in charity are being developed. These include tax deduction for charity, which implies the possibility of getting back 13% of the amount of charitable donations.¹⁷⁵ In addition, a mechanism has been developed for donating this tax deduction to the same organization which citizens previously sent funds to. All this makes it possible to attract as many people as possible to the charity area, and gives the nonprofit sector guarantees of support from the state.

THE CIRCLE OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION IN 2022

4.4

A SPECIAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR CHARITY IS DISPLAYED BY THE CIRCLE OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION. ESTABLISHED ON JANUARY 5, 2021 BY DECREE OF THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENT, THE FOUNDATION PROVIDES EXPENSIVE AND HIGH-TECH MEDICINES TO CHILDREN WITH SEVERE LIFE-THREATENING AND CHRONIC DISEASES, INCLUDING RARE (ORPHAN) DISEASES. THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE DUE TO FEDERAL BUDGET ALLOCATIONS BY INCREASING PERSONAL INCOME TAX BY 2% FOR CITIZENS WHOSE INCOMES EXCEED 5 MILLION RUBLES A YEAR.

Creating the Foundation was a landmark event that in two years changed the context and rules of interaction between the nonprofit sector and the state, and fully transformed the model of helping children with serious and rare diseases.

In 2022, given the changes in the economy, the Foundation faced a number of difficulties in logistics and medication supply from abroad. Additional approvals were required due to changes in the cost of medicines, and a number of foreign suppliers had doubts about further interaction with the Foundation.

All obstacles were overcome in a short timeframe – the prices for medicines today remain below world prices, none of the partners refused to continue working with the Foundation. Given the possible difficulties related to logistics, the Foundation provided for the reserved purchase of medicines for 2023.

Currently, only 40–60 days pass from the moment an application is received to the patient receiving the drug, and, in case of emergency, work is carried out even faster. Among other things, ensuring efficiency is facilitated by the electronic system of interaction operating in the Foundation. Parents can apply for drug assistance through the Public Services Portal ("Gosuslugi"), and the Russian Ministry of Health can control the processing of applications from the regions.

Great importance in the daily work of the Foundation is given to meetings with parents of sick children and interaction with NPOs.

In 2021, the Foundation established the Circle of Friends communication platform, which brings together professional, patient communities, associations of parents, and children with serious illnesses in one space, making it possible to quickly discuss current problems and jointly look for ways to solve them.

Owing to the introduction of a new form of interaction between the Foundation and specialized NPOs in 2022 – the signing of agreements on cooperation and interaction – the burden on NPOs to raise funds for the treatment of children according to the list of nosologies supervised by the Foundation was removed. If nonprofit organizations were previously looking for funds to buy medicines or medical devices on their own, they now have the opportunity to expand their activities to educational projects and leisure programs for children.

Similar agreements were concluded with the Interregional Public Organization "Society of Patients with Hereditary Angioedema", the All-Russian Society of Orphan Diseases, ANO "House of Rare", and a number of other NPOs that help children with illnesses.



Russian President Vladimir Putin during a meeting via videoconference with High priest Alexander Tkachenko, representative of the board of the Circle of Kindness Foundation for Supporting Children with Serious Illnesses. June 1, 2022. Mikhail Metzel / RIA Novosti

The Foundation’s Expert Council is constantly working to expand the list of diseases that the Foundation provides its support to, including genetic diseases for which effective drugs have already been developed. In 2022, the list of such nosologies was significantly expanded – by 14 diseases. Now there are 59.¹⁷⁶ The Circle of Kindness has started to purchase special bandages and plasters for “butterfly children”, as well as endoprostheses that can grow with the child’s growth.

On June 1, 2022, the Russian President met with Archpriest Alexander Tkachenko, Chairman of the Board of the Circle of Kindness Foundation. Vladimir Putin approved the idea to expand the Foundation’s assistance to children aged over 18 so as to continue their treatment. A corresponding instruction was given to the Russian Government. Thanks to the adopted decision, a smooth transition in medicines provision to children who have attained legal age will be ensured.

The practice of accompanying the Foundation-hosted wards has shown that the regions need time to provide funds in the budget for the continuation of treatment. The Foundation is now alerting the region

about a specific patient who is moving into the adult category, and monitors his treatment in the future.

Another significant achievement expanding the Foundation activities in 2022 was the delegation of the authority to the Foundation to procure drugs for the wards of the state program “14 high-cost nosologies” (HCN) until they attain the age of eighteen. The stable fund financing makes it possible to provide an additional volume of medication procurement for the new wards of the Foundation that host about 15 thousand in Russia today, preliminary estimates say.

This decision is significant for children who will become the Foundation’s wards and will be able to freely and continuously receive the necessary medicines as well as for adults. Funding for the “14 high-cost nosologies” (HCN) program will remain at the same level, and the possibilities of treating adult patients will expand. This will solve another major problem, i.e. to provide high-quality and uninterrupted assistance to adults, which is difficult for many regions to provide given the lack of finance.¹⁷⁷

In 2022, a separate area of the Foundation activity was the provision of medicines for children with severe, life-threatening diseases in new territories. Work in this direction is further complicated by a number of problems, primarily related to the fact that the application submitted to the Foundation is a complex document that includes a confirmed diagnosis and a drug with a calculated dosage prescribed by a medical commission, and in some cases by the Federal Council. So far, the possibilities of preparing such documents in medical

institutions of new subjects remain largely limited.

Despite all the difficulties, the Foundation strives to provide comprehensive assistance whenever possible. During 2022, assistance from the Circle of Kindness Foundation was provided to several children from Donbass with diagnoses of spinal muscular atrophy and cystic fibrosis. The elaboration of optimal mechanisms that would provide small residents of new territories having severe and rare diseases with appropriate medicines will continue in 2023.¹⁷⁸

Another impressive indicator of the Foundation’s performance is the supply of medicines for children with orphan diseases. Today, Russia ranks first in providing medicines to such children. In most other countries where such treatment is available, providing essential drugs requires expensive insurance for parents, which they cannot afford in many cases.¹⁷⁹

Owing to the successful work of the Foundation, the key thing has been achieved today: as soon as a new unique and efficient medicine appears in the world, it immediately becomes available to Russian children.¹⁸⁰

WORK OF THE CIRCLE OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION. RESULTS

Based on the results of work in 2022, the list of diseases covered by the Foundation as part of direct medical assistance to children included with

59
nosologies

Assistance provided or will be provided based on approved applications

4,564
children



59

high-tech medicines and medical devices are purchased for treating children



88,624

billion rubles
volumes of contracts/agreements concluded and being concluded for medical care and medicine and medical device procurement

- To make the help to children become even more efficient, the Foundation is constantly optimizing its activities, establishing work mechanisms, and is looking for new ways of interregional interaction.
- As part of enhanced transparency and inclusiveness, at the beginning of 2022, the Circle of Kindness Foundation published a detailed report on the results of the first year of its operation, elaborating on all the results achieved, the mission, and organizational structure of the Foundation.
- The report further outlined the tasks for the current year, which, at the end of 2022, were successfully completed.¹⁸¹



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

05

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| <u>80</u> | Environmental education |
| <u>82</u> | ESG agenda: the role of civil society |
| <u>84</u> | Preserving the national natural heritage |

The building of the Moscow International Business Center "Moscow-City" after a partial power outage as part of the environmental action "Earth Hour". Picture taken from the "Above Only Love" observation deck of the "Okol" tower of the Moscow International Business Center (MIBC) "Moscow City".
March 26, 2022. Ramil Sitdikov / RIA Novosti

On September 25, 2015, the Russian Federation as well as other UN¹⁸² member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supporting the fundamental idea of sustainable development together with the entire world community, that is, the right to a favorable environment reserved for every person and the use of natural resources for the sake of present and future generations.

Russia is actively involved in the work to ensure sustainable development. In 2021, the Government approved the goals and main directions of sustainable and “eco-friendly” country development.¹⁸³ The identified priorities feature the reduction of emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases, enhancing the efficiency of resource use, improving the waste management system and energy saving. The document noted that a system for financing “eco” projects and initiatives in sustainable development is being prepared for launch.

In September of the same year, the criteria for selecting “eco” projects were fixed and the parameters were set.¹⁸⁴ Once reached, these criteria will provide for raising concessional financing through special bonds or loans for the implementation of a “eco” or adaptation project.

Following the established criteria, an “eco” project can be launched in the areas of waste management, energy, construction, industry, transport, water supply, agriculture, biodiversity preservation and the environment. In addition to the “eco” criteria, transitional and adaptation projects were introduced as well. The verification requirements were published for all projects.¹⁸⁵

The adopted resolution laid down the basis for the formation of economic incentives for the transition to advanced environmental standards.

Despite the difficult international situation and sanctions restrictions, in 2022, Russia continued its active implementation of the rules of sustainable development. The strategy of Russia’s socioeconomic development with a low level of greenhouse gas emissions until 2050¹⁸⁶ is being implemented, the topic of “eco” and transitional projects has received an additional impetus in development, active work has continued on the draft law on public disclosure of nonfinancial reporting, containing information and indicators reflecting integrated approaches and the results of the activities of organizations on issues of social responsibility and sustainable development, and socially significant and managerial initiatives of business in sustainable development continue to be implemented.

On May 24, 2022, in his address to the participants of the first stage of the All-Russian Youth Environmental Forum “Ecosystem. Sustainable Development”, the Russian President noted that the basis for the sustainable development of each state, the key indicator of its success and efficiency today is reserved to the effective management of natural resources, which directly affects the preservation of the flora and fauna of our planet as well as people’s quality of life. The Russian President noted that today the country and society are facing serious, large-scale tasks, the main of which are the prudent and careful use of natural resources, improving the infrastructure for the competent handling of production and consumption waste, the transition of enterprises to advanced technologies, the formation ecological culture in society, especially among youth.¹⁸⁷

To further enhance the efficiency of solving problems in environmental protection and achieving environmental well-being, the Civic Chamber and the relevant Committee of the State Duma introduced the practice of hosting public discussions prior to parliamentary hearings. Environmental public organizations and activists prepared recommendations to parliamentarians in relation to the necessary legislation amendments in waste management and the Clean Air federal project.

17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET¹⁸⁸

The Sustainable Development Goals represent a universal call to action to end poverty, protect our planet, enhance the quality of life and improve prospects for all people all over the world. These 17 interrelated goals were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets out a 15-year plan to their achievement. The final document of the General Assembly “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” lists 17 global goals and 169 corresponding tasks.

GOAL 1: NO POVERTY
Economic growth must be inclusive to ensure sustainable jobs and equity.

GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER
The food and agriculture sectors offer key solutions for development and are central to the fight against hunger and poverty.

GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
The key element of sustainable development is to ensure healthy lifestyles and promote well-being for all at all ages.

GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION
Quality education is the basis for a decent life and sustainable development.

GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY
Gender equality is a basic human right as well as an essential condition for a peaceful and sustainable existence.

GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
Clean and accessible water resources for everyone are the key to a sustainable world.

GOAL 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
Energy is a key factor contributing to the solution of modern problems.

GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
To end poverty, a revision of economic and social policies is required.

GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Infrastructure investment is critical to achieving sustainable development.

GOAL 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES
Down inequality among people and countries.

GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
Investment in infrastructure development will help achieve sustainable development.

GOAL 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
Sustainable consumption and production aims to “produce more and better while consuming less”.

GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION
The climate change problem has no boundaries and requires a global solution.

GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER
The preservation and rational use of the oceans, seas and marine resources is an element of sustainable development.

GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND
Protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems and promoting their sustainable use will help achieve sustainable development.

GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
Contributing to building a peaceful and open society for sustainable development.

GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Working towards sustainable development is impossible without building partnerships at the global, regional, and local levels.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

5.1

BASED ON SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH DATA, CITIZENS OF OUR COUNTRY NOTE THE INCREASING SEVERITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN RECENT YEARS CAUSED MAINLY BY THE DETERIORATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND IN THE WORLD. THE GROWING RELEVANCE OF ECOLOGY IN THE PROBLEMATIC AGENDA ALSO PREDETERMINES THE GROWTH OF THE DEMAND FOR THE STATE TO TACKLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.¹⁸⁹

Today, both the state and society express a clear understanding that the state of the environment is the major factor directly affecting the quality of life of citizens. The key nature of forming “sustainable development” of nature and society is reflected in the Basic Law of the country and strategic planning documents.

In June 2022, the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation posted¹⁹⁰ the Concept of Environmental Education in the General Education System on its official website.¹⁹¹ Early on, the Civic Chamber, having considered the high social significance of the issues considered in the proposed Concept, including the issues that determine the foundations of the strategy for the development of environmental education in Russia for the coming years, provided its platform for professional and expert project discussion and elaborating proposals for its improvement.¹⁹² Experts say the initial version of the concept required a number of improvements:

the development of environmental education requires a more modern approach, taking into account new technologies and digitalized education;

the environmental education should cover all age categories and all educational levels – from preschool to higher education;

the system of environmental education should be extended on an ongoing basis.

Proposals for finalizing the concept were sent¹⁹³ to the Institute for Education Development Strategy of the Russian Academy of Education. The version of the Concept, finalized and approved by the federal educational and methodological association¹⁹⁴ for general education, determined the ecological culture of students as an integral result of ongoing environmental education.

The Concept approval is a significant step for the development of environmental education. Experts say, however, that it cannot fully contribute to solving the problem of creating its continuous system. Environmental studies should also be part of vocational training, tertiary education and advanced professional training programs to ensure that environmental literacy is being taught and learned across all stages of human life as a phenomenon that affects all its spheres. Further, the Concept failed to cover the issues of environmental education and the formation of environmental literacy as an integral part of the system of family values, were left outside the scope of the Concept. But these are an important social priority that contributes to the harmonious development of the individual and society in general.¹⁹⁵



A girl at the opening ceremony of Russia's first "Park of the Future (Futurepark)," children's edutainment park dedicated to renewable energy (Visitors Center of the Kislovodsk National Park, Stavropol Region). The ceremony is timed to coincide with Earth Hour, the world's largest environmental initiative (this year it falls on March 26, 2022). Denis Abramov / RIA Novosti

Environmental education and awareness, the formation of environmental literacy in each and every Russian is a task global in its scope and cross-agency in its content. It requires further consolidation of efforts, active participation of a significant number of authorities at all levels, as well as public associations, professional and scientific communities.

Currently, various projects in the field of environmental education and awareness are being implemented in Russia by both authorities at all levels and nonprofit organizations. Yet, these are often of a nonsystemic nature.

Another important current issue is the provision of information support for environmental education and the formation of ecological literacy in the population. In this context, the need to create a unified eco-information platform becomes obvious.

ESG AGENDA: THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

5.2

SEARCHING FOR BRAND NEW MODELS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS ONE OF THE KEY TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MODERN WORLD ECONOMY AND THE ECONOMIES OF NATION STATES. THE EXHAUSTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, IRREPARABLE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES AS A RESULT OF ANTHROPOGENIC ACTIVITY, AN INCREASE IN THE FREQUENCY AND SCALE OF CRISIS PHENOMEN, CAUSED, WITHOUT LIMITATION, BY A REVISION OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION PRINCIPLES INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND GLOBAL ORGANIZATIONS ABIDE BY – ALL THESE HAVE PREDETERMINED THE DEMAND FOR NEW ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL RULES, STANDARDS AND VALUE GUIDELINES, WHICH COULD HELP ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES BECOME A FACTOR OF CREATIVE TRANSFORMATION. NOWADAYS, THIS NEW MORAL CODE IS EMBODIED IN THE ESG VALUE PRINCIPLES, WHERE “E” STANDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY, “S” – FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND “G” – FOR RESPONSIBLE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.

While the Sustainable Development Goals are intended primarily for the UN Member States, the attention to environmental, social and corporate governance aspects (ESG) are becoming an increasingly significant success factor for responsible businesses. Environmental preservation, social development and corporate governance issues are increasingly considered when making investment decisions and implementing new financial projects. More and more companies in Russia become more open and transparent to their stakeholders and regularly publish reports on their contribution to sustainable development. Regions and municipalities focused on compliance with the best social responsibility practices are also beginning to join the process.

Along with the state, civil society and representatives of the expert community are actively involved in the discussion of sustainable development issues, including

those related to nonfinancial reporting of companies. Independent assessments of nonfinancial reports are in demand in the business sector.¹⁹⁶ A reporting organization can evaluate its impact on the environment and social processes in its report, while civil society, through public assurance, has the opportunity to influence the sustainable development of the organization.

As part of the active citizens’ forum “Community”, held in July 2022 in Lipetsk, the Civic Chamber supported a public initiative to implement a project for public assurance of nonfinancial reporting of Russia-based companies, acting as the initiator and organizer of a platform where nonfinancial reports, issued by organizations and municipal authorities of different Russian regions, could be discussed and assured.

The practice of public assurance of nonfinancial reports, which is now being

documented and unified by the Civic Chamber, provides independent evaluation of activities in the field of sustainable development, makes it transparent and accessible to stakeholders, and also promotes the replication of the best practices of Russian companies and regions on environmental issues, the development of the social sphere and management efficiency.¹⁹⁷

Assessing nonfinancial reports obtained as part of the public assurance procedure creates additional incentives for companies to develop within the framework of the ESG agenda.¹⁹⁸

The Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber for Environmental, Social Responsibility and Corporate Governance (ESG) and Sustainable Development and RAEX, a partner rating agency selected on a competitive basis, will take part in the public assurance procedure.

PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC ASSURANCE OF PUBLIC NONFINANCIAL REPORTING

The Coordination Council of the Civic Chamber on Environmental, Social Responsibility and Corporate Governance (ESG) and the rating partner will take part in the public assurance procedure. In August 2022, following a pre-qualification process, to which all the leading rating agencies of Russia were invited, the credit rating agency RAEX was elected a partner of the Civic Chamber

- 1 RAEX experts will focus on determining whether the information disclosed by companies in their public nonfinancial reports is unbiased, complete and sensitive.
- 2 At the next stage, the reports will be assessed by the coordination council, consisting of 36 participants-members of the Civic Chamber, the National ESG Alliance, external experts from among the representatives of the scientific community, banking and financial institutions, as well as representatives of state authorities.
- 3 Following the public assurance procedure, an opinion will be prepared and a corresponding certificate signed by the President of the Civic Chamber will be issued.¹⁹⁹ On the immediate horizon, it is planned to draft a draft law on public assurance.²⁰⁰

On October 26, 2022, the Civic Chamber met to discuss and assure public sustainability reporting for the first time.²⁰¹ RAEX experts presented the deliverables of the assessment of MTS’s public sustainability reports 2021, issued as per the methodology develop.²⁰² The reports received an ESG rating of 69.8% out of 100% and were assigned an A [esg] rating.

The A rating proves that the company’s ESG risk and opportunity management is at a high level. According to the experts, the company can improve its ESG assessment rate in the future by taking minor additional measures and introducing innovations in the field of ESG.

In 2023, the Civic Chamber plans not only to actively develop the institute of public assurance of public nonfinancial reports, but also to lay the foundation for an appropriate regulatory framework.

PRESERVING THE NATIONAL NATURAL HERITAGE

5.3

AS PRESERVING NATURAL HERITAGE IS OF HIGH SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE, THE ISSUES OF LEGAL REGULATION OF COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS IN SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL TERRITORIES TRADITIONALLY ATTRACT CAREFUL ATTENTION OF PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS, PROFESSIONAL AND EXPERT COMMUNITIES, THE PART OF RUSSIAN POPULATION ENGAGED IN ECO-ACTIVISM AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM ACTIVITIES.

Addressing the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biodiversity in October 2021, the President of Russia noted that, together with specially protected natural territories of local or wider significance and other legally protected forms of environmental assets, more than a quarter of continental Russia was protected by environmental law in general. Further, it is planned to create at least 23 new protected natural areas by 2024.²⁰³

Today, Russia has some 13 thousand specially protected natural areas of federal, regional and local significance, with a total area of 255+ million hectares, that is 13.5% of the country's area.²⁰⁴

The system of specially protected natural areas (SPNA) has allowed preserving key habitats for rare and endangered species of animals, plants and fungi and creating the institutional environment for the development of scientific research and targeted environmental education programs²⁰⁵.

In recent years, the President of Russia has repeatedly noted the importance of the development and preservation of specially protected natural areas. A set of instructions in that respect was given to

the Government of Russia, including on the completion of entering information on the boundaries of specially protected natural areas into the Unified State Register of Real Estate, setting eco-tourism criteria and strengthening the legal regime of state nature reserves, including when it came to the prohibition of forest logging and capital construction.²⁰⁶

In February 2022, experts and government officials met in the Civic Chamber to discuss the implementation of the President's instructions in the field of development and preservation of specially protected natural areas. A number of instructions was noted to have been fulfilled only in part. The lack of a systematic approach to biodiversity preservation and eco-tourism was obvious, as well.²⁰⁷

Experts drew attention to the fact that in recent years there had been attempts to liberalize legislation on specially protected natural areas, which seemed unacceptable, since their creation and development was the only possible and reliable tool for protecting Russia's unique biological resources, the basis of environmental, food and genetic security.

The draft law "On Amendments to the Federal Law "On Public Evaluation"²⁰⁸



Sergei Abarinov, Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Murmansk Region, collecting garbage on Arktichesky Plyazh (Arctic Beach) in Murmansk as part of the Chistaya Arktika (Clean Arctic) Initiative. September 3, 2021. Pavel Lvov / RIA Novosti

sparked a massive public outcry. It provided for changing the boundaries of specially protected natural areas should the state environmental expert evaluation give a positive opinion. According to experts, if the draft law had been passed and the legislative initiatives proposed therein had been implemented, it would have led to the withdrawal of SPNA lands. Following the preliminary hearings, public discussion and detailed analysis of the draft law, improving proposals have been shaped and submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia²⁰⁹ by public experts.

In March 2022, a draft law²¹⁰ was submitted to the State Duma, which provided for the withdrawal of parts of specially protected natural areas of local or wider significance and the Baikal Natural Area to implement priority infrastructure projects without the assessment of design documents by the Federal Environmental Expert Evaluation Office. Such legislative initiatives caused a wave of criticism from citizens, environmentalists, public organizations and individual lawmakers²¹¹. The State Duma acceded to public attitudes of social activists. A new wording of the draft law

was submitted for the second reading, which withdrew the Baikal Natural Area from the scope of the draft law.²¹² In addition, a provision was added to the draft law to allow for the construction and reconstruction of infrastructure facilities only if the requirements of environmental legislation, including the statutory provisions concerning specially protected natural areas, land, forestry, water and other provisions aimed at preserving a healthy environment and natural resources, were complied with and the state ecological expert evaluation gave its positive opinion.

Today, one of the key mechanisms for ensuring compliance with environmental requirements that guarantee the protection and preservation of the environment is environmental impact evaluation. In 2022, improving the legislation in this field has become mainstream.

An extra attention of civil society institutions was paid²¹³ to a draft law aimed at improving environmental impact assessment procedures.²¹⁴

The main innovation of the draft law was the provisions stipulating for transferring the authority to initiate public environmental impact assessments from citizens and public organizations (associations) to the civic chambers of Russia's regions and civic chambers (councils) of municipalities. While noting the importance of civic chambers as a key institution of civil society, the experts at the same time pointed out the risks of such an initiative

due to the lack of a sufficient number of subject-matter experts and narrow specialists in civic chambers, the necessary material base, appropriate financial resources for high-quality and professional environmental impact assessments.²¹⁵

Further, public environmental evaluations are one of the key ways to exercise the universal right to a healthy environment,²¹⁶ so excluding citizens from the list of initiators of public environmental assessments, as the experts put it, could lead to a violation of their constitutional rights.

On September 26, 2022, the highly publicized draft law on changing the procedure for conducting environmental impact assessments was withdrawn from the State Duma under public pressure²¹⁷ following the withdrawal of the same by the holder of the right of legislative initiative.

At the same time, a new draft law,²¹⁸ revised in terms of improving the legal control of environmental impact assessments, was submitted to the State Duma. It incorporated the main comments of the public to the previous draft law.

However, the revised draft law also triggered concerns in the expert community.²¹⁹ A particularly lively discussion was caused by the novelties of the draft law which established the requirement for mandatory certification of environmental experts by authorized federal agencies. Eco-activists and environmental nongovernmental organizations expressed a common opinion on the need to unconditionally ensure the independence of public experts from authorities at all levels²²⁰ and proposed to give the Civic Chamber and civic chambers of Russia's regions the authority to maintain federal and regional registers of experts with the right to conduct public environmental impact assessments. It was also proposed to add experts to such registers on a declarative basis.

The issues of preserving the unique biodiversity of our country have caused serious concerns among environmentalists, public environmental organizations

and volunteers in 2022. For example, the increasing cases of mass deaths of marine fauna, primarily Red Book porpoises and dolphins, along the Black Sea coast and offshore²²¹, have caused a wide public outcry.

Environmentalists have been equally concerned about the state of Lake Baikal, a unique natural site included in the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List. In September 2019, following the audits of compliance with legislation concerning Lake Baikal and its state, the President of the Russian Federation approved Instructions of September 12, 2019, No. Пр-1818222, aimed at taking systematic measures to protect the Baikal Natural Area. The President of Russia has repeatedly noted that the preservation of Lake Baikal for current and future generations was, beyond doubt, a state priority.²²³

Assessing the deliverables, eco-activists agreed that three years later the Instructions remained unfulfilled across all the key points while, according to individual experts, the ecological state of Lake Baikal continued to deteriorate markedly.

All these issues were discussed by the Civic Chamber in 2022. Following the discussions, proposals and recommendations for the preservation of Red Book cetaceans and the unique biodiversity of Lake Baikal were submitted to competent authorities and organizations. Currently, the Civic Chamber is monitoring the progress in registering the proposals submitted.

Significant risks for the preservation of Red Data Book plants in their natural habitat were posed by the draft law prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia "On Amendments to Article 60 of the Federal Law "On Environmental Protection",²²⁴ which provided for the possibility of removing Red Data Book plants from their natural habitat when developing mining facilities or laying transportation, communications and utilities lines. Thanks to the joint efforts of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber for

Environmental Welfare,²²⁵ environmental experts and public organizations, the further development of this draft law has been suspended.²²⁶

Eco-activists were also concerned by a draft law submitted to the State Duma which provided for continuous clear cuttings in the central ecological zone of the Baikal Natural Area.²²⁷ The Civic Chamber initiated a public evaluation of the draft law, with the involvement of numerous lawmakers and government agents, scientific and professional communities in its discussion. The public evaluation came to the conclusion that the proposed provisions were redundant, since the goals declared in the explanatory note to the draft law, including the removal of a huge part of dead and damaged vegetation, were addressed within the framework of the already existing legislation of the Russian Federation.²²⁸

The issues of preserving Russia's natural heritage and unique biodiversity are directly dependent on the state of the environment.

When it comes to studying the mechanisms of adaptation to climate changes and their consequences and taking measures to reduce the negative impact of greenhouse gases on the environment, the approval by the Russian Government in 2022 of the Federal Scientific and Technical Program in the field of Environmental Development until 2030²²⁹ was an important decision.

The program is aimed at creating science-intensive process solutions for monitoring and forecasting the state of the environment and climate.

Mitigating the anthropogenic impact on the environment and searching for the best options to adapt ecosystems and economic sectors to climate changes are among other high-profile aspects of the Program.

Developing its own methodological and scientific base and taking appropriate practical measures will minimize environmental and climate risks, as well as effectively defend national economic interests at the global level.

Within the framework of the Program, several dozen scientific institutions across the country will receive cash grants in support of some fifty studies and developments.²³⁰ These will include the improvement of forecasting, creation of ocean models with ice coverings, studies of the climate of our planet for the past two centuries, systems to monitor permafrost melting and decarbonization scenarios in Russia and abroad. As a result, action programs to combat desertification will be developed for 13 Russian regions.²³¹



Members of the Young Army Cadets National Movement planting trees near Timiryazev State Agricultural Academy as part of Zelyonaya Rossiya (Green Russia), an all-Russia ecological clean-up event. September 11, 2021. Kirill Kallinikov / RIA Novosti



Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov during an open lesson "Conversation on an equal footing. New Rules of Diplomacy" as part of the 2nd educational marathon "New Knowledge" in Moscow. September 3, 2021. Alexey Maishev / RIA Novosti

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE IN MODERN CONDITIONS

6.1

UP UNTIL RECENTLY, IT WAS A COMMON BELIEF THAT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ARE THE STATE PREROGATIVE, AND INTERNATIONAL INTERACTION WAS LARGELY REDUCED TO DIPLOMACY, WHICH WAS REPRESENTED BY PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHLY COMPETENT NATIONAL BUREAUCRACIES BOTH IN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DIALOGUE AT THE LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.



President of the Civic Chamber of Russia Lydia Mikheeva and Secretary General of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS) Apostolos Xirafis at the Board meeting of the organization. June 28, 2022. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Gradually, given the expanded role of civil society, the development of horizontal ties and the formation of network social structures, the number of contacts increased, which was largely caused by various aspects of globalization and digitalization. That enabled nonprofit organizations and public associations to fill their own niche in international relations, which traditional diplomacy, in many respects condescendingly, would call “second track diplomacy”.

The beginning of the acute phase of the conflict in Donbass marked a cardinal change in international relations that took place over the past decades in an implicit format. It was the willingness and quick response of Western countries to the introduction of a range of sanctions and restrictions against Russia, as well as condemnation of our country’s actions, which decided to protect its national interests that surfaced serious contradictions between Russia and Western states.

This crisis has affected almost every Russian citizen, Russian compatriots residing abroad, as well as foreign partners and friends of Russia, who have felt unprecedented pressure to stop any kind of interaction with our country. Foreign business began to leave Russia en masse, scientific and university ties wound up getting banned, Russian performers began to be denied tours abroad, and Russian athletes were banned from international competitions. Given the complicated international situation around Russian sports, in 2022, Russian sports public organizations like the National Rhythmic Gymnastics League, water sports organizations, held international competitions with broad participation of foreign athletes in Russia. Given the transport and visa restrictions imposed on Russian citizens, tourist and business trips of Russians have been hampered. The Russians suddenly found themselves in a different reality, an atmosphere of hostility, distrust and suspicion, and felt the need to rebuild their relations with rest of the world, to look for new partners in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to offset the hampered relations with the Europeans colleagues.

Despite the conditions of an overall decline in relations, some representatives of civil



Participants of the “Brother for Brother” action in Belgrade. A parade dedicated to the protection of traditional values took place in Belgrade. Tens of thousands of residents took to the streets to show solidarity with Russia, where the “Brother for Brother” action was held in Moscow. August 28, 2022. Aleksandar Djorovic / RIA Novosti

society in Western countries found it possible to continue dialogue and cooperation at least the personal level. As for the rest of the world, relations at the level of civil society institutions, public associations, professional communities were not suspended and in some areas were even reinforced.

In September 2022, Russia embraced the Concept of the “Humanitarian Policy of the Russian Federation Abroad”, which puts specific efforts on the development of human capital, the strengthening of international relations in culture, science, education, sports, tourism, as well as promoting traditional Russian spiritual and moral values, expanding Russian language and Russian culture abroad, preserving historical and cultural heritage, support for compatriots living abroad, and establishment of intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

In its work in the international area, the Civic Chamber rests upon the pillars of the Humanitarian Policy Concept and demonstrates the opportunities for successful partnership with civil society institutions and nonprofit bodies in foreign countries and the implementation of joint projects.

2022 has become one of the most challenging for Russia over the past decade in international cooperation. Many interstate and economic relations have undergone a significant transformation, cultural, sports, and scientific ties with a number of countries have been interrupted. At the same time, many unprecedented events occurring around Russia, coupled with the related challenges that arose within this environment, contributed to the consolidation of citizens, the intensification of joint efforts of the state and society in various areas such as public diplomacy

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS – INTERACTION AMID GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION

6.2

AS PART OF ITS INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR, THE CIVIC CHAMBER FACED BIASED DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE STRUCTURES OF LEADING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. RUSSIAN SOCIAL ACTIVISTS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGULAR FORMATS OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE) IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIMENSION TWICE, WHICH ARE TRADITIONALLY A PLATFORM FOR A NONPOLITICIZED DIALOGUE OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. MEMBERS OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER WERE ALSO DENIED PARTICIPATION AS SPEAKERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH ORGANIZED BY UNESCO, AND IN EXPERT PANELS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UN INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM.

On the other hand, the testimonies of representatives of Russian civil society were in demand on the high rostrum of the UN Security Council, where a report on the causes of the Ukrainian crisis was presented at a meeting as per the Arria formula, as well as at a conference of representatives of the third sector sponsored by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

An indicative and successful example of public diplomacy was one of the key tracks of the international activities of the Civic Chamber in 2022 – interaction through the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS).

In October 2021, the Civic Chamber was elected presiding body of this organization,

which brings together organized civil society institutions from 75 countries. The topic of the two-year chairmanship of the Civic Chamber in the Association is “Living in the Online Age: Looming Challenges and Urge for Solutions”.

Following the start of a special military operation, despite the nonpoliticized format of interaction as part of the AICESIS, 12 councils from the European Union at the initiative of the French side suspended their membership in the Association for the period until the meeting of the AICESIS General Assembly, which was scheduled for June.²³²

During the meeting of the AICESIS General Assembly hosted by Athens in June 2022, the economic and social councils of Spain,



Laying wreaths and flowers at the Liberator Warrior memorial to the fallen Soviet soldiers in Berlin's Treptow Park commemorating the 77th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War. May 9, 2022. AP / TASS

France, Portugal and Ukraine, expressing their desire to remove the Civic Chamber from presiding at the Association, but having failed to find any legal grounds to do it, called on the Civic Chamber to voluntarily resign from the presidency. This initiative did not find support among the Association members, who advocated the continuation of a comprehensive dialogue within AICESIS. It was decided through the course of the meeting that the next AICESIS General Assembly will be held in October 2023 in Moscow.

The Civic Chamber continues to fulfill its presidency agenda, staying alert that not all AICESIS partners are willing to continue cooperation in the spirit of mutual respect and the implementation of a practical agenda on social issues. Throughout 2022, as part of the presidency at the Association, the Civic

Chamber has elaborated on a new draft of the AICESIS Articles and successfully carried through a number of scheduled events.

In particular, while presiding at the AICESIS, the Civic Chamber delegation took part in the General Assembly of the Union of Economic and Social Councils of Africa (UCESA) held in October 2022 in Rabat, Morocco. On the sidelines of the General Assembly, the Russian delegation held bilateral meetings with their counterparts from Benin, Cameroon, Madagascar, Senegal, Central African Republic, Chad and South Africa in their aim to establish international relations to further consolidate the public institutions of Russia and the countries of the African continent.

Amid the global geopolitical changes, international cooperation through religious organizations play a special role. Representatives of world religions are significant actors in the intercivilizational dialogue, having a huge potential, associated primarily with trusting relationships between fellow believers from different states.

As a result, the religious factor can effectively eliminate unwelcoming trends in international relations through influencing political, socioeconomic, and humanitarian processes. The high role of religious organizations in the international dialogue was supported by the participation of the Civic Chamber members in the meeting of religious leaders in Indonesia as part of the G20 in November 2022 with a speech on the role of religions in peacemaking and the fight against the eradication of Islamophobia and religious phobias.

The agenda further includes the intensified work of representatives of Russian religious institutions in various formats through the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the expansion and reinforced cooperation between Buddhist organizations in Russia and Asian countries, in particular as part of the ongoing Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace.

Another area of public diplomacy and a wide field for interstate cooperation at the level of civil society in the past year was the election and referendum observation.

With ten-year track record in arranging public monitoring of electoral processes in Russia and abroad, in 2022 the Civic Chamber, supported by the Russian Foreign Ministry, initiated the dispatch of its own observation missions to those countries where local legislation provides for that.

Election observation in foreign countries aims to ensure the transparency and legal state of the electoral process. In addition, international observation missions provide for experience exchange and best practices in law enforcement in election control.

International observation of elections abroad is carried through in the format dispatching observation missions of the Civic Chamber. Mission members receiving the status of international observers. Given the footprint of observation missions, the Civic Chamber members have accumulated extensive experience and rich expert evaluation in electoral practices and technologies.

In 2022, observation missions of the Civic Chamber worked at elections of different types in Abkhazia, Serbia, South Ossetia, Lebanon, the Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Kenya, Angola, Nepal, and Tunisia.

As part of the observation missions, meetings were held with local officials, representatives of authorities and the election commissions, political organizations and parties, civil society, parliamentarians, and experts.

For Russia, which ranks first in the world in the length of its borders and the number of bordering countries, cross-border cooperation with foreign states appears of major importance.

In 2020, the Russian authorities approved the Concept of Cross-Border Cooperation in the Russian Federation,²³³ which general background states that cross-border

cooperation is aimed at establishing and developing a comprehensive dialogue between the subjects of cross-border cooperation between the Russian Federation and its neighbors.²³⁴

Cross-border cooperation being expanded successfully both at the state level and at the level of urban and rural communities, regional, municipal and territorial entities, became significantly more complicated in 2022, and somewhere was stopped altogether. This problem was discussed during a number of thematic discussions initiated by the Civic Chamber, including the "Community" forums.

Traditionally, the priority area of cooperation for Russia is to enhance ties with the post-Soviet countries' counterparts. Close working relationship with the Civil Alliance of Kazakhstan, establishing contacts with NPOs of Uzbekistan, meetings with representatives of civil society in Lithuania, the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic (PMR), the establishment of a Coordination Council to reinforce Russian-Belarusian friendship are the results of the work of the past year supported by the Civic Chamber.



Members of the Civic Chamber of Russia as part of the observation mission of the Civic Chamber attending the parliamentary elections in Nepal. Kathmandu, November 19, 2022. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

OBSERVATION MISSIONS OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER ABROAD

 <p>MARCH 12 AND 26, 2022 ABKHAZIA</p> <p>Parliamentary elections (first-round observation)</p>	 <p>APRIL 3, 2022 SERBIA</p> <p>General election</p>	 <p>APRIL 10 AND MAY 8, 2022 SOUTH OSSETIA</p> <p>Presidential elections</p>	
 <p>MAY 15, 2022 LEBANON</p> <p>Parliamentary elections</p>	 <p>JULY 10, 2022 REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO</p> <p>Parliamentary and municipal elections</p>	 <p>JULY 31, 2022 SENEGAL</p> <p>Parliamentary elections</p>	
 <p>AUGUST 31, 2022 KENYA</p> <p>General election</p>	 <p>AUGUST 24, 2022 ANGOLA</p> <p>General election</p>	 <p>NOVEMBER 20, 2022 NEPAL</p> <p>Parliamentary elections</p>	 <p>DECEMBER 17, 2022 TUNISIA</p> <p>Parliamentary elections</p>

STEPPING UP WORK WITH RUSSIAN COMPATRIOTS ABROAD

6.3

AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IS THE EVER-INCREASING ATTENTION TO FELLOW COUNTRYMEN ABROAD. ONLY ACCORDING TO THE UN ESTIMATES IN 2021, MORE THAN 11 MILLION FELLOW CITIZENS LIVE OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, ACCORDING TO OTHER EXPERT ESTIMATES, THEIR NUMBER EXCEEDS 25 MILLION.²³⁵ THE EVENTS OF 2022 CONVINCINGLY SHOWED THAT PROTECTING THE RIGHTS AND LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF FELLOW COUNTRYMEN IS ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL FACTORS IN ENSURING THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF RUSSIA AND REQUIRES THE CONSOLIDATION OF TARGETED EFFORTS OF STATE AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS.²³⁶

As per the tasks set by the Russian President, who has repeatedly raised the topic of expanding and enhancing Russia's interaction with compatriots in messages to the Federal Assembly, a lot of work has been done in recent years to develop legislation and strengthen ties with foreign compatriots, public organizations and associations that they set up in their countries of residence. Civil society institutions and Russian NPOs were actively involved in this work.

This work concerned the expansion and support of cooperation, the implementation of cultural and humanitarian projects, and also tackled a wide range of problematic issues, including such topics as ensuring security, equal rights with citizens of host countries to get involved in public and political life, issues of expanding access to education and the implementation of labor activity, ensuring the right to preserve identity and communicate in their native language, study historical and cultural heritage, and much more.

The past years have shown that without the direct assistance extended by the state and civil society institutions, it would be very

difficult for compatriots to defend their rights in a number of situations.

To expand fellow countrymen support, in March 2022, a draft law was submitted to the State Duma of Russia to recognize all those speaking Russian as fellow countrymen.²³⁷ The draft law proposes a new version of the "fellow countryman" definition. Based on that, persons who speak Russian as the state language of the Russian Federation and belong to the peoples historically living on Russian territory, and those whose direct ancestors were born or lived on the country's territory are recognized as fellow countrymen.

The explanatory note to the draft law notes that the clarification of the "fellow countryman" concept in the new version of the law will enable it to be used in exercising the rights of fellow countrymen provided for by the relevant federal laws²³⁸ in accordance with part 3 of article 69 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.²³⁹

The activities of Russian fellow countrymen to promote Russian culture – the creation of schools and circles for children, Russian

language courses, cultural centers, ballet schools, newspapers – are unifying for people coming from all countries of the former Soviet Union, as well as for the local population wishing to learn more about Russia. However, with the start of the special military operation, the range of opportunities for such projects to be implemented, especially in European countries, has been largely reduced. In a number of cases, Russian fellow countrymen began to face direct insults and discrimination amid the inaction of local authorities.

To this end, in June 2022, the Association of Lawyers of Russia and the Synergy Corporation, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, created the digital platform 'pravanashih.com' as part of the international humanitarian project "For the Rights of Compatriots", which became a one-stop platform for citizens to apply and allowed our compatriots to receive all the necessary information on legal protection and assistance in legal matters, as well as psychological support.

For its part, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also strengthened its efforts by arranging face-to-face meetings with fellow countrymen living in the Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Greece, Lebanon, Nepal, Tunisia, and online conferences with members of the Coordination Councils of organizations of Russian compatriots around the world, together with the Foundation for the Support and Protection of the Rights of Compatriots. During the meetings, the members of the Civic Chamber delivered information on countering the "cancel culture", initiatives and draft laws being discussed in Russia and related to the protection of the rights of fellow countrymen, on Russian resources created to help and support compatriots abroad, on the rules for applying to the Presidential Grants Foundation and Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives for implementing projects to develop and reinforce international cooperation in the humanitarian and cultural spheres.

One of the outcomes resulting from the discussions was the launch in March 2022 of the Civic Chamber's in-house hotline that can be used by fellow countrymen to report all facts of harassment related to their nationality, language, or political views.²⁴⁰



A branch of the Primakov Gymnasium in Abu Dhabi. This is the first school in the UAE that provides education in Russian in accordance with the federal state educational standards of Russia. November 4, 2022. RIA Novosti

CONCLUSION

The events of 2022 have convincingly showed that, in the face of global instability, generated by the systemic crisis of international institutions designed to coordinate the interests of individual countries, alliances, military-political blocs and ensure common security in the world, the issues of preserving and strengthening sovereignty, ensuring that leadership potential that can guarantee the future of the country, nation and society in an era of global change are coming to the fore today.

Modern times require us to set ambitious goals, implement new ideas, make bold decisions, and get even more united and consolidated when faced with the external pressures that we have today. 2023 will surely be the year of solving large-scale tasks, strategic goal setting and management.

Being a key institution of civil society, the Civic Chamber seeks to be a factor in systemic changes aimed at developing the country and achieving tangible and qualitative changes in the daily lives of our citizens. The work of the Civic Chamber in the upcoming year will be arranged based on these assumptions.

In 2023, the Civic Chamber will continue to develop the public evaluation institution, one of the key mechanisms of direct democracy that has been consistently developing in Russia since 2014.²⁴¹ Discussion of draft laws and draft regulations at the Civic Chamber site involving a wide range of public figures, representatives of the professional and scientific community and authorities will make it possible to provide a quicker response to current problems and demands of society, ensure a balanced consideration of the opinions of all interested parties, as well as protect legal rights and the interests of the citizens of our country in the adoption and subsequent implementation of legislative initiatives.²⁴²

Special focus will be put to preliminary hearings of socially significant draft laws and regulations.²⁴³ Considering the challenges of our time, especially those aimed at supporting participants in the special military operation and their families, residents of new regions, increasing the activity of the nonprofit sector, and the growth of entrepreneurial initiative.

In fulfilling the instructions of the Russian President, since 2020, the Civic Chamber has been engaged in public oversight over the implementation of national projects, ensuring the development of the optimal and most efficient solutions aimed at improving the quality of life of citizens. In the emerging social and economic situation, the implementation of state strategic planning documents, the achievement of national development goals call for special attention to the government decisions being taken. The Civic Chamber experience accumulated over previous years will make it possible to increase the efficiency of the work carried out and ensure that the opinion of civil society is taken into account to the extent possible when developing and implementing strategic planning documents in 2023.

The issues of ensuring demographic growth in 2023 are expected to be one of the key priorities in implementing state policy. Active work of the Civic Chamber in this area is underway. The implementation of projects of members of the Civic Chamber to support the pregnancy preservation in Russian regions will be continued. The Civic Chamber will host the discussion of the initiatives to improve legislation in providing free land plots to large families, and the long-term development of the state pension system in terms of improving the system of disability payments for large families. The issues of expert integration in child protection from the new Russian regions will become a topical work item.²⁴⁴ The Civic Chamber will pursue its efforts in elaborating proposals to support and encourage large families. Today, breakthrough solutions are required in this direction in order to revive the image of a strong and prosperous large family as a national idea of the Russian state.

Support for the development of the nonprofit sector will remain a top priority in the work of the Civic Chamber in 2023. Monitoring of NPO-related measures introduced by the Russian Government will be pursued. The major



Meeting on monitoring the implementation of national projects in Moscow. October 8, 2021. Sergei Pyatakov / RIA Novosti

area of work will be to assist the regions in elaborating measures to reduce regional disproportions in the third sector development, including the new Russian regions where it is important to provide all the necessary assistance for the formation and development of nonprofit organizations, help create resource centers, promote in creating partnerships, to involve nonprofit organizations from other Russian regions in active interaction, and to implement educational activities for NPOs and government bodies at the system level.

In 2022, the Civic Chamber focused on the fact that, having faced new challenges, Russia now requires a new educational strategy that meets the needs of the state, as well as a system for assessing the quality of education, formed with the direct involvement of Russian society and considering the priorities of the national economy.²⁴⁵

Given the needs of the national economy, the expansion of the human potential in Russia is currently facing a number of barriers that exist in practice: the system of personnel training, the outflow of promising young people from the regions.²⁴⁶ In particular, the number of job openings for technologists-engineers and IT-specialists exceeds the number of graduates in these areas by 120 thousand. School graduates get less and less enrolled in the engineering areas of universities, opting for social sciences and humanities (Unified State Exams in physics and computer science are chosen by 4 times fewer students than social studies).²⁴⁷ In order to alter the existing trends and refocus on meeting the needs of the national economy and human development, it is necessary to continue the ongoing work on implementing breakthrough educational projects as part of the formation and strengthening of a unified educational system.

As part of the educational agenda, topical issues of patriotic education will be considered in further detail in 2023.

Today, this area lacks systemic decisions at the state level, strategic and methodological documents, and solutions to pressing staff-related issues. Given the high importance

of the topic under consideration, we can also talk about the creation of a separate federal body dealing with the issues of patriotic education of the younger generation.²⁴⁸ Today, the Civic Chamber, as part of sociological research and expert discussions, collects initiatives and proposals on topical issues and solutions in promoting patriotism. Based on the proposals collected, appropriate proposals will be prepared to the public authorities.

The Civic Chamber notes that only the continued joint work of the public and the state can lead to truly efficient decisions on forming an integrated approach to the development of the system of patriotism promotion in educational establishments.²⁴⁹

The key topic of work in the new year will be the issues of expanding inclusion in Russian society. Inclusion should be in leisure, recreation, education, the urban environment, as well as in the people communication. It is impossible to build such a society "by decree from above". The issues of building an accessible society should be approached in a complex manner and in a broad sociocultural context that includes all possible forms of social relations of people with disabilities. Today, much is being done for citizens with disabilities, state support is provided, a system of social services is being developed, state pensions, benefits, and other guarantees of social protection are being established.

To further expand inclusion and the accessible environment for citizens with disabilities, it is important for Russian society to ask itself the question: what else needs to be done to make Russian society truly inclusive?

The AICESIS presidency remains one of the priorities of the Civic Chamber for 2023. As a result of the two-year presidency in the Association, a report "Living in the Online Age: Looming Challenges and Urge for solutions" will be prepared, which is planned to be presented at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, held under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, in July 2023.

The Russian Civic Chamber agenda on the international track for the upcoming year includes the tasks of further development of multilateral and bilateral public dialogue.

Summing up the results of 2022, the Civic Chamber notes the major trend in the development of civil society in our country – the growing civic activity and the willingness of citizens to take a direct part in elaborating ideas and implementing initiatives that will determine its future. Today the big picture is seen clearly: The nature of the social development of our state will rest upon how active the civil society will be, and what its transforming activity will be aimed at.

We invite all Russian citizens, public organizations and associations to continue the broad public discussion that we are conducting at the Civic Chamber in 2023.

Our experience, multi-year track record of the Civic Chamber in building a constructive dialogue and efficient communication with the authorities makes it possible to say that many ideas and proposals expressed during our discussions are becoming part of state policy. And, as representatives of civil society, today we are granted all the opportunities and tools to control their implementation.

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<https://www.oprf.ru/news/startoval-vserossiyskiy-muzykalnyy-proekt-etno>
- 103** The mother tongue is the expression of the cultural affiliation of each person.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/rodnoy-yazyk-vyrazitel-kulturnoy-prinadlezhnosti-kazhdogo-cheloveka>
- 104** The meaning of the teachings of Saints Kirill and Methodius.
<https://oprf.ru/news/znachenie-ucheniya-svyatykh-kirilla-i-mefodiya>
- 105** Strengthening the unity of the Russian nation, spiritual and moral education of youth.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/ukreplenie-edinstva-rossiyskoy-natsii-dukhovnonravstvennoe-vospitanie-molodezhi>
- 106** Modern trends in the development of the ethnocultural sector.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/sovremennye-tendentsii-razvitiya-etnokulturnogo-sektora>
- 107** The number of subscribers of "NatsAccent" has exceeded one million.
<https://nazaccent.ru/content/39359-chislo-podpischikov-nacakcenta-perevalilo-za-million.html>
- 108** VCIOM: Over 80% of Russians highly appreciate interethnic relations.
<https://rg.ru/2021/02/18/vciom-bolee-80-rossiian-vysoko-ocenivaiut-mezhnacionalnye-otnosheniia.html>
- 109** The State Duma is elaborating the state national policy foundations.
<https://ria.ru/20221020/zakon-1825396004.html>
- 110** State Council Presidium meeting on social support.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/68481>
- 111** Federal Law of November 21, 2022. No. 455-FZ "On Amending the Federal Law 'On State Benefits to Citizens with Children'".
<https://rg.ru/documents/2022/11/24/document-posobiya-grazhdanam-imeyushchim-detej.html>
- 112** A law was signed allowing the use of maternity capital funds to pay for educational services provided by individual entrepreneurs.
<http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/news/69110>

- 113** Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of August 15, 2022 No. 558 “On Certain Issues of Improving the State Award System of the Russian Federation”.
<http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/48239>
- 114** Putin proposed to return the title of “Mother Heroine” with a lump sum payment of 1 million rubles.
<https://www.interfax.ru/russia/844101>
- 115** Putin proposed to return the Soviet honorary title of “Mother Heroine”.
<https://www.rbc.ru/society/01/06/2022/62975b7d9a794735d0d08a4c>
- 116** Executive Order establishing Father’s Day.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/66852>
- 117** Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of June 28, 2022 No. 411 “On the Day of Family, Love and Fidelity”.
<http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/47966>
- 118** Day of family, love and fidelity in Donbass.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/den-semi-lyubvi-i-vernosti-na-donbasse>
- 119** In Primorye, families with many children will be given a million rubles to close the mortgage.
<https://rg.ru/2022/11/18/reg-dfo/v-primore-mnogodetnym-semiam-dadut-million-rublej-na-zakrytie-ipoteki.html>
- 120** Fathers with three children were given a deferment from mobilization.
<https://www.pnp.ru/social/otcam-s-tremya-detmi-dali-otsrochku-ot-mobilizacii.html>
- 121** A back watched: what is due to the families of those mobilized in Russia.
<https://iz.ru/1406292/aigul-khabibullina/prikrytyi-tyl-chto-polozheno-semiam-mobilizovannykh-v-rossii>
- 122** Meeting of the Russia – Land of Opportunity Supervisory Board.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/68250>
- 123** Id.
- 124** Draft law No. 126384-8 “On the Russian Movement of Children and Youth ‘Big Break’”.
https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/126384-8#bh_note
- 125** A draft law on the Russian Movement of Children and Youth “Big Break” was submitted to the State Duma.
<https://www.pnp.ru/social/v-gosdumu-vnesli-zakonoproekt-o-rossiyskom-dvizhenii-detey-i-molodezhi-bolshaya-peremena.html>
- 126** Public evaluation of the draft federal law No. 126384-8 “On the Russian Movement of Children and Youth ‘Big Break’ and No. 126405-8 “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation”.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/budushchee-dvizheniya-bolshaya-peremena-mnenie-ekspertov>
- 127** Putin signed the law on the analogue of pioneers.
<https://www.rbc.ru/politics/14/07/2022/62cff58c9a7947fab7541e66>
- 128** Russian movement of schoolchildren: development strategy for 2022–2025.
<https://www.oprf.ru/announcement/864>
- 129** Innovations of school patriotism: pros and cons.
<https://wciom.ru/analytical-reviews/analiticheskii-obzor/novacii-shkolnogo-patriotizma-za-i-protiv>
- 130** The Ministry of Education called “Talks About the Important” a must-see.
<https://www.rbc.ru/society/19/09/2022/6328701e9a794757d4e4184a>
- 131** Russian resident held an open lesson with schoolchildren “Talks About the Important”.
<https://edu.gov.ru/press/5717/prezident-rossii-provel-so-shkolnikami-otkryty-urok-razgovor-o-vazhnom/>
- 132** Talking of What Matters open lesson.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/69245>
- 133** The experts discussed the federal project “Patriotic Education”.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/eksperty-obsudili-federalnyy-proekt-patrioticheskoe-vospitanie>
- 134** Part 3 of Article 67 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.
- 135** Clause 18, paragraph 7 of clause 25 of Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of July 2, 2021 No. 400 “On the National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation”.
- 136** A project to restore monuments of the Great Patriotic War in the Donbass has been launched.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/dan-start-proektu-po-vosstanovleniyu-pamyatnikov-velikoy-otechestvennoy-voiny-na-donbasse>

- 137** “Cancel” of Russia and how to deal with it.
<https://wciom.ru/analytical-reviews/analiticheskii-obzor/otmena-rossii-i-kak-s-nei-borotsja>
- 138** Grants worth 1 billion rubles will be allocated to support projects in the field of culture under sanctions.
<https://tass.ru/obschestvo/14230333>
- 139** Volunteer Headquarters #WeAreTogether will help refugees from Donbass.
https://t.me/oprf_official/9478
- 140** We do not leave our men behind: for a month, volunteers of the All-Russian Union of Experts have been providing assistance to residents of the DPR and LPR.
https://t.me/oprf_official/10198
- 141** Pavel Savchuk speaking about the activities of the Russian Red Cross during the crisis.
https://t.me/oprf_official/12565
- 142** The Russian Red Cross reported on assistance to refugees from Donbass.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/rossiyskiy-krasnyy-krest-otchitalsya-o-pomoshchi-bezhentsam-iz-donbassa>
- 143** Russian NGOs join forces to help refugees from Donbass.
<https://oprf.ru/news/rossiyskie-nko-obedinyayut-usiliya-dlya-pomoshchi-bezhentsam-s-donbassa>
- 144** Doctor Liza’s Fair Help won a presidential grant of 36.8 million rubles.
<https://www.interfax.ru/russia/845862>
- 145** Alexey Karyakin noted the positive results of the signing of cooperation agreements with the system of civic chambers of Russia.
https://t.me/oprf_official/13959
- 146** Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the civic chambers of the DPR and LPR signed cooperation agreements.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/op-rf-i-obshchestvennye-palaty-dnr-i-lnr-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve>
- 147** Federal Law No. 189–FZ of July 13, 2020 “On the State (municipal) Social Order for the Provision of State (Municipal) Services in the Social Area”.
<http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/45676>
- 148** How the law on social order is being approved.
<https://www.asi.org.ru/news/2022/07/07/kak-prohodit-aprobacziya-zakona-o-soczzakaze/>
- 149** The report was prepared with the support of the Commission of the Russian Civic Chamber for the nonprofit sector expansion and the support of socially oriented NPOs, the Scientific and Educational Center “Public–Government Interaction, the Nonprofit Sector and Social Entrepreneurship” of the IGSU RANEPa together with the NPO Foundation for the Support and Development of National Culture, Theatrical Art, Russian language ITF “Russian Classics” within the framework of the project “Competition on an equal footing”, supported by the Presidential Grants Foundation.
- 150** Federal Law No. 189–FZ of July 13, 2020 “On the State (Municipal) Social Order for the Provision of State (Municipal) Services in the Social Sphere”.
<http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/45676>
- 151** What tasks will the unified register of SO NPOs help to solve?
<https://www.asi.org.ru/news/2022/02/09/mineko-chas/>
- 152** Executive order on measures to ensure socioeconomic stability and protection of the population in Russia.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/67994>
- 153** Law on preserving endowments of nonprofit organizations under external sanctions pressure.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/68919>
- 154** Tatyana Golikova gave instructions on the participation of SO NPOs in national projects.
<https://www.asi.org.ru/news/2022/05/31/golikova-dala-porucheniya-po-uchastiyu-so-nko-v-nacionalnyh-proektah/>
- 155** Letter from the Civic Chamber to the Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation T. A. Ilyushnikova.
- 156** VCIOM: Russians believe that insufficient attention is paid to the problems of the disabled in the country.
<https://tass.ru/obschestvo/12826061?ysclid=lb3ouv8cc7726569551>
- 157** Public hearings “On implementing the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of its ratification by the Russian Federation”.
https://fss.gov.ru/new/press_center/news/2022/news689011.phtml
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- 159** A comprehensive system of rehabilitation and habilitation of disabled people is being formed in the country.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/v-strane-formiruetsya-kompleksnaya-sistema-reabilitatsii-i-abilitatsii-invalidov>
- 160** Diana Gurtskaya: "We support the quick application of the standard for accessibility of Internet services for the disabled".
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/diana-gurtskaya-my-za-skoreyshee-primeneniye-standarta-dostupnosti-internet-servisov-dlya-invalidov>
- 161** Id.
- 162** Conclusion of the Russian Civic Chamber based on the results of the public examination of the draft order of the Ministry of Digital Development, Telecommunications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation "On the Establishment of the Procedure for Ensuring the Conditions for Accessibility for the Disabled of the Sites of Federal Government Bodies of the Regions of the Russian Federation and Local Governments on the Internet".
<https://files.oprf.ru/storage/documents/zakl-dostupnost-invalidi-sayti-organov-vlasti26072022.pdf>
- 163** Diana Gurtskaya spoke about the development of a navigator for people with disabilities.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/diana-gurtskaya-rasskazala-o-razrabotke-navigatora-dlya-invalidov>
- 164** "INCLUSIVE PLATFORM". Increasing the accessibility of cultural organizations for people with disabilities.
https://files.oprf.ru/storage/image_store/docs2022/inklyuzivnaya_platforma07062022.pdf
- 165** The Ministry of Culture presented the most accessible cultural institutions for the disabled.
<https://oprf.ru/news/minkult-predstavil-samye-dostupnye-dlya-invalidov-uchrezhdeniya-kultury>
- 166** Russia climbed to 30th place in the World Philanthropy Index.
<https://philanthropy.ru/news/2022/09/23/120567/>
- 167** "If the fashion for charity in business lives on, it will save us".
https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/5534721?from=doc_vrez
- 168** Id.
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<https://www.asi.org.ru/news/2022/09/06/gotovy-delat-pozhertvovaniya-v-nko-37-rossiyan/>
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- 171** Charity in Russia: involvement, motives, and barriers.
<https://wciom.ru/analytical-reviews/analiticheskii-obzor/blagotvoritelnost-v-rossii-vovlechnost-motivy-barery>
- 172** HSE Appreciates the Attitude of Russians to Charitable Foundations.
<https://www.vedomosti.ru/society/articles/2022/06/10/926109-otsenila-izmenenie>
- 173** Help price is skyrocketing.
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- 174** Is there a culture of charity in Russia and what does the state have to do with it?
<https://www.vedomosti.ru/society/articles/2020/04/09/827555-blagotvoritelnosti>
- 175** How tax deductions for charity work and how to get them.
<https://trends.rbc.ru/trends/social/62b9a5249a79472b691f8662>
- 176** List of severe life-threatening and chronic diseases, including rare (orphan) diseases.
<https://фондкругдобра.рф/перечни/перечень-заболеваний/>
- 177** The State Duma adopted a law on providing medicines for patients with rare diseases.
<https://ria.ru/20221124/lekarstva-1833913586.html?ysclid=lb3pc01fr4351543960>
- 178** The Expert Council of the Circle of Kind approved an application for a drug for the treatment of SMA for a girl from near Lugansk.
<https://rusfond.ru/news/1978#text>
- 179** Member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and Chairman of the Board of the Circle of Kindness Foundation Alexander Tkachenko spoke at the round table "Medicinal provision of children: an invitation to dialogue".
https://t.me/oprf_official/13923
- 180** The Circle of Kindness summed up the results of the first year of work.
https://t.me/oprf_official/12045
- 181** Annual report for 2021. The Circle of Kindness Foundation.
<https://фондкругдобра.рф/о-фонде/годовой-отчет-за-2021-год/>
- 182** Russia is one of 193 UN member countries that adopted the resolution "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" in 2015.
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>
- 183** Decree No. 1912-p dated July 14, 2021 "On Approving the Goals and Main Directions of Sustainable (Including Green) Development of the Russian Federation".
- 184** Decree of the Russian Government of September 21, 2021 No. 1587 "On Approving the Criteria for Sustainable (Including Green) Development Projects in the Russian Federation and Requirements for the Verification System for Sustainable (Including Green) Development Projects in the Russian Federation".
- 185** The government approved the criteria for eco financing.
<http://government.ru/news/43320/>
- 186** Approved by Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated October 29, 2021 No. 3052-p.
- 187** Greetings on the opening of the first stage of the Ecosystem. Sustainable Development National Youth Environmental Forum.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/68464>
- 188** Take Action for the Sustainable Development Goals.
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- 189** The All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion, the Research Center "Special Opinion" and the Expert Institute for Social Research present the results of a study of the environmental agenda of modern Russia and the current level of involvement of Russians in the environmental movement.
<https://wciom.ru/analytical-reports/analiticheskii-doklad/ehkologicheskaja-povestka-za-desyat-mesjacev-do-vyborov-v-gosdumu>
- 190** The concept of environmental education in general education.
<https://docs.edu.gov.ru/document/3da3f2dbd81de632a44729cf4fc40ea9/>
- 191** Approved by the decision of the federal educational and methodological association for general education (minutes of April 29, 2022 No. 2/22).
<https://docs.edu.gov.ru/document/3da3f2dbd81de632a44729cf4fc40ea9/download/4946/>
- 192** The Civic Chamber of Russia has achieved the completion of a new concept of environmental education.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/op-rf-dobilas-dorabotki-novoy-kontseptsii-ekologicheskogo-obrazovaniya>
- 193** The Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation approved the concept of environmental education, taking into account the position of the Civic Chamber of Russia.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/minprosveshcheniya-rf-utverdilo-kontseptsiyu-ekologicheskogo-obrazovaniya-s-uchetom-pozitsii-op-rf>
- 194** Order of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation dated February 6, 2019 No. 64 "On the Federal Educational and Methodological Association for General Education".
- 195** The issues of environmental culture in the system of family values were discussed in the Civic Chamber as part of the corresponding round table in September 2021.
<https://files.oprf.ru/storage/documents/rekom-eko-kult-27092021.pdf>
- 196** Launch of a project on public assurance of nonfinancial reporting of companies.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/zapusk-proekta-po-obshchestvennomu-zavereniyu-nefinansovoy-otchetnosti-kompaniy>
- 197** Public Endorsement in ESG and Sustainability: Gathering Best Practices.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/obshchestvennoe-zaverenie-v-sfere-i-ustoychivogo-razvitiya-sobrat-luchshie-praktiki>
- 198** Launching a project on public assurance of nonfinancial reporting of companies.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/zapusk-proekta-po-obshchestvennomu-zavereniyu-nefinansovoy-otchetnosti-kompaniy>
- 199** Public Endorsement in ESG and Sustainability: Gathering Best Practices.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/obshchestvennoe-zaverenie-v-sfere-i-ustoychivogo-razvitiya-sobrat-luchshie-praktiki>
- 200** Launching a project on public assurance of nonfinancial reporting of companies.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/zapusk-proekta-po-obshchestvennomu-zavereniyu-nefinansovoy-otchetnosti-kompaniy>
- 201** The procedure for public assurance of nonfinancial reporting of the MTS Group.
<https://www.oprf.ru/announcement/1165>
- 202** RAEX Methodology for assigning ESG ratings to companies.
https://raexpert.eu/files/Methodology_ESG_Corporates_V4_Russian.pdf
- 203** Address to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/66898>

- 204** Putin urged to work on the expansion of protected areas in Russia.
<https://ecologyofrussia.ru/oopt-rossiya-putin/>
- 205** Decree of the Russian Government dated February 17, 2014 No. 212-p "On Approval of the Strategy for the Preservation of Rare and Endangered Species of Animals, Plants and Fungi in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2030".
- 206** Instructions following a plenary session of the Agency for Strategic Initiatives forum.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/64694>
- 207** What hinders the preservation of protected areas in Russia?
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/chto-meshaet-sokhranenyu-zapovednykh-mest-rossii>
- 208** On amendments to the Federal Law "On Environmental Expert Evaluation" and other legislative acts of the Russian Federation".
<http://regulation.gov.ru/p/124663>
- 209** The Commission of the Russian Civic Chamber called on the Ministry of Natural Resources to change the draft law that threatens the reserves.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/komissiya-op-rf-prizvala-minprirody-izmenit-zakonoproekt-ugrozhayushchiy-zapovednikam>
- 210** Draft federal law No. 94578-8 "On Amendments to the Town Planning Code of the Russian Federation and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation" (on the extension of the practice of building transport infrastructure facilities to other types of infrastructure facilities).
<https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/94578-8>
- 211** The amendments of the State Duma Committee on Ecology to the draft law No. 94578-8 "On Amendments to the Town Planning Code of the Russian Federation and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation" have been taken into account.
<http://komitet2-21km.duma.gov.ru/Novosti-Komiteta/item/28481619>
- 212** The State Duma is seeking a ban on construction work along the Baikal shores.
<https://www.pnp.ru/social/v-gosdume-dobivayutsya-zapreta-na-zastroyku-beregov-baykala.html>
- 213** The Green Party asked the Duma not to transfer environmental expert evaluation to the regions.
<https://www.rbc.ru/society/31/05/2022/6295c4b89a794716bf224237>
- 214** Draft Federal Law No. 120074-8 "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation in Part of Improving the Procedures for Conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and Ecological Expert Evaluation".
<https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/120074-8>
- 215** The Environmental Correspondent Council of the Russian Civic Chamber came to the defense of the Institute of Public Ecological Evaluation.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/ekologicheskij-korsovot-op-rf-vstal-na-zashchitu-instituta-obshchestvennoy-ekologicheskoy-ekspertizy>
- 216** Rulings of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation dated May 29, 2012 No. 1146-O and September 30, 2010 No. 1421-O-O.
- 217** The State Duma withdrew the draft law on the abolition of public eco-evaluation from consideration.
<https://www.asi.org.ru/news/2022/06/24/gosduma-snyala-s-rassmotreniya-zakonoproekt-ob-otmene-obshhestvennoj-ekoekspertizy/>
- 218** Draft Federal Law No. 196416-8 "On Amendments to the Federal Law "On Environmental Expert Evaluation".
<https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/196416-8>
- 219** Amendments to the Law "On Ecological Expert Evaluation": These cannot be adopted and must be changed.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/izmeneniya-v-zakon-ob-ekologicheskoy-ekspertize-prinyat-nelzya-izmenit>
- 220** Clause 3 of Article 6 of the Federal Law of July 21, 2014 No. 212-FZ "Basic Principles of Public Oversight in the Russian Federation".
- 221** How to save dolphins from death in bottom nets?
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/kak-spasti-delfinov-ot-smerti-v-donnykh-setyakh>
- 222** Instructions following verification of compliance with law on Lake Baikal's conservation and environmental rehabilitation.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/61526>
- 223** Meeting on development of Baikal natural area.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/55292>
- 224** On Amendments to Article 60 of the Federal Law "On Environmental Protection".
<http://regulation.gov.ru/p/117211>
- 225** The Russian Civic Chamber asks the Ministry of Natural Resources to abandon the draft law that threatens the Red Book plants.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/op-rf-prosit-minprirody-otkazatsya-ot-ugrozhayushchego-krasnoknizhnym-rasteniyam-zakonoproekta>
- 226** Red Book plants: remove not, must preserve!
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/4322?lang=en>
- 227** Draft federal law No. 16119-8 "On Amendments to Articles 11 and 25-1 of the Federal Law "On the Protection of Lake Baikal".
<https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/16119-8>
- 228** Preventing clear sanitary felling on Lake Baikal.
<https://www.oprf.ru/news/ne-dopustit-sploshnye-sanitarnye-rubki-lesa-na-baykale>
- 229** The government approved the Federal scientific and technical program in environmental development until 2030.
<http://government.ru/news/44560/>
- 230** The government will finance the creation of a unified national monitoring system for climate-active substances.
<http://government.ru/docs/46435/>
- 231** Government meeting.
<http://government.ru/en/news/46427/>
- 232** A meeting of the Coordination Council for International Cooperation hosted by the Russian Civic Chamber.
https://t.me/oprf_official/10224
- 233** Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated October 7, 2020 No. 2577-p.
<http://static.government.ru/media/files/MnASiQeMZvg94D1jToaVcdAyXzgFpGAC.pdf>
- 234** The Cabinet approved a new concept of cross-border cooperation.
<https://tass.ru/ekonomika/9681751>
- 235** The project "For the rights of fellow countrymen" collected appeals from 39 countries of the world.
<https://lvg.synergy.ru/news/proekt-%C2%ABza-prava-sootchestvennikov%C2%BB-sobral-obrashheniya-iz-39-stran-mira>
- 236** "Protecting the rights of compatriots abroad: the state of legislation and prospects for its improvement".
<http://council.gov.ru/activity/activities/parliamentary/29596/>
- 237** A draft law on recognition of all Russian-speakers persons as fellow countrymen has been submitted to the State Duma.
<https://tass.ru/obschestvo/14203671>
- 238** Federal Laws "On the State Policy of the Russian Federation towards Fellow Countrymen Abroad", "On Citizenship of the Russian Federation" and in other legislative acts affecting the interests of compatriots living abroad in exercising their rights, "ensuring the protection of their interests and preserving the all-Russian cultural identity".
- 239** Explanatory note to the draft federal law "On Amendments to the Federal Law of May 24, 1999 No. 99-FZ "On the State Policy of the Russian Federation in Relation to Compatriots Abroad".
<https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/95462-8>
- 240** The Russian Civic Chamber launches a hotline to protect the rights of Russians abroad.
https://t.me/oprf_official/10037
- 241** Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/19825>
- 242** Meeting with Civic Chamber members.
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63567>
- 243** Welcome speech by the Russian President at the anniversary plenary meeting of the Civic Chamber on June 23, 2015.
<http://www.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/49751>
- 244** Decrease in the population is a decrease in Russia's sovereignty.
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- 245** Natalya Kravchenko on the role of the education system in ensuring the country's technological sovereignty.
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