



USAID/Russia Ongoing Activities

as of November 2002

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Small and Medium-size Enterprise Sector Strengthened and Expanded

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The Alliance of American and Russian Women

This activity will provide support to women-led SMEs through a women business leaders' network.

Geographic Location:
Offices: Moscow
Regions: TBD

Implementing Partner:
The Alliance of American and Russian Women

Start: October 2002
Completion: September 2003

E-Government for Russian Regions

This activity promotes the Russian government's use of technology to improve service to its citizens and small businesses, particularly in the regions. E-Government will:

- *Improve service delivery;*
- *Promote empowerment, transparency and anticorruption*
- *Promote greater efficiency through knowledge networks;*
- *Improve transactions with the private sector, especially small business.*

The project will establish an e-government center, advocate for better e-government in Russia, provide consulting and launch a pilot project.

Geographic Location:
Offices: Moscow
Regions: TBD

US Implementing Partner:
American Chamber of Commerce in Russia

Start: September 2001
Completion: September 2003

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

This activity is based on the success of the First U.S.-Russia Business Women Leaders' Summit, which established a basis for cooperation, including a mentoring program for women-led SMEs and a network of business women leaders.

Beneficiaries

This activity directly benefits small and medium-sized enterprises in Russia by exposing women entrepreneurs to the expertise of business women in the U.S. and Russia.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

- Set up a network of Russian women business leaders as a vehicle for the development of a market economy in Russia, and actively participate in legislation and advocacy to support women-led SMEs in Russian regions;
- Examine the best practices of leading US organizations and adapt materials to Russian conditions and needs;
- Launch a pilot mentoring program for support of small and medium-sized women-led businesses in selected regions;
- Create an informational exchange between Russian women business leaders and their US peers; learn best practices in promoting women in business and philanthropy;
- Assess the needs of Russian women entrepreneurs;
- Expand investment and other opportunities for women in business.

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The e-government Competence Center web site is fully functional (www.e-govcompetence.ru). In August 2002 the book "Using information technology to optimize government management" was published. Implementation of an e-trade system for the city of Izhevsk was selected as a pilot project.

Beneficiaries

Small businesses and private citizens, who will have a more efficient way to communicate with their government, are the beneficiaries.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The project will:

- Develop 'Best Practices' — regular interchange of ideas among the staff, the clients, the program manager and USAID/Russia in formal and informal settings;
- Implement the pilot project;
- Maintain communication with governmental and non-governmental partners.

Business Practices for Youth (Junior Achievement Russia)

This activity promotes economic education, ethics and civic responsibility in schools through kits on a market economy for Russian students in grades 1-11. Through 32 regional centers, the program trains teachers in the use of these materials, and prepares students to participate in national and international competitions on economics.

Geographic Location:

Offices: Moscow

Regions: All Russian regions, except:

Chechenskaya Republic, Republic of Sakha (Yakutiya), Chitinskaya Oblast, Republic of Buryatiya, Jewish Autonomous Oblast

US Implementing Partners: None

Start: September 2002

Completion: August 2005

Russian Implementing Partner:

Junior Achievement Russia (JAR)

Morozov Project

This activity provides a broad range of training and consulting services to entrepreneurs and managers of small and medium enterprises throughout Russia. Its major components are:

- *Strengthening and restructuring the Morozov Regional Network;*
- *Creating a Morozov Project Municipal Network;*
- *Improving training, consulting and informational services; and*
- *Promoting investment.*

Geographic Location:

Offices: Moscow

Regions: see attached

US Implementing Partners: None

Start: July 2001

Completion: July 2004

Russian Partners:

The Academy for Management and the Market, 70 Morozov Regional Centers, 128 Morozov Municipal Centers

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- The program adapted, printed and distributed more than 25,000 economic education program kits for grades 1 through 11 to the regions. More than 750,000 schools have access to these kits in the regional centers.
- About 6,600 teachers have been trained to work with JAR materials, and 6,000 schools have adopted JAR programs. More than 1.2 million students have been involved in JAR's programs and events. JAR manages 17 extracurricular programs.
- Computer and networking equipment purchased and installed in 30 regional centers provides Internet access for students and teachers.
- JAR regularly conducts nationwide and international competitions on student companies, the Laws of Life and management simulation games. Students also participate in global economic competitions such as Hewlett-Packard's Global Business Challenge, the Laws of Life and the Young Enterprise Europe Student Company Competition. JAR teams traditionally finish in the top three in these competitions.

Beneficiaries

JAR will reach over 2.5 million school students in 80 regions of Russia.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

JAR will add to the themes it offers. Over the next three years the program will be transformed into a nationwide resource center for education in civics and ethics, business skills and leadership, and information technologies.

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

There are 128 Municipal Morozov Centers rendering support to entrepreneurship in small towns. The Morozov Regional Network has begun restructuring and expanding to four regions. The Board of Directors selected and approved coordinators for the Central and North-Western, Southern, Volga, Ural, Siberian and Far Eastern districts. Preliminary work on a Morozov Partnership Inter-regional Association of Morozov Programs' Alumni has been done.

- More than 1,700 trainers and consultants upgraded their qualification at Morozov seminars and then trained more than 71,000 regional entrepreneurs, managers and job-seekers. Morozov Centers' consultants worked with more than 17,000 entrepreneurs and more than 9,000 legal entities. This helped to create and sustain about 41,000 jobs.
- An investment competition selected 88 business plans, which received \$1.8 million.

Beneficiaries

This activity directly benefits small and medium-sized enterprises in 53 regions.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

- AMM will finish restructuring the regional network, to create an additional 122 Municipal Morozov Centers. Regional departments will be established in all Federal Districts and most oblasts.
- Up to 900 trainers and consultants will upgrade their qualifications at Morozov seminars, allowing them to train 80,000 regional entrepreneurs and managers, and to create and sustain up to 10,000 jobs at small and medium-sized enterprises.
- The project will expand its range of services by introducing micro-credit mechanisms, establishing credit cooperatives, establishing and developing entrepreneurial associations and enhancing their role in regional economic development.

Morozov Projects' Geographic Location

Altayskiy Kray	Republic of Bashkortostan
Belgorodskaya Oblast	Republic of Buryatiya
Bryanskaya Oblast	Republic of Kareliya
Chelyabinskaya Oblast	Republic of Tatarstan
Irkutskaya Oblast	Republic of Udmurtiya
Ivanovskaya Oblast	Republic of Ingushetiya
Kabardino-Balkarskaya Republic	Republic of Kalmykiya
Kaliningradskaya Oblast	Rostovskaya Oblast
Kaluzhskaya Oblast	Ryazanskaya Oblast
Kemerovskaya Oblast	Samarskaya Oblast
Khabarovskiy Kray	Saratovskaya Oblast
Khanty-Mansiyskiy Autonomous Okrug	Smolenskaya Oblast
Kirovskaya Oblast	Stavropol'skiy Kray
Kostromskaya Oblast	Sverdlovskaya Oblast
Krasnodarskiy Kray	Tambovskaya Oblast
Krasnoyarskiy Kray	Tomskaya Oblast
Kurganskaya Oblast	Tul'skaya Oblast
Kurskaya Oblast	Tverskaya Oblast
Leningradskaya Oblast	Tyumenskaya Oblast
Lipetskaya Oblast	Ul'yankovskaya Oblast
Moskovskaya Oblast	Vladimirskaya Oblast
Murmanskaya Oblast	Voronezhskaya Oblast
Nizhegorodskaya Oblast	Yaroslavskaya Oblast
Novgorodskaya Oblast	
Novosibirskaya Oblast	
Omskaya Oblast	
Orenburgskaya Oblast	
Penzenskaya Oblast	
Permskaya Oblast	
Primorskiy Kray	

Business Development in the Russian Far East

This activity strengthens and expands small and medium enterprises in the Russian Far East by

- *Developing entrepreneurship and small business through training and technical assistance;*
- *Comprehensive technical assistance and business extension services tailored to Russian entrepreneurs in accounting, SME management, access to credit, business infrastructure management, etc.;*
- *Promoting educational and entrepreneurial exchanges and partnerships between Alaska and RFE institutions and organizations; and*
- *Enhancing U.S.-Russia business connections.*

Geographic Location:

Offices: No office in Russia

Regions: Magadanskaya, Kamchatskaya, Amurskaya, Sakhalinskaya Oblasts, and Khabarovskiy Kray

US Implementing Partners:

American Russian Center at the University of Alaska-Anchorage (UAA/ARC)

Start: June 1999

Completion: May 2003

Russian Partners:

American Russian Centers in Sakhalin, Khabarovsk, Magadan, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, Kholmsk, and Blagoveshchensk

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The project operates small business training centers in Khabarovsk and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and has established satellite centers in Blagoveshchensk, Komsomolsk, Kholmsk, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, and Yakutsk. ARC centers have transferred all management functions to Russian staff.

- The project provides training and consulting services to a wide range of SME entrepreneurs and managers. Based on a recent survey, 20% of the participants in ARC centers' business training programs started their own businesses and created an average of 8 new jobs.
- Since July 1999 UAA/ARC has conducted 21 U.S.-based training programs for 263 SME managers; ARC centers conducted 643 training programs in the RFE for 14,968 SME owners and managers; ARC centers provided business counseling services to 5,158 entrepreneurs; ARC centers helped 63 businesses and organizations to receive loans and grants totaling \$2.3 million.
- The project continues to develop new training programs. To date it has materials and instructors for 37 business courses. It has also expanded courses into more than 20 cities adjacent to ARC centers.

Beneficiaries

This project benefits RFE entrepreneurs and managers and strengthens Russian and USG-funded training and business support institutions.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The project will establish a satellite center in Vladivostok. ARC centers will provide training and consulting services to 5,000 SME entrepreneurs and managers both in-country and in the U.S. ARC will also consult with up to 800 SME owners and managers.

Alaska-Chukotka Development Program

The activity marshals Alaska's experience and resources to work with the Chukotka Okrug government, its people, and its organizations to meet residents' needs for subsistence, improved living conditions, and jobs; further humanitarian assistance and provide essential social services; enhance the skills and knowledge of Chukotka entrepreneurs; support indigenous non-government organizations; develop functioning economic and community infrastructure; strengthen ties between Chukotka and Alaska; build the foundation for a strong economy, civil society, and continuing Alaska-Chukotka collaboration.

Geographic Location:

Offices: No office in Russia

Regions: Chukotskiy Autonomous Okrug

US Implementing Partners:

University of Alaska-Anchorage

Start: August 2001

Completion: August 2004

Russian Partners:

Chukotka Committee of the Red Cross

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The program has established an administrative support center in Anadyr to facilitate communication between organizations in Chukotka and Alaska working on sobriety, deliver training and seminars on small business development and community wellness and establish international village-to-village relations. The program responds to the region's needs as formulated by the Okrug Administration and has three components:

Humanitarian Aid. The program delivered aid to more than 580 families, launched a sobriety program, sent more than 140 children to summer camps and set up a Women's Support Center.

Economic Development. The program began collaboration between indigenous peoples from Alaska and Chukotka; launched a Western Reindeer Herding project; trained regional coordinators to work in villages on rural development and sobriety; trained entrepreneurs in tourism and established a working group to reduce obstacles to tourism; counseled Chukotka policy and energy authorities on energy alternatives; examined the feasibility of upgrading the telecommunications.

Civil Society: The program is organizing an Okrug-wide conference on local governance. A government and NGO assistance project benefited more than 600 people.

Beneficiaries

Chukotka Okrug government, its people, and its organizations.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Humanitarian aid activities will continue.

Economic development activities may include technical assistance in agriculture, small business development, and infrastructure such as an alternative energy or telecommunication project). The project will also create an Alaska-Chukotka working group and a local self-governance project.

Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Policy Advocacy Program

This program will strengthen the capacity of regional business associations to advocate for improvements in the administrative and policy environment affecting small and medium-sized enterprises. Activities under this program include:

- *Assessment of business community needs and business association capabilities in eight regions of Russia;*
- *Business association training to strengthen regional associations and equip them for policy advocacy on behalf of their members;*
- *Association coalition building;*
- *Development of Regional Business Agendas;*
- *Regional and national policy advocacy efforts;*
- *Creation of REACT information clearinghouse (Russian Enterprise, Association and Chamber Terminal); and*
- *Dissemination of Russian-language materials providing on-going tools for associations; and grant support to associations and chambers of commerce.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Washington, DC, Moscow

Regions: Irkutskaya Oblast (Irkutsk),

Khabarovskiy Kray (Khabarovsk),

Permskaya Oblast (Perm), Samarskaya

Oblast (Samara), Saratovskaya Oblast

(Saratov), Primorskiy Kray (Vladivostok),

Volgogradskaya Oblast (Volgograd),

Krasnodarskiy Kray (Krasnodar)

US Implementing Partner:

Center for International Private Enterprise
(CIPE)

Start: September 2002

Completion: September 2005

Russian Partners:

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of
the Russian Federation

Other External Partners: None

Achievements over the Life of the Activity

This program is new. It is hiring personnel and drawing up its annual work plan.

Beneficiaries

This activity benefits eight selected regions. Strengthened business associations will help improve the policy environment for SMEs, which in turn will strengthen existing SMEs, encourage new ones, and create more jobs.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The project will:

- Assess business community needs and business association capabilities through diagnostics in eight regions of Russia;
- Start business association training to strengthen regional associations and equip them for policy advocacy on behalf of their members;
- Facilitate coalition building between associations;
- Initiate regional and national policy advocacy;
- Create an information clearinghouse; and
- Launch a small grants program to support business associations and chambers of commerce.

Tomsk Regional Initiative Administrative Barriers Analysis

This activity enhances regional officials and business associations' understanding of the investment process and the importance of rational and simplified requirements for investment. The activity will undertake a detailed analysis of investment in the region and of policies, laws, and regulations that may inhibit investors. It will then work through regional administration and business associations to improve the process. The activity stimulates and helps formalize and sustain a dialogue between government, the private sector and business associations on sustainable economic growth by strengthening business associations' participation in public debate and economic decision-making.

Geographic Location:
Office: no office in Russia
Region: Tomskaya Oblast

US Implementing Partner:
The Foreign Investment Advisory Service
(FIAS)

Start: September 2000
Completion: June 2003

Russian Partners: None

Other External Partners: None

Achievements over the Life of the Activity

This project began late in 2000, after the local administration agreed to publicly disclose the results of the study. FIAS has:

- Conducted a field study for a draft Regional Initiative Investment Strategy for Tomskaya Oblast, to work out an agenda for future cooperation, and to undertake research on administrative barriers in Tomsk Oblast;
- Produced a draft report of Administrative Barriers to Investment in Tomskaya Oblast, including recommendations for improvement. In November 2001 the report was published, in English and Russian, and distributed;
- Produced an Action Plan for removal of administrative barriers to investment in Tomskaya Oblast, which the Governor approved in October 2002;
- Conducted a seminar for representatives of the regional administration, federal agencies, and businesses to discuss the Action Plan and present guidelines for potential investors.
- Conducted a conference in Moscow on improving coordination between federal and regional governments to remove administrative barriers to investment.

Beneficiaries

This activity benefits Tomskaya Oblast. Removal of administrative barriers to investment will help to improve the business environment and create more jobs in the region.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Since the oblast administration issued its Action Plan, FIAS has asked for a no-cost extension, which will allow it to:

- Update the description of administrative procedures that changed by federal laws enacted since the 2001 Study of Administrative Barriers;
- Establish a baseline for monitoring the impact of reforms in Tomskaya Oblast, based on a business survey and data from relevant agencies;
- Provide experts to work with Tomskaya Oblast Administration on specific items in its Action Plan (for example, procedures for land privatization and a geographical information system).

American Business Center (ABC) Sakhalin

The ABC supports companies doing business or interested in doing business in Sakhalin. The office is a local base for the Regional Initiative Coordinator and other programs of the U. S. Government and the office provides outreach to Russian firms.

Geographic Location:
Offices: Seattle WA, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk
Regions: Sakhalinskaya Oblast

US Implementing Partners:
Foundation for Russian - American
Economic Cooperation (FRAEC)

Start: October 1999

Completion: December 2002

Russian Partners:
Administration of the Sakhalinskaya
Oblast, businesses located in Sakhalin

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

This project arranges meeting, logistical support and general business services for American companies interesting in doing business in the Sakhalinskaya Oblast. It also offers:

- Partnering, trade leads and referrals for American and Russian companies.
- Consulting and advocacy.
- Registration of American companies.
- Information and market research available for American and Russian companies.

Beneficiaries

Russian and U.S. business communities.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The activity will be extended for one year.

Regional Initiative Promotion of International Accounting Standards (Tomsk)

This program promotes international accounting standards in the Tomsk region to help managers and financial officers learn new techniques based upon open market practices. Activities to introduce International Accounting Standards include seminars for high-level managers; workshops for trainers, accountants and auditors; capacity-building for local accounting associations; and assistance to selected enterprises in preparing financial statements based on international accounting standards (IAS).

Geographic Location:

Offices: Tomsk, Novosibirsk

Regions: Tomskaya Oblast, Novosibirskaya Oblast

US Implementing Partners:

CARANA Corporation

Start: October 2000

Completion: December 2002

Russian Partners:

Tomsk Audit Association and Tomsk Territorial Institute of Professional Accountants (IPA)

Novosibirsk University for Public Service

Other External Partners:

None

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The project has exposed businesses and educators in several locations to international accounting standards in several ways.

In November, the Novosibirsk branch of the University for Public Service adopted the project's training-of-trainers course as the official recertification course for teachers of economics of state higher educational institutions. This means that the course has also been recognized by the university's headquarters, which recommends courses for branches in the nine federal districts of Russia.

Accounting professionals representing nearly three-fourths of all accounting instructors in Tomsk's universities and institutes attended a three-week training-of-trainers course, and 35 passed a final examination; 54 trainers attended a Trainer Upgrading course in Samara and Novgorod, and accounting instructors participated in a workshop for trainers in Novosibirsk; 53 trainers and auditors participated in the "Advanced Concepts" workshop in Samara and Novgorod on financial analysis and review and disclosure requirements.

Among 200 business managers were introduced to international accounting standards as an effective tool for making managerial decisions, attracting investment and obtaining credit. Senior enterprise managers and audit firms representatives from Samara were exposed to the new system through a management accounting workshop. And 375 accountants and auditors from Tomsk accounting and auditing firms participated in 12 two-week IAS workshops.

With the project's help, 20 companies in the Tomsk region transformed their financial statements into IAS. The project also helped to establish the Tomsk Regional Guild of Financiers by developing the charter and business plan and giving support in preparing the first two issues of the *Tomskiy Finansovy Zhurnal*.

Beneficiaries

Managers, investors, lenders and university instructors. In addition, the introduction of international accounting standards in Tomsk will be a model for other Russia regions beginning to consider the use of these standards.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The project will conduct one more three-week Training of Trainers workshop and 8 two-week workshops for accountants and auditors in Novosibirsk.

Integrated Business Services (IBS)

This activity will develop sustainable markets in business consulting services for small and medium-sized enterprises and will accelerate development and growth of private enterprise in the European Russia and western Siberia.

The activity strengthens business support institutions' capacity by partnering Russian staff with U.S. business volunteers and providing training and consultation in selected industrial sectors; refers clients to sources of finance; develops Russian organizations' capacity to administer similar activities in the future; and strengthens a network of Russian business support institutions.

Geographic Location:

Offices: Moscow

Regions: Tverskaya, Samarskaya, Smolenskaya, Irkutskaya, Volgogradskaya, Permskaya, Novgorodskaya, Voronezhskaya, Ul'yanovskaya, Nizhegorodskaya, Novosibirskaya, Tomskaya, Rostovskaya, Sverdlovskaya Oblasts, St. Petersburg, Republic of Kareliya (Petrozavodsk), and Krasnoyarskiy Kray

US Implementing Partners:

Citizen Democracy Corps (CDC)

Start: September 2001

Completion: September 2004

Russian Partners:

Sixty-eight BSIs, including ten Regional Coordinating Partners. See attachment.

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The project has established a Moscow office, hired staff and obtained approval for its work plan. Ten regional coordinating partners were chosen, and 68 Memoranda of Agreement were signed with Russian partner organizations from 17 regions of Russia. In addition the project has

- Made an industry survey of eight representative regions
- Held six conferences to launch partner organizations.
- Offered 12 training programs to the regional coordinating partners and business support institutions
- Completed 13 volunteer assignments
- Established the criteria for selecting a Russian organization to assume operational control of the program at the end of the third year

Beneficiaries

Russian business support institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises in selected regions are direct beneficiaries.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

By the end of 18 months CDC will submit a continuation application to USAID.

IBS' RUSSIAN PARTNERS

Moscow Innovation Fund

Verkhnevolzhje Institute
Tver Center for Entrepreneurship Support
Elita Training Center
French-Russian Institute of Business Administration
Tula Business Training Center
Garant-Info Information Consulting Center IHQ
Conversion
Vidnoe Craft Chamber

Irkutsk Agency for Business Development

School of Entrepreneurship consulting firm, Angarsk
Buriatia Entrepreneurship Development Agency
Bratsk Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Ust-Ilimsk Women's Entrepreneurship Union
Macon Entrepreneurship Support Center
Angara-plus Women's Business Center

Volgograd Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Samara-Consult Consulting Institute
Volzhskaya Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Saratov Regional Chamber of Trade and Commerce
Dipol School of Business, Saratov
Consulting Center, Nizhny Novgorod
Chamber of Commerce, Togliatti
Profi-Consult Ltd, Togliatti
Factorial Training Center, Astrakhan
Small Business Support Foundation of Chuvashia
Republic

Novgorodsky Technopark, Veliky Novgorod

Smolensk Foundation for Entrepreneurship Support
Smolensky Institute for Business and
Entrepreneurship (Morozov Project)
SME Business and Training Center of Novgorod
(Morozov Project)
Vologda Agency for Business Development
Psychology and Business Consulting Company

Tomsk Center For Innovation Support

Prominvest Consulting
Business Center YOU+WE
International Consulting Center, Novosibirsk
Higher Business School
Center for Technical Support
Interconsult Center for Consulting and Training
Altay Chamber Of Commerce and Industry
Orientir Education Center, Omsk

St. Petersburg Foundation For SME Development

Regional Economic Development Agency
AGRICONSULT
Karelian Regional Agency for SME Support
KarelNok Center for Continued Training (Morozov Project)
Arkhangelsk SME Development Agency
Business Expert Kaliningrad Consulting Center

Voronezh Regional Agency for Support of Small And Medium Enterprises

International Consulting Center
Kalach Entrepreneurship Support Center
Lipetsk Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Tambov Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Reforma Corp. Ltd.

Enterprise Support Center, Rostov-On-Don

Don-Rech-Flot-Service
Anti-crisis Management Center
Ulianovsk Intellectual property
SME Support Agency, Sochi
Audit Alliance, Krasnodar
Ekkons Consulting Group

International Consulting Center, Ekaterinburg

Surgut Chamber of Commerce
Entrepreneurship Support and Development Foundation
Stratum Consulting
Public Foundation for Enterprise Development
Business Innovation Center
SME Support Foundation, Verkhnia Pyshma
Ural Agency for SME support
Enterprise Support Center

Mobilizing Agricultural Credit (MAC) Program

This program is helping to establish privately managed, farmer-owned credit cooperatives.

The objectives of the program are:

- *To establish and support a self-sustaining fund for lending to agricultural credit cooperatives;*
- *To promote a legislative and policy environment conducive to the formation and operation of credit cooperatives and investments in agriculture; and*
- *To establish a network of democratically managed cooperative financial institutions.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Astrakhanskaya, Volgogradskaya, Rostovskaya, Saratovskaya, Permskaya, Kaluzhskaya, Yaroslavskaya, Tulsckaya, Tomskskaya, Vologodskaya, Leningradskaya, Voronezhskaya, Orenburgskaya, Moskovskaya, Ivanovskaya Oblasts, Republics of Udmurtiya, Chuvashiya, Mariy-El, Altay and Krasnodar Krays

US Implementing Partners:

ACDI/VOCA

Start: October 1998

Completion: March 2003

Russian Partners:

Rural Credit Cooperative Development Fund, Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Russia

Other External Partners:

USDA

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

This program has built partnerships between USAID, USDA, the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, administrations in 20 regions, 43 rural credit cooperatives and about 3,000 individual borrowers. The program cooperates closely with American and international donors in microfinance and microcredit for SMEs.

A central loan fund has made \$6.1 million available to rural credit cooperatives. The fund is fully sustainable, with an anticipated net income of \$1.1 million in 2002, a loan portfolio of \$5.4 million, and an average individual loan of \$1,850. The most creditworthy individual cooperative member can borrow \$16,000, and the best cooperatives program can borrow \$325,000. The cumulative repayment rate is 99%. Four agreements on cooperation between the Fund and regional governments signed (Chuvashia, Volgograd, Perm, and Krasnodar).

The Farmer-to-Farmer program provides technical assistance to this program. About 20 volunteer assignments were scheduled for MAC's rural credit cooperatives in credit administration, improving loan policies, procedures and internal controls. MAC itself has trained 80 loan officers, 50 accountants, and 50 chairmen of cooperatives in-country, and 28 rural credit cooperative representatives in the U.S.

A draft Law on Credit Cooperatives passed the first reading in April 2002 in the State Duma. A concept paper on rural credit cooperatives was drafted and distributed to public, scientific, government, and other organizations for comment.

A Memorandum of Understanding between USDA and the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia has been extended to December 3, 2006.

Beneficiaries

43 rural credit cooperatives and about 3,000 their members in 18 regions of Russia are direct beneficiaries.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The project will explore alternative sources of capital and an alternative legal structure for the fund.

Sakhalin Regional Microfinance Program

This program is developing a network of sustainable microfinance institutions on Sakhalin Island, providing group and individual loans to micro and small entrepreneurs having no access to the formal banking sector.

Specifically, the activity will

- *Create a two-tiered Russian microfinance institution in Sakhalin Oblast: the Sakhalin Small Enterprise Development Foundation/ Sakhalin Small Business Credit Society, and*
- *Provide credit totaling \$13 million for 5,600 entrepreneurs. At the end of the program the institution will have 2,600 active clients and a portfolio of \$2.7 million. Over 60% of clients are expected to be women.*

Geographic Location:

Offices: Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Korsakov, Kholmsk

Regions: Sakhalinskaya Oblast

US Implementing Partners:

ACDI/VOCA

Start: September 1999

Completion: September 2003

Russian Partners:

Sakhalin Small Enterprise Development Foundation, Sakhalin Small Business Credit Society

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The program created a financial institution as a combination of two legal entities, the Sakhalin Small Enterprise Development Foundation, and the Sakhalin Small Business Credit Society. The program has established strong contacts with regional and local administrations and businesses and is a leader in the development of the Municipal Entrepreneurship Support program. With a network of branch offices in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Kholmsk and Korsakov, the program reached sustainability 4 months before schedule.

The current portfolio is more than \$3.6 million. Cumulatively, the program has made 2,858 loans, with a repayment rate over 99%. The program has 800 active clients, 57% of them women.

The small business lending program has influenced commercial banks' policies to the benefit of local entrepreneurs. As a result, commercial banks reduced the benchmark minimum loan size from \$20,000 to \$2,000. One local bank has confirmed its readiness to provide a line of credit.

Beneficiaries

Entrepreneurs and residents of Sakhalin are direct beneficiaries.

Commercial banks, regional and municipal authorities and the local business community are indirect beneficiaries, as they learn new approaches how to meet needs of small businesses and how to improve policies to the benefit of the business community.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The program is considering:

- Mobilizing additional capital and expanding to Tomari, Okha, and Nogliki
- Collaboration with Sberbank to provide special banking services to clients
- An agreement with the local commercial bank on a line of credit for the Foundation for \$400,000
- A business partnership with Exxon-Mobil to support small business growth in northern Sakhalin
- Further institutional development of the Foundation and the Credit Society
- Training for program staff, and training to commercial banks on the nuances of SME lending

Tomsk Regional Microfinance Program

This activity is developing a sustainable microfinance institution in Tomsk Oblast to make group and individual loans to micro and small entrepreneurs who lack access to the formal banking sector. Specifically, this activity will:

- *Create a Russian microfinance institution in Tomskaya Oblast (FINCA Tomsk);*
- *Provide access to \$5.5 million in credit for 2,235 active clients, 85% of whom are women;*
- *Distribute 7,399 loans;*
- *Maintain less than 5% of the portfolio at risk.*

Geographic Location:
Offices: Tomsk
Regions: Tomskaya Oblast

US Implementing Partners:
FINCA International

Start: September 2000
Completion: August 2004

Russian Partners:
FINCA Tomsk

Khabarovsk Regional Microfinance Program

This activity makes group and individual loans to small entrepreneurs who lack access to the formal banking sector. The program has created a Russian microfinance institution in Khabarovskiy Kray, the Counterpart Enterprise Fund, with resources of over \$4.7 million to be distributed among 1,900 small entrepreneurs. At the end of the program the fund will have a portfolio of 300 outstanding loans worth \$700,000.

Geographic Location:
Offices: Khabarovsk
Regions: Khabarovskiy Kray

US Implementing Partners:
Counterpart International

Start: August 1998
Completion: January 2003

Russian Partners:
Counterpart Enterprise Fund (CEF)

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The program has an office in Tomsk and a branch in Severusk. It has strong contacts with regional and municipal administrations and businesses in Tomsk Oblast.

Cumulatively this program has disbursed 3,140 loans of over \$1.7 million, 93 percent of them to women entrepreneurs, with a 100% repayment rate. It has created or sustained 3,140 jobs and trained 2,179 clients in accounting and group management.

Beneficiaries

Micro and small entrepreneurs and economically under-served residents of Tomsk Oblast. The program also benefits businesses and entrepreneurs that provide goods and services to loan clients. Finally, the program creates jobs.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The program will expand to Novosibirskaya Oblast and increase its cumulative portfolio to 13,665 loans worth \$9.2 million.

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The Counterpart Enterprise Fund is a Russian-managed institution with strong ties to regional and local administrations and businesses. The fund has disbursed more than 1,600 loans worth more than \$3.1 million, 67% of which went to women entrepreneurs. These loans have created or sustained more than 1,570 jobs.

Beneficiaries

Micro and small entrepreneurs and economically under-served populations in Khabarovskiy Kray are direct beneficiaries. The program also benefits businesses and entrepreneurs that provide goods and services to loan clients. Finally, the program helps create jobs for Khabarovskiy Kray residents.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

After the program ends in January 2003, the fund will continue without USAID support and plans to further expand its operations through access to commercial finance from the regional Regiobank. By the end of 2002, Counterpart International will formally transfer all the assets of the program, including the loan portfolio, to CEF and re-register it as a stand-alone Russian organization.

Microfinance Sector Support Program

This program is developing a Russian Microfinance Center and implementing a Targeted Awards - Innovations Support Program (TAISP) grant program to Russian microfinance institutions. In addition, this activity will:

- *Train regional microfinance institutions, disseminate best practices and standards, and set up an informational exchange. The center will develop and deliver 40 training courses, train or consult with 1,200 Russian specialists, and develop and maintain a database of Russian microfinance institutions;*
- *Establish the center as a key player in developing a better policy environment for non-bank finance in Russia;*
- *Make at least 6 grants to Russian microfinance institutions on a competitive basis. The program will advance each participating Russian microfinance institution in the use of prudent microfinance standards, expansion of a client base, and attainment of financial sustainability. The institutions assisted through this program will make 83,000 loans to regional micro and small entrepreneurs.*

Geographic Location:

Offices: Moscow

Regions: All regions of Russia

US Implementing Partners:

Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI)

Alternative Credit Technologies (ACT)

Third Country Implementing Partners:

Microfinance Center for Central and Eastern Europe and NIS (MFC) in Poland

Start: September 2001

Completion: September 2005

Russian Partners:

Fund Opportunity Russia (FORA)

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- The Russian Microfinance Center has been registered and has opened a permanent office in Moscow. It entered into cooperation with the Microfinance Center in Poland to develop and conduct training in Russia and has conducted six week-long training programs for Russian MFIs. It has developed a pool of trainers to further train these institutions in the regions and has begun a monthly e-bulletin on microfinance developments in Russia. The center now supports over 100 Russian MFIs.
- As part of its policy work, the center is tracking and disseminating a digest of legislative and regulatory changes affecting microfinance in Russia. With the Microfinance Policy Working Group, the center participates in major policy seminars and other events.
- Over 50 potential recipients have been identified for the TAISP grants program and the selection criteria have been developed. The grants program will be widely announced at the center's first major conference in December 2002.

Beneficiaries

Russian non-bank finance institutions, micro and small entrepreneurs and economically under-served populations are direct beneficiaries. Indirect beneficiaries are businesses who provide goods and services to clients of assisted Russian microfinance institutions. The program also helps create jobs.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The center will continue to build relationships with key players in microfinance policy, including practitioners, government officials and donors.

In December 2002 the center will hold its first annual conference at which it will widely announce the TAISP grants program and discuss issues of non-bank finance in Russia. The TAISP grants program is expected to begin in early 2003.

The center will also furnish information to the bilateral Russian Duma – U.S. Congress task force on microfinance and small business development.

Samara Regional Microfinance Program

This program is developing a sustainable microfinance institution in Samara Oblast and adjacent regions providing group and individual loans to micro and small entrepreneurs who lack access to the formal banking sector. It also encourages a better policy environment for microfinance. Specifically, this activity will:

- *Create a Russian microfinance institution in Samarskaya Oblast (FINCA Samara);*
- *Provide credit totalling \$13 million for 14,700 micro and small entrepreneurs. At the end of the program the institution will have a portfolio of 2,200 active clients and \$1.8 million. Over 80% of the clients are expected to be women;*
- *Promote an enabling regulatory and legislative environment for microfinance;*
- *Support the Russian Duma – U.S. Congress Task Force on Legislative Support of Small Business Development in Russia.*

Geographic Location:

Offices: Samara, Togliatty, Otradny, Syzran', Soukhodol

Regions: Samarskaya Oblast, adjacent regions

US Implementing Partners:

FINCA International, Eurasia Foundation

Start: August 1998

Completion: October 2004

Russian Partners:

FINCA Samara and Russian Microfinance Center

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The project has strong contacts with regional and local administrations and businesses in Samara Oblast. It has disbursed over 12,300 loans worth over \$10 million, 88% of them to women entrepreneurs, and has created or sustained over 10,800 jobs. The project has also:

- Funded four publications about Russian microfinance, including a catalogue of Russian microfinance institutions.
- Coordinated the Microfinance Policy Working Group, uniting key microfinance institutions in Russia.
- Sponsored a major microfinance conference in Moscow, which laid out a long-term strategy for Russian microfinance. The year 2001 saw significant improvement in the microfinance policy environment, such as exemption of the interest earned by non-bank finance institutions from VAT.
- Monitored microfinance developments in Russia and circulated a microfinance policy update bulletin.
- Organized a trip of Russian Duma members to the U.S. and a roundtable with U.S. representatives to discuss legal issues of microfinance and small business development. As a result, a joint bilateral Russian Duma – U.S. Congress Task Force was organized in support of microfinance and small business development in Russia.

Beneficiaries

Micro and small entrepreneurs and economically under-served residents of Samara Oblast and adjacent regions. The program also benefits businesses and entrepreneurs that provide goods and services to loan clients. The program helps create jobs. Through its policy component, the program benefits SME non-bank finance organizations and their clients.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

FINCA Samara will further expand its operation in Samara Oblast and adjacent regions and increase its cumulative portfolio to 14,800 loans worth \$13.8 million.

As part of its policy work FINCA, jointly with Eurasia Foundation and the Russian Microfinance Center, will provide support to the Russian Duma – U.S. Congress Task Force and organize an exchange visit of U.S. representatives to the Duma in Spring 2003.

The Farmer-to-Farmer Program

USAID manages a U.S. Department of Agriculture program that provides volunteer specialists from the U.S. who respond to requests for short-term technical assistance.

Assistance is given in farm production, food processing and marketing, agricultural extension and agricultural finance.

The program strengthens the capacity of private enterprises, agricultural support organizations and financial institutions.

Volunteers provide direct assistance to Russian managers and technicians on the farm and in agricultural enterprises.

Emphasis is placed on increasing financial sustainability and service delivery capacity of associations, cooperatives and business support institutions, which provide business and technology transfer services to clients.

Geographic Location:

Offices: Moscow, Saratov, and Novosibirsk

Regions: Moskovskaya, Leningradskaya, Smolenskaya, Belgorodskaya, Volgogradskaya, Rostovskaya, Pskovskaya, Kurskaya, Vologodskaya, Permskaya, Tomskaya, Sverdlovskaya, Novosibirskaya, Voronezhskaya, Penzenskaya, Saratovskaya, Volgogradskaya, Ul'yanovskaya, Kaluzhskaya, Yaroslavl'skaya, Novgorodskaya, Tyumenskaya, Samarskaya Oblasts, Republics of Udmurtiya, Tatarstan, Chuvashiya, and Mariy-El, Altay Kray, and Krasnodar Kray

US Implementing Partners:

ACDI/VOCA, Land O'Lakes, and Winrock International

Start: September 1999

Completion: September 2003

Russian Partners:

Private farmers associations, farmers training institutes and colleges, reorganized farms, agribusinesses, non-bank financial institutions, and local governments

Other External partners:

None

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Begun in 1999, the Farmer-to-Farmer program planned for 592 volunteer assignments. To date, 444 volunteer assignments have taken place. Of these, 283 included visits by experts in livestock and poultry, dairy and eggs, field crops, fruits and vegetables, and 129 were assistance to agricultural support organizations in goods and services organizations, educational institutions, trade organizations and business associations. Assistance to 33 financial institutions complemented USAID's Mobilizing Agricultural Credit program.

In all, 572 clients received direct assistance from volunteers. In cooperation with Russian NGOs and the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, the project drafted federal laws on bankruptcy and liquidation, warehouse receipts and credit cooperatives.

Beneficiaries

Russian farmers and agribusinesses. The 129 agricultural support organizations helped by these volunteers provide services to 6,000 farmers and agribusinesses.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

130 volunteer assignments are projected for FY03:

- 60 for businesses;
- 55 for agricultural support organizations;
- 15 for financial institutions.

Market-Oriented Reforms Developed and Implemented in Selected Sectors

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Building Better Banks

This activity supports the development of a sound financial sector in Russia. Through this activity, U.S. financial experts provide consulting and training to Russian counterparts on a volunteer basis.

The activity also provides:

- *Expert review and commentary on draft legislation and regulations;*
- *Specialized seminars for financial sector audiences; and*
- *Consultations with selected commercial banks, the Central Bank of Russia and Regional administrations.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow and Samara

Regions: St. Petersburg, Samarskaya, Ryazanskaya, Omskaya, Novosibirskaya, Tulsckaya, Penzenskaya, Kurskaya, and Lipetskaya Oblasts, and Primorski Kray

US Implementing Partners:

Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC)

Start: September 2000

Completion: August 2003

Russian Partners:

Central Bank of Russia (CBR), private banks, St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg stock exchanges, Association of Russian Banks, National Association of Securities Market Participants (NAUFOR), Agency for Restructuring of Credit Organizations (ARCO)

Other External Partners:

IMF, World Bank, EBRD and U.S. Department of Treasury

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

At the request of the Central Bank and ARCO, the project staff reviewed draft amendments to the Law on Bank Bankruptcy and determined that the law will significantly strengthen the legal regime for bank bankruptcy in Russia, shorten the time required for a bank to be declared insolvent and strengthen the Central Bank's authority in dealing with troubled institutions.

The staff also reviewed a draft concept on a payments system for the Central Bank. Their recommendations will facilitate commercial banks' ability to manage liquidity, address risk more systematically and ensure adequate technical capacity.

At the request of the Central Bank, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, and the State Duma, the staff made recommendations that were incorporated into the Draft Law on Credit Bureaus.

The project helped to define the agenda and locate speakers for the Seventh Annual International Conference of Clearing Institutions, a discussion of payments issues that rotates through central and eastern European countries.

Beneficiaries

A transparent banking system is an integral part of a market economy. Assistance to stabilize the banking system will contribute to the growth of small and medium businesses, stimulate trade and investment and promote broad-based economic growth.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The project shifted its focus from general consultations on financial sector issues to deeper involvement in specific commercial bank projects. USAID will continue its dialogue with the Central Bank on the role that U.S. volunteers can play in banking reform.

Development Credit Authority Program (DCA)

Under the DCA program, the Mission can extend several types of guarantees that encourage private capital to invest in projects that support development objectives.

Currently, the Mission uses DCA to encourage Russian commercial banks to extend credits to small and medium size businesses by providing participating banks with a 50% DCA guarantee on the potential loss of a portfolio of loans designated for the SME sector. In addition, participating banks receive specialized training in various aspects of small business lending and risk management.

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow, Rostov-on-Don

Regions: Moscow Oblast, Leningradskaya, Kaliningradskaya, Chitinskaya, Yaroslavskaaya, Ulyanovskaya, Rostovskaya, and Nizhegorodskaya Oblasts, and Republic of Buryatia.

US Implementing Partners:

None

Start: September 2000

Completion: January 2007

Russian Partners:

Bank of Investments and Innovations (BIN bank), Moscow Russian Bankers' House Bank, Moscow Center Invest Bank, Rostov-on-Don

Other External Partners:

None

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

In September 2000 USAID signed a five-year \$2 million loan portfolio guarantee agreement with Moscow-based Bank of Investment and Innovations (BIN Bank), the first Russian bank since the August 1998 financial crisis selected to participate in the program. As of July 2002, BIN Bank had used the guarantee to cover over 170 SME loans, totaling \$8 million.

In January 2002, USAID's Credit Review Board admitted two additional Russian commercial banks to the LPG program: Russian Bankers' House and Center Invest Bank in Rostov-on-Don. As of July 2002, these banks had made 50 SME loans, totaling approximately \$1 million.

Because of these programs' success, USAID/Russia extended the coverage of SME loan portfolios to \$3 million for Russian Bankers' House, to \$4 million for BIN bank and to \$6 million for Center Invest Bank.

Beneficiaries

This program benefits Russian small businesses and entrepreneurs by encouraging Russian commercial banks to extend financing to the SME sector. In addition, this program strengthens partner banks by reducing risks of lending to small businesses and providing partner banks with training in small business lending.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Years

USAID will select 3 more banks for the DCA program to provide them with a guarantee on a portfolio of SME loans and will implement training programs for newly approved banks. In addition, USAID is planning to provide a 50% DCA guarantee on a \$10 million portfolio of individual promissory notes issued by Moscow-based *Vozrozhdeniye* bank. The Mission will continue to analyze opportunities for DCA.

LPG/DCA Due Diligence - II

Under this activity, due diligence analyses are conducted on businesses and financial institutions seeking to participate in USAID/Russia's credit guarantee programs. As such, the contractor, RusRating – a Russian bank rating agency:

- *Provides the Mission with two-year subscription to RusRating bank reports*
- *Assesses the eligibility of banks wishing to participate in USAID's banking programs (e.g. guarantee programs under Development Credit Authority,*
- *Assesses the eligibility of Russian businesses, Russian banks, Russian-American joint venture companies, municipal or regional utilities (or special purpose companies created by the regional and local administrations) for the Development Credit Authority (DCA) program, and*
- *Provides input for calculation of the subsidy cost for any DCA activity.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions:

N/A

US Implementing Partners:

None

Start: July 2002

Completion: July 2004

Russian Partners:

RusRating – Russian Bank Rating Agency

Other External Partners:

None

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

In July 2002, USAID entered into a two year agreement with RusRating, a Russian bank rating agency, to monitor and evaluate banks seeking to participate in USAID's guarantee programs under Development Credit Authority (DCA).

Since then, RusRating has been providing the Mission with monthly reports on banks it monitors outlining recent activities and changes in their financial status. Currently, RusRating provides in-depth analyses on 28 Russian commercial banks. Over the next two years, RusRating will analyze additional 14 banks.

Beneficiaries

Russian or foreign banks, businesses, municipal or regional utilities (or special purpose companies created by the regional and local administrations), SMEs benefit from this activity.

Noteworthy plans Over the Next Year

USAID/Russia will assess eligibility of Moscow-based *Vozrozhdeniye* Bank for DCA. The proposed program will provide a 50% guarantee on a \$10 million portfolio of individual promissory notes (*veksels*) issued by V. Bank. In addition, analysis of existing opportunities for the use of DCA will be continued.

Russian and Eastern European Economic Think Tank Partnerships

This activity will improve economic policy in Russia and Eastern Europe by building sustainable partnerships between Eastern European, Russian and U.S. think tanks. Through these partnerships think tanks will work jointly on similar economic reform issues. Partnerships will give think tanks an opportunity to expand their expertise by partnering with top think tanks from the U.S. This activity will also develop a regional network to promote professional exchanges, capacity building, and outreach.

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Think tanks from any Russian region or Eastern European country are eligible to receive a partnership grant

US Implementing Partners:

Barents Group of KPMG

Consulting Subcontractor:

Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector Center (IRIS Center), University of Maryland

Start: September 2001

Completion: September 2004

Russian Partners:

Higher School of Economics,
National Project Institute,
Center for Economic and Financial Research.

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Under the Program, think tanks from Russia and Eastern Europe apply for partnership grants to work jointly on economic issues of mutual concern. The Program Board developed competitive grant selection criteria and subject topics for the first round of partnership grants: civil service reform, natural monopolies restructuring, pension system reform, deregulation measures, anti-corruption and money laundering. In April 2002, three grants were awarded under the first round to Russian - Slovakian, Russian - Czech, and Russian - Hungarian think tank partnerships. In addition, five development grants were awarded to several Russian, Polish and Romanian think tanks to help them prepare high-quality applications for the second round of grants.

Under the sub-grant to the Russian-Slovakian partnership, a roundtable on railroad restructuring was held in Moscow in October 2002. International experts, policy makers and think tank analysts participated.

A web page, www.tppp.info, provides a virtual forum where US, Russian, and Eastern European think tanks can post information, policy papers, draft legislation, and other information pertaining to economic reform.

The second solicitation of grant proposals was issued and widely distributed in July 2002. Over 30 applications for full partnership and development grants are expected under the second round. Full partnership grants as well as development grants will be awarded in November 2002.

Beneficiaries

This activity directly benefits the development of Russian and Eastern European economic think tanks. In addition, the program provides policy-makers in Russia and Eastern Europe with high-level economic policy support.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The Program Board selected partner think tanks and awarded the second round of full partnership grants and development grants at the Executive Board Meeting in November 2002. The third round of grants will be announced in March 2003; grants under the third round will be awarded in June 2003.

The program will hold an international conference to present the results of the first round sub-grantees in June 2003. A series of working papers will be published and widely disseminated.

Strengthening Russian Economic Think Tanks (SETT)

This activity is increasing the capacity of independent Russian think tanks and economic analysts to produce high-quality research on economic policy issues. Through this program local Russian think tanks compete for grants to build their institutional capacity and to analyze and develop policy recommendations on economic reform topics.

Geographic Location:

Offices: Moscow

Regions: Think tanks from any Russian region are eligible to receive grants

US Implementing Partners:

Center for Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector (IRIS), University of Maryland

Start: November 2002

Completion: October 2005

Russian Partners:

Moscow Public Science Foundation
Open Economy Foundation
Economic Education and Research Consortium

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

This is a follow-on program to a three-year USAID/Russia activity with the same name and Russian and U.S. implementing partners. Under the initial Program, a transparent competitive system to award grants to Russian think tanks was developed and over 100 grants were awarded to think tanks and analysts from across the Russian Federation. During the second phase, the Program will continue awarding grants to Russian think tanks. However, the Program will concentrate on providing more focused institutional strengthening support to Russian economic think tanks, wider dissemination of grantees' results, and broader policy advocacy targeting government officials and the general public. In addition, the Program will support think tanks operating in Russian regions.

During the first program, several SETT grantees made significant contributions to economic reform. For example, the National Project Institute developed legislation that greatly reduces administrative barriers in the Russian economy. This legislation became law and took effect in January 2002. Another grantee, the Independent Actuarial Center, produced calculations for reform of the Russian pension system. In total, over 50 analyses produced by program grantees contributed to various policy initiatives enacted by the Russian government.

With program support, the Association of Russian Economic Think Tanks was established in October 2002. This organization will help its members solve informational and institutional problems and undertake initiatives to strengthen the think tank sector in general.

Nine roundtables have been held to present and discuss policy analyses produced by SETT grantees. The results and summaries of SETT grantees' work are regularly published in top Russian economic journals.

Beneficiaries

The program provides critical institutional support and grant funding to Russian economic think tanks.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The first round of grants competition will be announced in December 2002 and awards will be made by February 2003. The priority policy areas for the first round of competition are pension reform, labor market, trade policies, civil service reform and reduction of administrative barriers for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Program will hold regular roundtables to inform policy-makers and analysts about the results of sub-grantees' work. Program partners, Open Economy Foundation and Economic Education and Research Consortium, will undertake networking and public advocacy.

Monitoring Deregulation

Under this activity, large-scale surveys of small and medium-sized enterprises are made at periodic intervals over three years to monitor progress in the implementation of the deregulation program across Russian regions. The surveys will produce precise measurements of regulatory and administrative burdens on SMEs in 21 regions and seven federal district. Public dissemination of this information will create strong incentives for regional governments to improve their business environment and attract a greater share of domestic and foreign investment.

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Moscovskaya, Novosibirskaya, Amurskaya, Sakhalinskaya, Rostovskaya, Volgogradskaya, Kaluzhskaya, Smolenskaya, Nizhegorodskaya, Permskaya, Samarskaya, Saratovskaya, Chelyabinskaya, and Kurganskaya Oblasts, Altay, Krasnoyarskiy, Khabarovskiy and Primorkiy Krays, Republic of Komi, and St. Petersburg.

Start: July 2002

Completion: September 2005

Russian Partners:

Center for Economic and Financial Research (CEFIR)

Other External Partners:

World Bank, Education and Economic Research Consortium, Ministry for Economic Development and Trade

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

In 2001, Russian Duma passed a legislative package to substantially reduce administrative barriers on Russian businesses and entrepreneurs: significantly reducing the number and types of businesses subject to state licensing, limiting the number of inspections by various agencies, reducing the amount of documentation needed to register a business, and clarifying certification requirements for production. The program will monitor the implementation of this legislation in 21 Russian regions over the next three years. In total, five rounds of the survey will be conducted.

Before the current activity, CEFIR conducted an initial survey of administrative barriers with the World Bank support. The results of this survey were presented to the Ministry for Economic Development and Trade. In addition, a policy report summarizing the findings of the survey has been prepared and widely disseminated.

In September –October 2002, the second survey round was conducted in 21 Russian regions. Once compiled, the results will be made widely available for the general public, business associations and other interested groups within the civil society. Through CEFIR's quarterly publications and presentations to the media, economic experts, and interested government agencies. Thus, think tanks, SMEs and the Russian Federal government will be able to assess how well deregulation is being implemented across Russia.

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries include SMEs, both existing and potential.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Two more survey rounds will be conducted. After each round, a policy report will be prepared and widely disseminated. In addition, CEFIR experts will look at the dynamics of deregulation reform and will compare implementation across regions.

Economic Policy Reform

This activity provides assistance to a leading market-oriented economic think tank in Russia, the Institute for the Economy in Transition (IET) for policy proposals on economic reform. Reputable international experts assist IET in conducting economic research and in disseminating results among key policymakers and the Russian public.

The project's main outputs are legislative and economic analysis, draft legislative proposals and policy studies, including specific recommendations and implementation.

Geographic Location:
Moscow

U.S. Implementing Partners:
Horst Frisch Incorporated

Start: July 2000

Completion: June 2003

Russian Partners:
Institute for the Economy in Transition

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

IET is considered one of Russia's leading economic think tanks. Through USAID support, IET has produced over 40 comprehensive policy proposals on public debt management, corporate governance and ownership rights, tax reform, elimination of special economic zones, creation of a stabilization fund, and restructuring of state enterprises. IET experts developed specific policy recommendations pertaining to the Land Code, the Federal Budget Code and Customs. In addition, IET works closely with the Ministry of Finance to streamline budgetary procedures.

U.S.-based experts provided support to IET in several areas of tax policy reform: implementation rules and technical amendments for reform of the profits tax, small business tax legislation, modifications to the turnover tax, rules for tolling, and review of production-sharing legislation.

IET holds annual international conferences to review the progress of economic transition in Russia. Top GOR officials as well as world-renowned economists made presentations at these conferences.

This project also funds IET's newsletter, "The Russian Economy: Trends and Perspectives," published monthly in Russian and English. A monograph, "The Transition Economy," was published in the U.S. IET also publishes a series of working papers produced by the Institute's experts.

Beneficiaries

Russian policy makers within the Duma, federal and regional governments, and the public at large.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

IET will develop policy recommendations for the Customs Code, including specific policy issues related to Russia's accession to WTO, social policies, monetary and exchange rate policies, and corporate governance. IET experts will also work on deregulation, civil service reform, structural changes and economic growth, and trade policies.

IET also plans to monitor the impact of tax reform by looking at tax revenue collection. IET will continue working with the Russian Ministry of Finance on public expenditure reviews.

IET is planning another conference with top international economic experts and Russian policy makers in March 2003.

Intergovernmental Fiscal Reform

The program provides technical assistance to the federal, regional and local governments in intergovernmental fiscal relations. In addition, the program is building local Russian capacity in intergovernmental fiscal relations by strengthening a Russian organization, the Center for Fiscal Policy, which specializes in this area.

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Leningradskaya,

Novgorodskaya, Tomskaya,
Tyumenskaya, Astrakhanskaya,
Arkhangelskaya, Belgorodskaya,
Oblasts, Stavropol'skiy Kray,
Republic of Karelia, Republic of
Buratia and Karachayevo-
Cherkesskaya Republic

US Implementing Partners:

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Start: May 2000

Completion: May 2003

Russian Partners:

Center for Fiscal Policy

Other External Partners:

Georgia (U.S.) State University

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- *Assistance to the federal government.* The Center for Fiscal Policy (CFP) provided Duma deputies with analytical papers on intergovernmental fiscal relations reforms, tax-sharing options, federal mandates and an equalization transfer formula. At the request of the Ministry of Finance, CFP refined its computer model for allocation of equalization transfers. CFP helped the IGFR Subcommittee of the State Duma to prepare and conduct hearings of the Tripartite Working Group.
- *Assistance in drafting legislation.* CFP drafted the Model Law on Regional IGFR, which was discussed at the Duma's IFGR Subcommittee meeting. At the Duma's request, CFP staff prepared a draft law on the Budget Chamber and amendments to the Federal Law on General Principals of Local Self-Government in the RF.
- *Public Expenditure Review.* After an in-depth analysis, CFP made recommendations to streamline the federal budget and improve federal spending in transport, science, penitentiary and judicial systems, extra-budgetary revenues of state enterprises, etc. Results were incorporated into decisions for the FY 2002 federal budget.
- *Assistance in developing the National Intergovernmental Fiscal Strategy for 2002–2005.* At the request of the Ministry of Finance, the CFP revised the IGFR Strategy for 1998–2001 and drafted the concept paper for the IGFR Strategy for 2002–2005. To complete this work, CFP specialists prepared analytical papers, provided comments and made presentations for working groups of the State Duma and others engaged in budget legislation.
- *Participation in the Kozak Commission.* In 2001 the Ministry of Finance asked experts from the Center for Fiscal Policy to participate in the work of the Kozak Commission, established at the direction of President Putin to prepare recommendations on delineation of expenditures responsibilities and revenue allocation between all levels of government in the Russian Federation. CFP took the lead in the work of the Commission, particularly with respect to IGFR, and its recommendations form the backbone for the Commission's presentation to the Russian Government and President Putin.
- *Assistance to regional governments.* In 2000 the Ministry of Finance adopted CFP's interim recommendations for reforming IGFR, which made transfers more predictable, reduced arbitrary negotiating between regional and local government, and created incentives for local governments to increase revenue collections and rationalize spending. At the request of these regional administrations the Center for Fiscal Policy updated transfer allocation and revenue-forecast models for the 2001/2002 and 2003-budget process.

Beneficiaries

A more effective and transparent fiscal system will improve the Russian government's ability to provide public services. In turn, this will benefit all Russian citizens.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

CFP will continue to provide technical assistance to regional and local governments, Duma, the Finance Ministry and the Presidential Administration. One new pilot region will be selected. CFP will also conduct workshops, conferences and training sessions for regional officials to discuss IGFR and present results of the Center's work.

Corporate Governance Program

The main goal of the Program is to increase the demand for corporate governance reform among Russian investors, Russian Joint Stock Companies and the public at large. This Program will also strengthen the capacity of Russian NGOS to advocate for corporate governance reform and to implement activities that corporate governance practice of Russian companies.

The CG Program will have two components:

- *Enhanced advocacy to build support for corporate governance reforms*
- *Improved corporate governance practices through more effective Boards of Directors.*

Geographic Location:

Cities: n/a

Regions: n/a

US Implementing Partners: n/a

Start: July 2002

Completion: July 2005

Russian Partners: n/a

Other External Partners: n/a

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity:

This is a new activity

Beneficiaries

Russian businesses seeking to improve their corporate governance practices. Government officials responsible for promulgating policy on corporate governance, foreign and Russian investors seeking more equitable and stable environment for investment.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

In summer 2002 USAID issued an Annual Program Statement (APS) to fund proposals submitted by Russian Corporate Governance NGOs. Applications can be submitted individually or in partnerships with US organizations or international organizations. This activity will be implemented over the next three years. Awards under the APS will be made shortly.

Alaska Sakhalin Working Group

This activity supports the U.S.-Russia Bi-National Committee's U.S. West Coast-Russian Far East Ad Hoc Working Group. The Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, in cooperation with the Alaska Sakhalin Working Group, provides the Sakhalin Oblast Administration and private sector with support to enhance development of energy, environmental, legislative and financial sectors. This activity follows a set of projects implemented under the auspices of the Alaska Sakhalin Working Group.

Geographic Location:
Region: Sakhalinskaya Oblast

US Implementing Partners:
State of Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, Alaska Permanent Capital Management, Alaska Department of Revenue, University of Alaska Mining and Petroleum Training Service, U.S. Minerals Management Service, and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Federal Aviation Administration Alaska Region, University of Alaska Anchorage – American Russian Center

Start: July 2000
Completion: September 2004

Russian Partners:
Sakhalinskaya Oblast administration and Duma, Sakhalin Alaska Technical College, and Sakhalin Shelf Department of Natural Resources

Other External Partners:
American Business Center in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

A two-year follow-on grant was signed August 30, 2002. Work will continue on the *Sakhalin Workforce Development project* to train local workers so that the oil-and-gas industry can meet content requirements under Russian Production Sharing Agreements.

This project conducted the first comprehensive analysis of the local oil-and-gas workforce. Information regarding 2,697 jobs, 5,436 businesses and 16,097 individuals was collected and processed. The resulting database of job specifications, skills and available qualified personnel is used by both industry and Sakhalin employment services. Follow-on work will include additional technical assistance and training of the local workforce through the Sakhalin Alaska Technical College.

The Sakhalin Environmental Management project provides the Sakhalin regional administration with technical assistance in environmental policy-making, regulatory management, waste management, and spill preparedness. Two week-long seminars on *Environmental Management During Offshore Oil and*

Gas Operations have been held in Sakhalin, generating discussions of how government, industry and the stakeholders might work together within a regulatory regime to achieve common goals in development and environmental management. Almost immediately, Sakhalin officials requested follow-up work. Additional seminars and internships are planned over the next two years.

The follow-on program will also include an *Airport Management Training project* for Magadan, Chukotka, Kamchanka, Yakutsk and Vladivostok. Through a series of workshops and seminars, this project will help strengthen infrastructure by improving management of aviation facilities and organizations in the RFE.

Two finance projects, *Funds For Future Generations* and *Sakhalin Development Agency Projects*, have been completed.

The latest Alaska-Sakhalin Working Group meeting was held during the Seventh Annual U.S. West Coast-RFE Ad Hoc Working Group meeting in September 2002 in Anchorage. Participants restated their commitment to foster cooperation between Alaska and the RFE and established new priorities: environmental issues of oil-and-gas development, training of the Russian labor pool and restoration of transportation links between Alaska and the RFE.

Beneficiaries

Sakhalin Island is a focal point of U.S. investment and trade. Environmentally safe oil-and gas and infrastructure development will benefit Sakhalin and adjacent regions in the Russian Far East, and will provide greater business and employment opportunities for Sakhalin residents.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Project participants are developing work plans for each project. Sakhalin Environment Management project principals are also looking to expand the proposed projects to fully address environmental issues related to oil-and gas development in Sakhalin.

Economic Experts Program

This activity strengthens the capabilities of Russian economists and policy-makers by giving them access to Western economic policy expertise. USAID brings prominent Western economists to Russia to work with counterparts in areas such as tax and fiscal reform, pension reform, exchange rate policy and administrative reform.

This activity also provides Russian officials with short-term technical assistance in key areas of economic reform and directly contributes to policy development.

Geographic Location:

City: Moscow

Region: Moscow

US Implementing Partners:

Louis Berger Inc.

Start: April 2000

Completion: July 2004

Russian Partners:

Institute for Economy in Transition (IET), Development Center, VEDI laboratory, Higher School of Economics, Economic Expert Group, Independent Actuarial Center, Leontieff Center, Center for Macroeconomic Analysis and Short-term Forecasting, Center for Economic and Financial Research (CEFIR) and others

Other External Partners:

World Bank
Education and Economic Research Consortium
Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
Ministry of Antimonopoly Policy and Support for Entrepreneurship
Ministry of Finance

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

In April 2000 at the request of the Center for Strategic Research (Gref Center), USAID funded the visit of ten world-renowned economists: Arnold Harberger, Paul Volker, Lawrence Kotlikoff, James Gwartney, Richard Vedder, James Carter, Carlos Bologna, Jose Pinera, Graham Scott and Roger Douglas. The experts met with high-ranking Russian officials and policy-makers and provided comments on the Gref Plan. In 2000, USAID funded a second visit by these experts, who were joined by economic experts Ann Krueger and Robert Mundell, who took part in an international conference organized by the Institute for Economy in Transition and provided Russian policy-makers from the GOR, the State Duma and economic think tanks with consultations and advisory technical services. In addition, these economists gave public lectures at Moscow educational institutions.

Other renowned economists have visited Russia, working closely with USAID grantees in exchange rate liberalization and macroeconomic adjustments, public expenditure and pension reform, tax policy and railroads restructuring. Subsequently, the program made sub-grants to Russian counterparts for work on selected economic policy issues.

In May 2002, the project sent a high-level delegation from Russian ministries involved in the development of pension reform to participate in a World Bank conference on investment of pension assets.

At the request of the Ministry of Anti-Monopoly Policy and Support of Entrepreneurship, this program is bringing three experts in anti-trust economics to assess the effectiveness of competition policy in Russia. This assessment will evaluate the effectiveness and transparency of the Ministry's structure, its policies and activities to promote effective market competition, Russia's competition legislation and enforcement, sectoral restructuring and regulation of pricing for natural monopolies.

Beneficiaries

This program ensures that Russian policy makers and Russian think tanks are exposed to high-level international expertise in economic and social policy areas. This kind of high-level policy assistance also presents a unique opportunity for expert assistance on economic issues that are at the top of the Russian Government's reform agenda.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Additional visits are planned. These visits will include advisory work on corporate governance and consultations on sustainable economic growth in Russia, including banking sector reform. The assessment of competition policy in Russia will be completed in spring 2003. A report will be presented at a roundtable with participation of Russian policy-makers and government officials.

Environmental Resources Managed More Effectively to Support Economic Growth

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Replication of Lessons Learned (ROLL-2000)

This activity assists a wide range of Russian organizations in addressing natural resource management, environmental protection and public health. ROLL funds activities that support technology transfer and disseminate best practices and experiences in the U.S. and Russia in these topics. Working in such areas as sustainable economic development, ecologically oriented business, public health risk assessment, ecological education and natural resource use planning, this project shares successful initiatives among governmental, non-governmental, public, commercial, business and educational organizations in Russia.

Geographic Location:

Offices: Moscow, Nizhniy Novgorod,
Novokuznetsk, Khabarovsk,
Yekaterinburg, Ulan-Ude

Regions: Agencies and organizations from any Russian region are eligible to apply for assistance

US Implementing Partners:

Institute for Sustainable Communities

Start: June 2000

Completion: May 2005

Russian Partners:

Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, NGOs, Universities, commercial and business organizations

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

ROLL-2000 has directly assisted through sub-grant program more than 300 organizations in 77 regions of the Russian Federation at federal, regional and municipal levels.

- By February 2002, 96 grants totalling \$2.4 million were awarded to Russian organizations to promote sustainable economic growth, natural resource management, ecologically oriented business and reduction of public health risk from pollution and other areas of economic development.
- A special grant program "Introduction of Energy Saving Technologies" is being implemented by municipal organizations in 9 regions of the Volga Federal District; \$420,000 was allocated for 16 projects to decentralize and rebuild municipal heat supply systems, improve the heating of public buildings, implement commercial heat and gas registration techniques, and others. The program will improve the district's economy, environment and investment climate.
- From 2000-2002, 25 projects to introduce a health risk assessment methodology were implemented; the results and recommendations led 10 cities, including Moscow, Yekaterinburg, Perm and Novokuznetsk, to adopt practices aimed at decreasing environmental risk. In the city of Krasnouralsk the number of children with health problems from high blood lead content has decreased threefold.
- As a result of ROLL's support to various Russian governmental, business and NGOs, the RF State Committee of Standardization has created a Federal Expert Council on Environmental Standards. This Council will regulate the introduction and implementation of internationally recognized standards of ecological management, including ISO-14000 certification procedures.
- About 900 proposals were submitted for the third and fourth grant-rounds, focusing on eco-management, ecobusiness and environmental health risk. Announcement of the awards, to total \$1 million, will be made by the end of 2002.

Beneficiaries

This activity directly benefits Russian organizations in Russian regions, including the Volga Federal District, the Russian Far East and Siberia.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Two new grant rounds will be conducted, to award \$2 million to 70 environmental protection and natural resource management projects run by about 100 Russian organizations in targeted regions. A special sub-grant program for health risk assessment will begin in targeted regions and municipalities.

EcoLinks in the Russian Far East

This regional activity has been funded and managed through the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Europe and Eurasia Bureau in USAID/Washington and is being moved to the Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade Pillar Bureau. EcoLinks is a partnership program for Central and Eastern Europe and Newly Independent States.

The program objectives are:

- *To promote market-based solutions to environmental problems, with emphasis on urban and industrial sectors;*
- *To create lasting environmentally focused partnerships between CEE/NIS businesses and local governments and their counterparts in the US and in other CEE/NIS countries;*
- *To facilitate trade and investment in environmental goods and services; and*
- *To provide environmental professionals with information about environmental laws, policies and regulations, best practices environmental technologies and management systems.*

Competitively awarded cost-shared grants are made to local organizations for projects or activities that solve environmental problems and are jointly managed by partners from the region and the U.S.

Geographical Location:

Office in Russia: Khabarovsk

Regions: Sakhalinskaya Oblast, Khabarovskiy, and Primorskiy Krays

US Implementing Partners:

Institute of International Education (IIE),
US Department of Commerce, USAID's
Global Technology Network, and Devtech

Start: August 1998

Completion: July 2003

Russian Partners:

Local administrations and businesses

Other External Partners:

U.S. Government Implementers in the
RFE

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

EcoLinks has awarded 13 Challenge Grants in the RFE, totaling over \$631,000.

- The Vladivostok City Municipality teamed up with Utility Services Associates, USA, to reduce leaks in the city's drinking water distribution system and to improve its efficiency. As a result, 8 employees of the city's water utility were trained in using American-made acoustic leak detection equipment and in improved water accounting methods, over 450 leaks in the city's drinking water system were detected and repaired (resulting in an annual savings of \$400,000), and the city purchased leak detection equipment with funding from the city budget.
- Community Service Enterprise #1 teamed up with the Association of Oregon Recyclers to develop and implement a pilot, market-based recycling program in the Industrial Region neighborhood of Khabarovsk. As a result, 10 recycling stations and 8 large storage containers for collected recyclables were built, an agreement was signed with the Asphalt Roofing Factory to purchase collected textiles and paper, and 75 volunteers were recruited and trained.

This year EcoLinks held an additional "Fast Track" Challenge Grants cycle. One grant of \$46,593 was awarded to RFE-based Ussuri Sanitorium and its American partner, PAE Consulting, to assess the potential for installing a geothermal heat pump system to replace conventional fuels at Ussuri Sanitorium.

At the request of USAID/Washington, EcoLinks held an additional "Fast Track" Challenge Grants cycle. Within this cycle, one *Challenge Grant* of \$46,593 was awarded to RFE-based Ussuri Sanitorium and their American partner, PAE Consulting, to assess the potential for installing a geothermal heat pump system to replace conventional fossil fuel at Ussuri Sanitorium.

In addition, 36 Quick Response Awards have been awarded, totaling almost \$150,000. The majority of these funded travel for Russian companies to meet potential U.S. partners and develop Challenge Grant applications or to discuss trade deals.

Beneficiaries

Under the six grant rounds, this activity directly benefited Russian private and public sector organizations in Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, and Sakhalin to implement environmentally focused initiatives in partnership with cross-boarder partners.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

A Follow-Up Challenge Grants grant cycle is under way to assist selected past grantees in preparing documents to secure financing to implement findings of previous projects. The selection panel for this grants cycle met in October 2002. Up to 10 grants of up to \$10,000 each will be awarded.

The EcoLinks program is scheduled to end on July 1, 2003. The Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and Vladivostok offices closed November 1, 2002; the Khabarovsk office will remain open until the end of the program.

Forestry Resources and Technologies (FOREST) Project

The overarching goal of this program is to reduce the threat of global climate change by preserving Russian forests as a globally important carbon sink. The Project recognizes the value of forest resources and their economic contribution to the regions. The principle objectives to achieve this goal are:

- *To preserve and expand Russia's carbon sink through more effective fire and pest management;*
- *To encourage more effective and innovative use of timber and non-timber forest resources in the RFE and Siberia;*
- *To raise public awareness and thereby reduce the number of forest fires caused by man.*
- *To introduce renewable energy sources as alternatives to fossil fuels;*
- *To strengthen regional forest policy and legislation in the Russian Far East and Siberia to promote sustainable forestry management.*

Geographic Location:

Offices: Khabarovsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Krasnoyarsk

Regions: Khabarovskiy, Primorskiy, and Krasnoyarskiy Krays, Sakhalinskaya and Irkutskaya Oblasts, Republic of Tuva, Republic of Khakassiya

US Implementing Partners:

Winrock International, Chemonics International, the Heron Group, LLC,

Start: July 2000

Completion: June 2005

Russian Partners:

The Ministry of Natural Resources; the Administrations of the Khabarovskiy, Primorskiy and Krasnoyarskiy Krays, Sakhalinskaya and Irkutskaya oblasts, and the Sukachev Forestry Institute, the Russian Academy of Science, Small Business Associations, Media, NGOs

Other External Partners:

World Bank, and U.S. Government Implementers in the RFE, U.S. Forest Service

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Forest Fire Prevention. The vast majority of 656 randomly sampled people in the target areas of the fire prevention general awareness campaign recognized the FOREST Project's message "8 out of 10 forest fires are caused by people." More than 750 individuals and groups receive information and training in the Fire Prevention Contact Group. More than 200 teachers were trained and are teaching the forest fire prevention awareness program for children in Khabarovskiy Kray. The Khabarovskiy Kray Ministry of Education endorsed introducing FOREST's *Fire Prevention Education Program* into the curriculum and after-school programs. Foresters in all five project regions were trained in communication, community participation skills and extension aids. A February 2002 follow-up survey in Khabarovskiy Kray found that 15% of the public had made at least one change in behavior during the past year to promote forest fire safety.

Pest Monitoring. FOREST has implemented a new pest monitoring approach to all five regions. The manufacture of pheromone traps in Russia and the use of new dispensers for pheromone traps has saved the Russian Forest Service money. Maps showing territories subjected to Siberian moth outbreaks have reduced the areas that need monitoring and associated monitoring costs by at least five times. A new database on the Pest Monitoring Website allows scientists and managers to review all field data.

Non-Timber Forest Products and Secondary Wood Processing. The project aided five business associations, including one founded by FOREST, and as a result their membership increased by 56 companies, and their income by 866,000 rubles. FOREST supported 32 businesses and sent 28 people to international trade shows; as a result, two companies purchased American equipment and three companies signed contracts to sell their products in Asia. Market studies for secondary wood processing are providing key marketing data.

Biomass Energy. FOREST provided technical and financial support to three companies in developing investment plans for the construction of biomass energy facilities. The biomass staff brought together between companies and potential investors. FOREST selected two more companies to develop additional investment plans for the construction of biomass facilities in the targeted regions.

Beneficiaries

Five Regional Forestry Administrations in the Russian Far East and Siberia, hundreds of private and public sector organizations involved in harvesting and processing timber and non-timber forest resources, dozens of protected areas, NGOs and the general population of the RFE and Eastern Siberia are beneficiaries of this activity.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Major territorial expansion of the four primary components will continue, with each component expanding to at least four of the five project territories. The Year 4 Workplan will be presented to the FOREST Advisory Council Meeting to be held on in June 2003.

A More Open, Participatory Society

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Democratic Institutions Strengthening (International Republican Institute)

This activity promotes the development of participatory democracy in the Russian Federation by:

- *Providing skills in political campaigning to political parties committed to democratic principles;*
- *Advocating the greater participation of citizens in the political process;*
- *Supporting NGOs that work for active, participatory democracy.*

IRI has been active in the Russian Federation since 1991. Over the four years of this project, IRI will:

- *Help parties strengthen their role as regional institutions;*
- *Help parties serve as conduits for increased communication between elected officials and their constituents;*
- *Further foster the development of the multi-party system in Russia training various parties while providing intensified assistance to reformist parties.*

Geographic Location: Moscow

Regions: Leningradskaya, Arkhangelskaya, Murmanskaya, Pskovskaya, Moskovskaya, Tverskaya, Ivanovskaya, Lipetskaya, Rostovskaya, Voronezhskaya, Volgogradskaya, Belgorodskaya, Lipetskaya, Permskaya, Penzenskaya, Novosibirskaya, Omskaya, Tomskaya Oblasts, Republic of Karelia, Republic of Bashkortostan, and Altay Kray

US Implementing Partners:

International Republican Institute

Start: October 2001

Completion: November 2005

Russian Partners:

Russian political parties (esp., Union of Right Forces, Yabloko, also Yedinstvo, Otechestvo), independent regional organizations in various target cities (esp., Moscow School of Political Studies, St. Petersburg League of Women Voters, Nevsky Research Foundation, Center for Electoral Technologies (Perm'), Civic Accord (Rostov), the Center for Political Analysis and Consulting (Moscow), and the United Democratic Center (Voronezh)

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

This activity builds on the previous project, Political Institutions in a Democratic Society and focuses on broader regional work with political parties and a broader range of NGOs. This project has:

- Conducted seminars, roundtables and political party trainings for *Yabloko*, SPS and *Narodnaya* parties
- Helped transform the League of Women Voters into an activist organization for citizen participation in elections and greater accountability of elected officials. It expanded its network to 20 partner organizations in northwestern and central Russia and trained more than 1,000 election observers.
- Helped to establish and register the Women Partnership and Leadership NGO.
- iGven subgrants to six core NGO partners assisting with their development as institutions for citizen advocacy and organized a trip to the U.S. for the six NGO leaders where they met with potential funders and established NGOs.
- Conducted youth seminars for *Yedinaya Rossiya*.

Beneficiaries

This project directly benefits pro-reform political parties and NGOs. The ability of political parties to compete effectively has been increased. NGOs working with IRI have conducted successful public advocacy campaigns and have increased their influence.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Assistance to parties will be increased to develop strong regional networks, strengthen the organization capacity of parties and build a network of expert Russian trainers whom the parties can continue to turn to for training. Internal party training academies will be established and IRI will work with the two "liberal" parties on better targeting their electorate and tightening their organizational structure through internal training divisions in preparation for the 2003 parliamentary elections. Outreach to more political parties is planned, along with emphasis on programs that engage youth and women in the political process.

Democratic Institutions Strengthening (National Democratic Institute)

This activity promotes the development of democratic political institutions by:

- *Strengthening the links between reformist, democratic political parties and citizen groups, increasing the influence of both and involving more citizens in the political process;*
- *Working with democratic political parties in Moscow to encourage local and regional political party building; and*
- *Continued training for party activists in election organizing techniques.*

Over the four years of this activity, NDI will continue the training and expansion of the VOICE coalition of election monitoring and citizen advocacy groups.

Geographic Location

Office: Moscow

Regions: Sverdlovskaya, Saratovskaya,
Yaroslavskaya, Chelyabinskaya,
Astrakhanskaya, Nizhegorodskaya,
Samarskaya, Krasnodarskiy Kray

US Implementing Partners:

National Democratic Institute

Start: November 2001

Completion: October 2005

Russian Partners:

Russian political parties (esp. Yabloko, Union of Right Forces, also Yedinstvo, Otechestvo, others), Coalition "Voice" (Golos), local governments and civic advocacy organizations

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- Predecessor projects helped establish the VOICE Coalition for the Defense of Voters' Rights (*Golos*), the first national Russian organization devoted to promoting open and transparent elections and advocating the interests of voters. VOICE has established 15 regional branches, observed 6 local elections and trained more than 1,200 observers.
- Trained hundreds of political party activists, particularly from *Yabloko*, in more than a dozen major Russian cities and regions.
- Opened two regional offices in Saratov and Yekaterinburg to expand and intensify training of political parties and NGO activities in these regions.
- Organized roundtable discussions for citizen activists, State Duma and party representatives on increasing the transparency of the legislative process and on proposed changes in the election law.
- Helped to draft a proposed code of conduct for State Duma representatives.

Beneficiaries

This activity benefits the growth of democratic political parties in Russia and thereby strengthens Russian democracy. Those parties inclined toward American values gain skills in political campaigns and those who are not as close to American political traditions gain a better understanding of the values for which we stand. American political expertise reaches those committed to working for democratic political change.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The project will focus more attention on work in two regions where it has offices. It also plans to provide more support to the VOICE coalition of NGO election monitors, and will help parties to assess their readiness to participate in parliamentary elections in 2003 and in other local and regional elections.

Strengthening Democratic Institutions and Civil Society

This activity promotes the development of a democratic political culture among Russian politicians and policy makers. It supports a growing network of democratic young Russian political, administrative, intellectual and business leaders in the regions through a publishing program and seminars that:

- *Reinforce the basic tenets of a democratic society and increase participants' understanding of the workings of modern liberal political and economic systems;*
- *Encourage discussion of how liberal political and economic systems can be best adapted to conditions in Russia;*
- *Encourage closer and more durable cooperation between Russian policy makers of different political persuasions;*
- *Encourage regular working exchanges between Russian and western policy makers; and*
- *Publish works by international academic leaders and practitioners on democracy and democratic theory.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Irkutskaya, Astrakhanskaya, Leningradskaya and Moskovskaya Oblasts

US Implementing Partners:

None

Start: May 2000

Completion: May 2003

Russian Implementing Partner:

Moscow School of Political Studies (MSPS)

Other External Partners:

British-Russian Development Partnership, European Commission and the Council of Europe Joint Program, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Open Society Institute: Higher Education Support Program, International Republican Institute Democracy International Ltd., House of Freedom and Democracy

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The *training program* conducted 14 federal and regional seminars for over 1,000 participants. These seminars bring together legislators, political party activists, entrepreneurs and journalists. Speakers include influential international and Russian policy-makers, political scientists and leaders of international bodies, businesses, universities and the media. Topics include the relationship between politics, economics and mass media; civil society and corruption; regional policy and local self-government; and the democratic institutions of the ombudsman and free media (since its inception in 1992, MSPS has trained over 5,000 students). Among the graduates are 35 State Duma Deputies, 2 deputy governors, 1 member of the Federation Council, 7 vice-ministers, and numerous regional leaders. In December 2001, MSPS established an Alumni Association, which will support school programs, especially in the regions, and form an alumni network.

Publishing. MSPS revised and broadened its journal, *Sapere Aude* ("Dare to Think"), and renamed it *Obshchaya tetrad* ("An Open Notebook"). The new magazine covers globalization and the place of Russia in the modern world, federalism and ethnic conflicts, and problems of the political party system in Russia. Five issues have been published. The growing list of school publications now includes 23 books written by foreign and Russian experts and distributed free among the alumni network, government institutions, local administrations, public libraries, universities and training centers.

MSPS has started a new publishing series devoted to the challenge of a united Europe. Six brochures were published with USAID support, touching upon issues of management, taxation, and rule of law in Europe, and the impact of the euro on economies European.

Institutional Development. MSPS re-designed its web site (www.msps.ru) to include all books, brochures, magazines and newsletters published by MSPS, information on past and upcoming seminars, and a chat room for alumni. A U.S.-based consultant registered a 501(c)(3) nonprofit "US Supporters of Civil Society in Russia" foundation to promote MSPS activities in the U.S. and build stronger relations between young Russian and American civic leaders.

Beneficiaries

This program directly benefits the next generation of Russian politicians at the local and federal level.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The institutional development component of the project is critical for the sustainability of MSPS by building a network of MSPS supporters in the U.S., and expanding the Board of Directors through recruiting American board members.

Three seminars for over 400 participants and the second alumni association meeting will be conducted. In March 2003, MSPS will hold its first seminar in the US, bringing up to 30 young Russian politicians to meet with their peers.

Strengthening Democracy through Public Awareness

This activity strengthens democracy and promotes transparency in the Russian election system by providing reliable, unbiased information and technical assistance to all participants in the electoral process.

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Tulsckaya, Sakhalinskaya, Kaliningradskaya, Yaroslavsckaya, Sverdlovskaya Oblasts, Krasnodarskiy Kray, Republic of Mariy El, Krasnoyarskiy Kray, and St. Petersburg

US Implementing Partners:

None

Start: October 2000

Completion: January 2004

Russian Implementing Partner:

Institute for Election Systems Development

Other Russian and External Partners:

International Foundation for Electoral Systems,
Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation
Subject Election Commissions and Territorial Election Commissions Duma Committee on Legislation, Center for Electoral Technologies Interregional Association for Civic Education, National Press Institute
Canadian Election Fund

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Election Administration and Law Reform. Election officials of all 89 subjects of the RF have received a set of project publications and CD-ROMs on electoral processes and procedures. The project closely followed the amendment of the electoral reform law On Basic Guarantees and participated in public discussions and reviews. Comments were posted on the project's web site, www.democracy.ru, which is rated the best of such resources.

Voter Education. Election officials in Kaliningrad and Krasnoyarsk welcomed the project's seminars before fall 2002 elections. In Krasnoyarsk, a seminar for local media on fairness in election campaign coverage was timely because "black PR" was a continuing concern in the gubernatorial election. A voter education seminar for military personnel in Kaliningrad used a manual produced especially for this training, in which 36 officers learned how to encourage servicemen to learn about candidates and exercise their right to vote. The local election commissioner participated in the seminar. Electoral commissions in other regions have asked for a program in their region. In cooperation with the Tula Election Commission, the project created and published "First Time Voter Certificate" for regional elections.

Investigative Journalism and Elections. Regional journalists participated in 11 seminars on media coverage and ethics conducted in five regions. These seminars were a forum on political life in the regions, the role of local media in elections, independence of the press, and manipulation of public opinion. Seminars in Krasnoyarsk and Kaliningrad on the eve of regional elections were deemed important and useful by local audiences.

Public Advocacy. Seminars on public advocacy have been conducted in Taganrog, Yoshkar-Ola and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk to train representatives of NGOs, local governments, and the business community on regional public priorities, to define joint interests and to lobby for projects important to the community.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include election commissions, NGOs, TV and radio stations, and newspapers. Public officials and voters alike have used the web site and Election Resource Center. More broadly, strong institutional and legal foundations for the conduct of free and fair elections benefit all Russians.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Regional seminars will train election administrators on applying the new version of the Federal Law On Basic Guarantees. Voter education programs, public advocacy seminars and seminars for local media personnel will continue.

Institutional Capacity-Building Program

This program seeks to contribute to NGO development by strengthening the organizational capacity, developing financial viability, and enhancing the public image of the NGO sector.

It will:

- *Develop and test a comprehensive educational program in NGO Management that will combine theory course with models for practical applications;*
- *Provide courses on various NGO development issues for nearly 300 NGO leaders through the distance-learning technology; and*
- *Develop, publish and disseminate nine books on various aspects of NGO Management through 50 regional organizations, NGO conferences and donor organizations.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: TBD

Russian Implementing Partner:

Center for NGO Support (CNGOS)

Start: June 2001

Completion: June 2004

Russian Partners:

Center for NGO Support

Other External Partners: None

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

In its first year, program has:

- Developed reliable software for distance learning.
- Developed and trained courses on General Management, Human Resources and Financial Management through Internet.
- More than 100 participants.
- Published books on General Management, Human Resources and Financial Management.
- Produced CD-ROMs containing texts of lectures and books, slides and questionnaires on General Management, Human Resources and Financial Management.

Beneficiaries

The program directly benefits more than 300 NGO leaders from various regions of Russia by increasing the institutional capacity by equipping them with knowledge and skills in NGO development. In addition, the program will provide access for more than 10,000 NGOs to educational materials and books through Internet, CD-ROMs or hard copies.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

In its second year the program will:

- Develop and implement three courses, on NGO sustainability, in advocacy, fundraising and program monitoring and evaluation
- Organize and manage a 9-month program consisting of six courses: NGO management, human resources management and financial management, advocacy, fundraising, and program monitoring and evaluation for 150 people from Russia and NIS countries;
- Develop and publish books on advocacy, fundraising and program monitoring and evaluation based on Russian experience and case studies
- Produce CD-ROMs as a supplement to manuals, with individual interactive exercises;
- Hold an annual conference for NGO Management School graduates.

Promoting and Strengthening Russian NGO Development (Pro-NGO Activity)

This program seeks to contribute to NGO development and stimulate grassroots citizen involvement in 17 Russian Federation regions.

It will:

- *Strengthen grassroots NGOs with a view to increase citizen participation, especially participation of youth, in the economic, political, and social life of their communities; and*
- *Assist 23 NGO resource centers and their networks to improve the environment in which NGOs operate, specifically in organizational capacity, financial viability, and the public image of NGOs.*

Building on previous programs, it will contribute to the sustainability and outreach of Russian NGOs by disseminating information and networking among all NGOs.

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Rostovskaya, Novosibirskaya, Chitinskaya, Tomskaya, Omskaya, Kemerovskaya, Irkutskaya, Tyumenskaya, Novgorodskaya, Samarskaya Oblasts, Republics of Adygeya, Altay, Buryatia, Krasnodarskiy, Krasnoyarskiy, Stavropolskiy, and Altaisky Krays

US Implementing Partners:

IREX

Start: October 2000

Completion: November 2003

Russian Partners:

Siberian Civic Initiatives Support Center (SCISC); Southern Russia Resource Center (SRRC); Northwest Community Development Center, Novgorod; and Povolzh'ye Association, Samara

Other External Partners:

The Eurasia Foundation, ISAR, Open Society Institute, UNHCR, Institute for Sustainable Communities, and Agency for Social Information

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Increasing NGOs' Institutional Capacity. The 23 Pro-NGO funded resource centers provided NGO professionals and civic activists with over 25,000 trainings and consultations in fundraising, customer service, and financial and legal compliance. Pro-NGO organized the first All-Russia Conference for NGO Lawyers in January 2002, with participation from 38 regions.

Heightening Citizen Participation. The Fourth Annual Spring Charity Week in Siberia attracted more than 95,000 volunteers to participate in various community service activities. Siberian Center representative offices made a special drive to include 246 new territories in Kemerovo, Novosibirsk and Tyumen regions into this event.

Developing a More Nurturing Atmosphere for Civic Engagement. Following the All-Russia Civic Forum in 2001, resource centers continued to develop inter-sectoral partnerships, and regional Civic Forums were held in Buryatia and Novocheerkassk.

Developing Local Philanthropy. The Togliatti Community Foundation launched a training and internship initiative to increase the scope and depth of philanthropic giving in small towns across the Volga Federal District. In late 2002 the foundation will host 35 interns for a four-day introduction to fundraising and community development.

Strengthening Advocacy Skills. NGOs have provided 295 expert commentaries on regional and local policy in the target regions. The Southern Regional Resource Center plays a leading role in regional coalitions across Southern Russia to support the influence of NGOs on government policy. The Center conducted an Advocacy School in June 2002 where 21 participants learned lobbying techniques, public speaking and public debating skills. In Krasnodar the Coalition of Public Associations introduced Public Debates, a forum for public input into policy.

Beneficiaries

The program's beneficiaries include 23 NGO resource centers, grassroots NGOs. The NGOs' clients are the ultimate beneficiaries of the grants program.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

1. IREX will monitor and evaluate the 2002 grant program.
2. Pro-NGO will join international and Russian partner to conduct a comprehensive review of the economic benefits that could be derived from laws to encourage philanthropy in the Russian Federation.
3. Pro-NGO will implement advocacy training. *Povolzh'ye* Association will publish a manual, "NGOs and Regional Budgeting," and develop a web site to inform NGOs of access points into the regional legislative process.
4. IREX plans to conduct in partnership with Open Society Institute conference "Development of the Community-Based Self Governance."

RFE Civic Initiatives Program

This program is designed to:

- *Strengthen grassroots activism to mobilize communities to address common issues.*
- *Strengthen NGO resource centers and advanced NGOs to ongoing support to the region's grassroots organizations.*

Geographic Location:

Office: ISC regional office in Khabarovsk

Regions: primary regions are Primorskiy Kray, Khabarovskiy Kray and Sakhalinskaya Oblast; secondary regions are Amurskaya Oblast, Republic of Sakha, Magadanskaya Oblast, Kamchatskaya Oblast, and the Jewish Autonomus Oblast

US Implementing Partners:

Institute for Sustainable Communities

Start: August 2002

Completion: August 2006

Russian Partners:

Resource Centers: *Amur-Batyushka* (Blagoveshchensk); *Eyge* (Yakutsk); *Living Arctic* (Magadan); *Pilot* (Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy); *Sigma* (Birobidjan), and new Resource Centers in primary regions TBD

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

This program has just started.

Beneficiaries

This program will benefit citizens by encouraging them to develop community action projects (either in partnership with NGOs or as informal groups) to address problems that directly affect their lives. The program will also benefit local NGOs who will be able to establish better links to their constituencies and to mobilize citizen support for their causes. The program will benefit the established and new Resource Centers that will be able to continue their support to regional NGOs and to carry out community initiatives. The program will benefit other NGOs through advanced organizational development training and community development grant competitions.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The program will:

- Conduct a Launch Conference to officially announce program goals and to seek input from key stakeholders into the program design.
- Conduct a competition to select three organizations that will house NGO resource centers in the primary regions.
- Negotiate sub agreements with the "established" Resource Centers and will provide them with financial and organizational support to ensure provision of their regular RC services.
- Arrange a training needs assessment of advanced NGOs. The results will be used to develop an advanced training curriculum.
- Conduct grassroots initiative and citizen advocacy competitions to stimulate community action projects.
- provide training to NGO and informal citizen groups on elements of citizen engagement and community action.

Trafficking Prevention Project in the Russian Far East and Siberia

The project objectives include the following:

- *Promote economic empowerment for women at risk through provision of training programs in job skills and small business development.*
- *Create awareness about trafficking among the general public through public education campaigns and targeted provision of information.*
- *Enhance the capacity of Russian NGOs to conduct training programs and offer services and information to women at risk.*

Geographic Location:

Offices: Winrock regional office in Khabarovsk

Regions: Primorskiy Kray, Khabarovskiy Kray, Sakhalinskaya Oblast, Amurskaya Oblast, Magadanskaya Oblast, Kamchatskaya Oblast, Irkutskaya Oblast

US Implementing Partners:

Winrock International

Start: September 2001

Completion: March 2004

Other External Partners:

International Research and Exchanges Board, Angel Coalition, Mercy Corps, Foundation for Russian-American Economic Cooperation, ISAR Resource Centers, TraCC and Gender Center, ANGARA Baikal Regional Union of Women

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The first year of the project concentrated on promoting awareness of the project in the Russian Far East and increasing the capacity of Russian NGOs to conduct training in job skills and small business development.

- There have been press conferences in three cities and public NGO roundtables in four large cities.
- Two training of trainers workshops have been conducted for 34 trainers from 28 organizations.
- 28 mini-grants were awarded resulting in training of 923 women at risk (499 in job skills and 424 in small business development).
- A research grant has been awarded to the Far Eastern State University to study the demographics of women at risk. The results due in November 2002 will be applied to future programming.

Beneficiaries

The ultimate beneficiaries will be women at-risk of being trafficked. The program will also benefit regional NGOs that will receive grants from the Implementer to provide services to women at-risk and victim-returnees.

Noteworthy Plans Over The Next Year

The second year of the project will deliver training and services to women at risk through Russian NGOs.

- 19 NGOs will conduct year-long training in job skills and small business development
- 10 NGOs will conduct public awareness initiatives and improve services.
- Grantees and other NGOs will hold simultaneous public awareness raising events to secure maximum coverage and minimize duplication of efforts.

Trafficking Prevention and Information Dissemination

The project will:

- *Increase economic empowerment for women at risk through training in job skills and small business development*
- *Create awareness about trafficking among the general public through campaigns and targeted information.*
- *Increase the capacity of women's crisis centers to offer services and consultations to women at risk and victim returnees, and to conduct awareness-raising activities.*

Geographic Location:

Office: IREX regional office in Moscow,
Women's crisis centers: Moscow,
Petrozavodsk, Yekaterinburg, Krasnodar
Regions: Moskovskaya Oblast, Republic of
Kareliya, Krasnodarskiy Kray,
Sverdlovskaya Oblast

US Implementing Partners:

International Research and Exchanges
Board

Start: September 2001

Completion: September 2004

Russian Partners:

Moscow Center *Syostry*, Petrozavodsk
Center *Maya*, Krasnodar Center *Obereg*,
and Yekaterinburg Center *Yekaterina*

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

A social advocates training program has prepared three new social advocates to assist victims in courts and provide individual legal consultations for those seeking work abroad.

As a result of a Moscow conference featuring public education campaigns and dissemination strategies, the crisis centers have conducted a series of roundtables with local stakeholders, public service announcements and radio jingles with the numbers of dedicated hotlines.

A grant competition selected local trainers to conduct job skills and small business development training. The training programs began in July and trained 149 women in job skills and 111 women in small business development. In Krasnodar, 4 out of 41 women participants in the small business development training were awarded start-up capital.

Beneficiaries

The ultimate beneficiaries are women at risk and victim-returnees. The program also benefits regional NGOs through grants to provide services to women at risk and victim-returnees.

Noteworthy Plans Over The Next Year

Activities will expand to smaller towns and settlements. Mobile training teams will travel out across the three regions to provide at-risk women with job training they require to find new jobs.

Promotion and Advocacy of Women's Interests in Russia

This activity will:

- *Increase youth awareness of gender issues through a specialized course on gender equality at 7 high schools and universities;*
- *Submit expert commentaries to lawmakers and governmental authorities on draft legislation that affect women's rights and conduct advocacy campaigns in support of women-related draft legislation by Consortium's members;*
- *Enhance capacity of the Women's Consortium and strengthen network among its members through eight special trainings on advocacy techniques and coalition building.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: St. Petersburg, Leningradskaya Oblast, Moskovskaya Oblast, Kaluzhskaya Oblast, Smolenskaya Oblast, Republic of Tatarstan, Permskaya Oblast, Republic of Buryatiya, Volgogradskaya Oblast, Kemerovskaya Oblast, Rostovskaya Oblast, Krasnodarskiy Kray, Stavropolskiy Kray, Republic of Tyva, Tul'skaya Oblast, Republic of Kareliya, Republic of Udmurtiya, Irkutskaya Oblast, Republic of Bashkortostan, Murmanskaya Oblast, Arkhangelskaya Oblast, Saratovskaya Oblast, Novosibirskaya Oblast, Sverdlovskaya Oblast, Republic of Altay, Kurganskaya Oblast, and Primorskiy Kray

Russian Implementing Partner:

Consortium of Women's
Nongovernmental Associations

Start: September 2001

Completion: September 2003

Russian Partners:

Women's NGOs.

Other External Partners: None

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

More than 500 students from universities and high schools in Moscow, Omsk, Saratov, Pskov, Syktyvkar and Irkutsk went through gender training. The Consortium also conducted one gender training for 10 journalists in Pskov.

The Consortium has collaborated with the State Duma to develop the draft law On State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the Russian Federation. The draft has the support of the Governmental Commission on Women's Status.

Two amendments to the Labor Code and one amendment to the law On Political Parties were adopted, approved by the Council of Federation, signed by President Putin and enacted.

The Consortium conducted four seminars on advocacy techniques and coalition building for NGO leaders, representing over 40 member organizations.

Beneficiaries

The Consortium, a membership organization of women's leaders and women's NGOs in Russia, significantly contributes to promoting and defending women's rights, and increases women's participation and influence in economic, political, and civic life in Russia. The Consortium consists of 160 NGOs from 52 regions of Russia that directly benefit from this activity.

In addition, the program provides training on gender equality for about 1,000 young students.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The Women's Consortium will expand its seminars on gender equality for youth to 9 high schools and universities; continue to conduct gender analysis of legislation and participate in parliamentary sessions; and arrange four special trainings on advocacy techniques and coalition building for its members.

Independent Television

This activity provides professional training that is integrated with other assistance, including program production and distribution, news competitions, information services, strengthening professional associations, small grants and individualized consulting to independent (non-state) commercial television stations in Russia. These coordinated activities:

- *Develop the technical capacity of independent TV broadcast stations to produce news and public affairs programming in informative and interesting ways, using modern professional technologies;*
- *Foster economic sustainability of independent TV stations in a competitive market environment, which involves introducing survival techniques to these stations during periods of market instability; and*
- *Expand legal training and consulting services to individual TV stations that contribute to the protection of freedoms and rights of the regional press.*

Geographic Location:

Offices: Moscow

Regions: see the attached list

US Implementing Partners:

Internews Network

Start: June 2001

Completion: May 2004

Russian Partners:

Internews

Other External Partners:

Glasnost Defense Fund

Pozner School of Broadcast Journalism

Moscow Institute for Information Law

National Association of Telebroadcasters

Russian Television Academy

Advertising Federation for the Regions

Foundation for Independent Radio

Broadcasting

Association of Investigative Journalists,

and other media assistance NGOs

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Training Support for Local Stations. Almost 600 independent regional TV stations have emerged and survived economic crises with support from Internews in the past decade; many are celebrating their tenth anniversary. In 2002, Internews opened 6 Regional Training Centers that held seminars for 629 TV professionals and conducted seminars for 117 regional radio professionals jointly with the Foundation for Independent Radio.

Independent Local News. The share of regional private TV stations producing their own local news programs has jumped from 17% to 87%; in addition to news broadcasts, more than half of all these stations also produce public affairs or other local information programming. A group of TV organizations, recognizing the importance of regional broadcasting, transformed “News – Local Time” into TEFI-Region. The event is now administered jointly by Internews and three professional associations. In 2001, the “News – Local Time” competition itself won a TEFI award for Television Event of the Year.

Technical Development. More than 700 TV stations share information via a list server and Internet connections; 292 stations use *News Factory* software to produce news broadcasts; about 180 TV stations regularly submit transcripts for these broadcasts to *Internovosti*, the Internet-based information agency run by Internews (www.rustv.ru). The new *Television in the Internet Age* project offers seminars on creating TV news with the help of modern technologies.

Economic Sustainability. Internews gives extensive training on advertising sales, station design and business planning. Internews facilitated the Russian-American Media Entrepreneurship Dialogue (RAMED), which engaged 200 Russian media industry representatives in intensive discussions; 15 American and 44 Russian media executives exchanged visits; two Russian and two American RAMED participants gave a progress report to the U.S. and Russian presidents during the Moscow summit in May 2002. Research on regional management models was conducted in partnership with PRIMANN, a Russian management consulting firm, and became the basis for materials and training on station management. In 2002, 24 week-long consultations helped local TV stations solve specific business challenges.

Professional and Industry Associations. Professionals at TV stations have coalesced into an active community that shares ideas and information and increasingly unites on common industry interests. Internews has helped bring three organizations into being: the National Academy of Television, the Russian Advertising Federation of the Regions, and the Guild of Eurasian Designers.

Beneficiaries

More than 550 Russian regional non-state TV stations and more than 6,000 TV professionals have been trained in the international standards of journalism, management, marketing and news production and have begun to apply them in the Russian context.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Internews will work to continue RAMED. In cooperation with other Russian media NGOs, Internews will help Russian media bring internal documentation into compliance with current law through a Due Diligence project. Internews will undertake a feasibility study of disseminating *Internovosti* software on a fee-for-services basis.

INDEPENDENT TELEVISION

Geographic Location:

Altayskiy Kray	Permskaya Oblast
Amurskaya Oblast	Primorskiy Kray
Arkhangelskaya Oblast	Pskovskaya Oblast
Belgorodskaya Oblast	Republic of Altay
Bryanskaya Oblast	Republic of Bashkortostan
Chelyabinskaya Oblast	Republic of Buryatia
Chitinskaya Oblast	Republic of Chuvashia
Irkutskaya Oblast	Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria
Ivanovskaya Oblast	Republic of Kareliya
Jewish Autonomous Oblast	Republic of Komi
Kaliningradskaya Oblast	Republic of Mari El
Kaluzhskaya Oblast	Republic of Mordovia
Kemerovskaya Oblast	Republic of Northern Osetia-Alanya
Khabarovskiy Kray	Republic of Sakha-Yakutia
Khanty-Mansiysky AO	Republic of Tatarstan
Kirovskaya Oblast	Republic of Udmurtia
Kostromskaya Oblast	Rostovskaya Oblast
Krasnodarskiy Kray	Sakhalinskaya Oblast
Krasnoyarskiy Kray	Samarskaya Oblast
Kurskaya Oblast	Saratovskaya Oblast
Leningradskaya Oblast	Smolenskaya Oblast
Lipetskaya Oblast	St. Petersburg
Magadanskaya Oblast	Sverdlovskaya Oblast
Moscow	Tambovskaya Oblast
Murmanskaya Oblast	Tulskaya Oblast
Nizhegorodskaya Oblast	Tverskaya Oblast
Novgorodskaya Oblast	Tyumenskaya Oblast
Novosibirskaya Oblast	Ulyanovskaya Oblast
Omskaya Oblast	Vladimirskaya Oblast
Orlovskaya Oblast	Volgogradskaya Oblast
Orenburgskaya Oblast	Voronezhskaya Oblast
Penzenskaya Oblast	Yamalo-Nenetsky AO
	Yaroslavskaia Oblast

Russian Independent Print Media Program

This activity strengthens independent regional newspapers by providing assistance in:

- *Expanded business development for greater financial sustainability for regional non-state newspapers;*
- *Substantial legal support to newspapers to protect freedom and rights of the regional press;*
- *Comprehensive media support in the form of press conference services; professional journalism and media management training, publishing handbooks, electronic resources and press monitoring.*

The project will also help the network become self-sustaining through a combination of professional, high-quality NGO management advice and the design and delivery of innovative programs that meet the needs of Russian media.

Geographic Location:

Offices: Moscow, St.Petersburg, Samara, Ekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, and Vladivostok

Regions: see the attached list.

US Implementing Partners:

International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)

Start: October 2001

Completion: September 2004

Russian Partners:

Press Development Institute

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Business Development Assistance includes seminars and individualized consultations on management, marketing and design, as well as publishing professional materials – so far, 37 seminars, roundtables and other events for 896 people. PDI played a major role in the Russian-American Media Entrepreneurship Dialogue (RAMED) from January to May 2002.

Legal Training and Support has been the most successful of PDI's activities, according to surveys of regional independent newspaper managers. PDI is developing a network of seven lawyers in six regions specializing in the new field of Russian media law. The lawyers offered journalists and newspaper managers 104 seminars, roundtables on legal topics ranging from court access to labor contracts; 1,773 people took part. PDI also provides legal consultations by telephone and e-mail and take a leading role in expanding interest in media law by fostering contact with other legal experts, law school professors and judges. PDI lawyers provided more than 470 individual consultations to regional newspapers.

Press Centers are reducing the Russian media's dependence on official governmental sources by providing journalists with alternative, often otherwise inaccessible, sources of information and analysis on a wide range of issues. Activists from human rights, ecology, media and other groups as well as analysts and newsmakers who appear at the press centers praise them as crucial independent forums. The Moscow press center has held 288 news conferences since the beginning of the program (up to 8 a week) and about 450 media events in regional PDI offices.

Mid-Career Professional Training. PDI continues to develop and deliver seminars on newspaper design, newsroom management, specialty reporting and journalistic practice. One- to three-day events are organized by each PDI regional office using specialists and consultants. PDI has carried out 47 training events for 1,054 people to date.

New Technologies. PDI is paying increasing attention to new technologies such as Internet use and web design. To date, 28 seminars for 462 people in Russian regions were dedicated to these issues.

Beneficiaries

PDI's assistance directly benefits over 1,000 non-state regional newspapers. The average circulation of these papers exceeds 15,000 copies per issue.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

PDI will design and deliver training events on topics that improve the relevance, credibility, legal status and financial viability of independent newspapers. Other plans include improvements to the PDI website (www.pdi.ru) to increase use of the Internet for delivering training, consultations and press conference information. New partnerships between PDI and other organizations such as leading regional publishing houses will expand PDI's range of activities and strengthen its sustainability as a Russian NGO. PDI will work to continue RAMED.

NATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE
Geographic Location (AMR attachment:)

Regions:

Altay Kray	Permskaya Oblast
Amurskaya Oblast	Primorskiy Kray
Arkhangelskaya Oblast	Pskovskaya Oblast
Astrakhanskaya Oblast	Republic Buryatia
Belgorodskaya Oblast	Republic Khakassiya
Bryanskaya Oblast	Republic of Altay
Chelyabinskaya Oblast	Republic of Bashkortostan
Chitinskaya Oblast	Republic of Chuvachia
Chukotskiy Autonomous District	Republic of Kalmykia
Irkutskaya Oblast	Republic of Karelia
Ivanovskaya Oblast	Republic of Komi
Jewish Autonomous Oblast	Republic of Mari El
Kaliningradskaya Oblast	Republic of Mordovia
Kaluzhskaya Oblast	Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)
Kamchatskaya Oblast	Republic of Tatarstan
Kasnodarskiy Kray	Republic of Udmurtia
Kemerovskaya Oblast	Republic Tyva
Khabarovskiy Kray	Rostovskaya Oblast
Kirovskaya Oblast	Ryazanskaya Oblast
Komi-Permyatskiy Autonomous District	Sakhalinskaya Oblast
Koryakskiy Autonomous District	Samarskaya Oblast
Kostromskaya Oblast	Saratovskaya Oblast
Krasnoyarskaya Kray	Smolenskaya Oblast
Kurganskaya Oblast	St. Petersburg
Kurskaya Oblast	Stavropolskiy Kray
Leningradskaya Oblast	Sverdlovskaya Oblast
Lipetskaya Oblast	Tambovskaya Oblast
Magadanskaya Oblast	Tomskaya Oblast
Moscow	Tulskaya Oblast
Moscow Oblast	Tverskaya Oblast
Murmanskaya Oblast	Tyumenskaya Oblast
Nizhegorodskaya Oblast	Ulyanovskaya Oblast
Novgorodskaya Oblast	Vladimirskaia Oblast
Novosibirskaya Oblast	Volgogradskaya Oblast
Omskaya Oblast	Vologdskaya Oblast
Orenburgskaya Oblast	Voronezhskaya Oblast
Orlovskaya Oblast	Yaroslavskaya Oblast
Penzenskaya Oblast	

Trade Union Development Program

Through this activity:

- *Democratic trade unions respond more effectively to requests for assistance from enterprises or members;*
- *Union activists use litigation to enforce adherence to the legal contractual obligations of enterprise management and the government;*
- *Workers' knowledge and understanding of individual and collective rights increases as does their trust in trade union leadership; and*
- *A cadre of union activists have the capacity to educate union members.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Leningradskaya, Novosibirskaya, Kamchatskaya, Voronezhskaya, Sverdlovskaya Oblasts, and Primorskiy Kray

U.S. Implementing Partner:

American Center for International Labor Solidarity (the Solidarity Center, ACILS)

Start: June 1999

Completion: May 2004

Russian Partners:

Democratic trade unions and trade union organizations, including Independent Miners' Union of Russia; Seafarers' Union of Russia; Mining and Metallurgical Union of Russia; Federation of Air Traffic Controllers of Russia; Russian Union of Aviation, Radio, Navigation, and Communication Workers; Union of Flight Personnel of Russia; Russian Trade Union of Aviation Engineers; Russian Longshoremen's Union, among others.

Other External Partners:

National Endowment for Democracy, and UN International Labor Organization

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Union organizing/assistance offers training seminars on basic organizing and union building skills; collective labor dispute resolution and civic litigation of labor cases led by Russian trainers. The Solidarity Center/Russia staff were discussion leaders in a Forum on International Standards in April 2002 in Kiev sponsored by the International Labor Organization and the Solidarity Center for 150 trade union representatives from Central/East European and CIS countries.

Seven *Public Interest Law Centers* based in regional trade union centers, operate under agreement with the Solidarity Center. These centers have provided more than 20,000 consultations on civil and labor rights and represented civic activists in more than 5,000 court hearings resulting in awards of \$495,000 in response to labor law violations. The centers monitor regional and national legislative changes. The Solidarity Center maintains a case database on legislative developments, litigation experience and precedents, and best practices in protecting workers rights. Over 250 student interns have gained training and practical experience in litigation and the excitement of public interest law.

Outreach. Full commentary on a new Labor Code which went into effect in February 2002 was published and distributed among trade unions across Russia. Trade Union Development Program activities are publicized on TV and radio programs. An independent survey of workers' attitudes toward trade unions and legal system was conducted in Voronezh, Sverdlovsk, and Novosibirsk Oblasts.

Beneficiaries

Trade union activists are direct beneficiaries of this activity. Participation at the Solidarity Center's training programs helps them advocate more effectively on behalf of trade union members.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The Solidarity Center will:

- Develop an archive of court decisions available on the internet.
- Promote the Center for Social and Labor Rights as an independent authority on worker and trade union rights.
- Provide technical assistance and training to the staff of the Center to develop two strategically important projects,
- Help the Center create a fundraising strategy and an operational structure.

Legal Systems Strengthened

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Development of the Legal Profession

This activity supports the development of the legal profession through:

- *Technical assistance and training on legal issues affecting women*
- *Workshops and conferences on continuing legal education and commercial law;*
- *Training in advocacy skills.*

Geographic Locations:

Offices: Moscow, Samara

Regions: Moscow, Samarskaya, Arkhangelskaya, Leningradskaya, Vologdskaya, Novgorodskaya, Pskovskaya, and Tomskaya Oblasts, Republics of Komi and Karelia, and St. Petersburg.

US Implementing Partners:

The American Bar Association
Central and East European Legal Initiative (ABA/CEELI)

Start: September 2002

Completion: October 2004

Russian Partners:

defense attorneys, practicing lawyers, and law schools

Other External Partners:

U.S. Department of Justice
Russian-American Rule of Law Consortium

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

This project follows a previous legal education project. It has four components.

Clinical legal education. Through workshops and numerous training programs, the project reaches professors and students interested in applying practice-based teaching, and developed and distributed materials for starting legal clinics and training clinical law professors.

- Four legal clinics created with the project's assistance are now resource centers;
- An NIS Conference on Clinical Legal Education held in Moscow in November 2001 drew representatives from 11 countries of the former Soviet Union. In 2002, CEELI published a handbook describing more than 60 legal clinics in Russia.

Legal issues affecting women. Pilot centers in St. Petersburg, Syktyvkar and Samara are testing an intensive and multidimensional gender program.

- 40 non-lawyer Social Advocates are being trained to assist women in crisis to navigate the Russian legal system;
- Local partners advocate for changes to the criminal procedure, housing and family codes.

New Advocate Training Program. Training programs are being developed to teach Russian advocates the skills they need for an adversarial legal system. (A long-awaited Civil Procedure Code incorporating more adversarial procedures was enacted in the fall of 2002). The techniques will build on earlier advocate training, and will use mock trials, critiques of participants' performance and follow-up training.

Beneficiaries

Thousands of Russian practicing lawyers, legal instructors, judges, students, and other legal professionals directly benefit from participation in the program. Russian society indirectly benefits from an active legal profession.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The seminars and workshops on clinical legal education and legal advocacy will continue. A new strategy will increase the impact of the gender program. New advocacy skills development seminars will focus on the new adversarial legal system.

Russian-American Judicial Partnership – II

This project aims to further development of a more predictable, transparent, independent, better trained judiciary. This project will:

- *Promote the independence of the courts of general jurisdiction and strengthen their internal governance*
- *Improve the system of continuing judicial education and support the development of the Academy*
- *Support judicial ethics.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Region: Moscow

US Implementing Partner:

Chemonics International (operating as the Russian-American Judicial Partnership);
National Judicial College

Start: May 2001

Completion: May 2004

Russian Partners:

Council of Judges, Supreme Commercial Court, Judicial Department, Academy of Justice, Supreme Qualifying Collegium

Other External Partners:

U.S. federal judiciary

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- The project conducted two conferences on judicial administration with the Judicial Department for over 100 key chairs of local councils of judges, Judicial Dept. division heads, and court press secretaries from 27 regions. Topics included issues of judicial reform, court financing, court administration, and relations between the judiciary and mass media and with executive and legislative branches of government. At the request of the Russian Council of Judges, several leading American experts on these issues participated.
- The National Judicial College and the Academy of Justice signed an agreement of cooperation and held a comparative law seminar in Moscow, attended by American and Russian judges. Further cooperation on judicial training will ensue.
- In collaboration with the Judicial Department, the project chose two pilot courts, one in St. Petersburg and one in Nizhniy Novgorod. A team of U.S. court administrators spent a week each in October 2002 at these courts and presented its findings on ways to improve court administration and case management to the Judicial Department.
- In September 2002 the Supreme Qualifying Collegium of Judges published its first Bulletin with support from the project, summarizing the collegium's work for 2001. The Bulletin was distributed at a workshop on judicial ethics and selection—the first such event since public, non-judge members were added to the system of collegia earlier this year. The Bulletin is being distributed to judges as well as to the public.

Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries include employees of Russia's Judicial Department, the Supreme Qualifying Collegium, and the Academy of Justice, as well as the larger community of judicial administrators and judges whom they serve.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Several jury trial workshops will assist the Russian courts in implementing jury trials nationwide, as required by the Criminal Procedure Code of 2001. The project will also assist in publication of a bench book on conducting jury trials.

Legal Assistance to Refugees

This activity provides legal support to refugees and forced migrants in the Northern Caucasus bordering Chechnya by:

- *Consolidating six consultation centers for refugees supported by the U.N. High Committee on Refugees into a united network;*
- *Providing refugees with legal assistance through these centers;*
- *Improving the public image of organizations dealing with problems of refugees*

Geographic Locations:

Offices: Pyatigorsk

Regions: Stavropolskiy Kray, Republics of Karachaevo-Cherkessiya, Kabardino-Balkariya and Dagestan

US Implementing Partners:

none

Start: September 2002

Completion: September 2004

Russian Partners:

NGO Faith, Hope, Love

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The project has just begun.

Beneficiaries

Refugees, forced migrants and internally displaced persons will receive help from lawyers at consultation centers supported under this project.

Communities of migrants will be better able to adapt socially to their new places of residence and the relationships of local residents towards new settlers will be more tolerant.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Six Months

The workplan has not yet been submitted.

Increasing the Demand for Human Rights

This activity promotes public awareness about human rights issues and increases public relations skills of Russian regional NGOs through:

- *Collecting and analyzing data on how Russians think about human rights;*
- *Developing a methodology of PR work in human rights*
- *Training regional human rights NGOs on how to conduct public awareness campaigns;*
- *Conducting public awareness campaigns.*

Geographic Locations:

Offices: Moscow

Regions: Perm, Ryazan, Rostov-on-Don

US Implementing Partners:

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

Start: September 2002

Completion: March 2004

Russian Partners:

Memorial, Moscow Helsinki Group, Three regional human rights organizations, Media institutions.

Other External Partners:

Internews, Freedom House

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

The project has just begun.

Beneficiaries

Russian human rights NGOs—Memorial’s partners in the three focus regions will receive training in public relations and will improve their skills in influencing public opinion.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Memorial intends to carry out 3 regional orientation seminars for NGO activists and media professionals, Conduct the first in a series of public opinion polls in the focus regions and launch public awareness campaigns. An international conference in Belgrade will discuss methods of carrying out public awareness campaigns and promoting human rights in an unfriendly environment.

Multifunctional Support for Human Rights

This activity supports the protection of human rights, raises public awareness about human rights issues, and increases the capacity of Russian NGOs for public advocacy through:

- *Support of regional civic coalitions;*
- *Creation of a network of regional public interest law centers (legal clinics) operating within human rights NGOs and providing free legal aid to indigent people;*
- *Training of NGO activists to develop PR and advocacy skills*

Geographic Locations:

Offices: Moscow

Regions: Moscow, Krasnodarskiy

Khabarovskiy, Krasnoyarskiy, and Primorskiy Krays, Sakhalinskaya, Kemerovskaya, Irkutskaya, Novosibirskaya, Tomskaya, Kirovskaya, Nizhegorodskaya, Orenburgskaya, Penzenskaya, Permskaya, Samarskaya, Saratovskaya, Ulyanovskaya, Rostovskaya, and Volgogradskaya Oblasts, Republics of Udmurtia, Chuvashia, Bashkortostan, Mari-El, Mordovia, and Tatarstan, Komi-Permyatsky Autonomous District.

US Implementing Partners:

none

Start: September 2002

Completion: October 2005

Russian Partners:

Human rights activists and regional HR organizations, attorneys and practicing lawyers.

Other External Partners:

The MacArthur Foundation, Various European foundations

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

This is a new activity.

Beneficiaries

Russian human rights NGOs – regional partners of Moscow Helsinki Group – will increase their professionalism and receive training; thousands of low-income Russians will directly benefit from free legal aid through public interest law centers.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Eight seminars and workshops to strengthen the Russian regional civic movement, particularly in the human rights sector, will be held under this grant.

Public – Private Partnerships Against Corruption

This program promotes anti-corruption activities in two of the US Regional Initiative sites by:

- *Developing the capacity of all sectors of society to fight against corruption;*
- *Identifying the most vulnerable areas for corruption and finding effective and realistic remedies*
- *Building the sustainability of the anti-corruption program, through prevention and public education*
- *Supporting centers of legal assistance to indigent citizens*
- *Ensuring local ownership of the anti-corruption program by involving all sectors of society of the Samara and Tomsk regions in its implementation.*

Two sustainable public-private partnerships will be created, and representatives of all sectors of society will be trained in combating corruption and have an opportunity to apply the knowledge.

Geographic Location:

Offices: Washington, D.C.

Regions: Samarskaya and Tomskaya Oblasts

US Implementing Partners:

Management Systems International (MSI)

Start: June 2001

Completion: June 2003

Russian Partners:

Regional government officials, NGOs, Businesses, and Law enforcement agencies

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- Two anti-corruption workshops have been held in Tomsk and Samara with 80 representatives of all sectors actively participating in each.
- Anti-corruption action plans for the Samara and Tomsk regions have been approved by business associations, NGOs and senior government officials of both regions.
- Each region has a work plan and has begun anti-corruption activities.
- Each region has a special small grant anti-corruption program that provides an opportunity for small, grass-roots organizations to participate more actively in combating corruption.
- Anti-corruption weeks were held in Tomsk and Samara, attracting considerable public attention and increasing public demand for an end to corruption.
- Codes of Ethics for government officials are being drafted for both regions.

Beneficiaries

This activity benefits organizations in the Samara and Tomsk regions which are struggling to combat corruption.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The small grant program will continue, several workshops will be conducted with approximately 100 people participating. Monthly Discussion Forums in Tomsk and meetings in Samara will be conducted.

Local Governance Made More Responsive and Accountable

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Improved Local Governance and Economic Development: Transition to Smart Growth

This activity strengthens local self-governance through improved coordination within local communities, and deepening of local decision-making skills by:

- *Improving local government capacity to develop and manage financial, human, and physical resources;*
- *Increasing the awareness and willingness of local governments to operate transparently and in sustained partnership with their communities;*
- *Providing local government administrators and non-government community leaders with the skills and tools that they need to increase the efficiency, equity and effectiveness in the delivery of social and communal goods and services;*
- *Increasing the policy development skills of local and national officials responsible for local governance and social reforms, as well as relevant local-level NGO leaders.*

Geographic Location:

Regions: Belgorodskaya, Chelyabinskaya , Jewish Autonomous, Kirovskaya, Magadanskaya, Nizhegorodskaya, Orenburgskaya, Penzenskaya, Permskaya, Sakhalinskaya, Samarskaya, Saratovskaya, Ulyanovskaya Oblasts, Udmuria Republic, Chuvashiya Republic, Mariy-El Republic, and Khabarovskiy Kray

Implementing Russian Partner:

Institute of Urban Economics (IUE)

Start: September 2001

Completion: September 2005

Russian Partners:

Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Federal Committee on Construction, Housing and Communal Complex (GOSSTROY), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labor, Regional and Municipal administrations, municipal associations, local NGO & business organizations in project sites

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- IUE's regional branch office and local governance resource center in Nizhniy Novgorod opened in summer of 2002.
- Five Volga Federal District cities received assistance in creating comprehensive municipal economic development programs in partnership with the private sector.
- Training courses on local- and federal-level policy skills development and first-year courses were completed in summer 2002.
- IUE's experts participated substantively in the work of the Presidential Commission on delineation of powers and responsibilities between federal, regional and local governments (the Kozak Commission).
- Amendments to legislation on mortgage lending, securities and protection of investor rights were developed and submitted to the Duma, where they are under consideration.
- The Code of Best Practices in Municipal Finance was completed.
- Performance measurement system for public programs was developed and introduced in 2 pilot sites.
- In response to new federal requirements, IUE helped two pilot cities develop and adopt procedures that support effective budget operation and methods to analyze long-term income and expenditures, assets and liabilities.
- IUE developed guidelines for municipalities contracting with NGOs for of social services.

Beneficiaries

The population in the selected cities and regions, municipal and oblast administrations, and local private companies and small businesses active in the housing and real estate sectors, and NGOs active in the social sector benefit from this activity.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

IUE will take part in the social and cultural projects fair in Togliatti in November 2002. Analysis of local budget revenue structure and recommendations for improvement will be developed for two pilot cities in early 2003. Assistance in the formulation of effective and efficient social policies at the federal level will continue. Long-term training courses in federal-level policy skills will be launched. Guidelines for municipal procurement on the basis of internet technology will be developed and disseminated. A set of demonstration projects in the Volga Federal District and RFE on urban rehabilitation, targeted social accounts, restructuring of municipal utility debts, utility tariff regulation, housing and infrastructure construction finance, and restructuring of municipal expenditures on education will be completed.

Use of Improved Health and Child Welfare Practices Increased

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Healthy Russia 2020

This activity aims to promote healthy behavior among youth, encourage adoption of practices proven effective under USAID's health programs, and advocate for broad participation to reverse declining health indicators.

Specific focus areas:

- *Healthier lifestyle for young Russians*
- *Reduced HIV/AIDS/STI*
- *Improved control of tuberculosis, including multi-drug-resistant infections*
- *Improved women's and infants' health*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Nationwide and emphasis on Republic of Chuvashia, Khabarovskiy Kray, Permskaya, Sakhalinskaya, Samarskaya, Saratovskaya, and Tomskaya Oblasts.

US Implementing Partners:

John Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs,
Analytical Sciences, Inc. The Future Group International

In collaboration with:

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Project Hope

IREX

JHU/International Health and Epidemiology
GWSAE/CAL

American Red Cross
Public Health Foundation
NACDS

Start date: September 2002

Completion date: September 2007

Russian Partners:

Local officials, NGOs, community health advocates, primary health care providers, and health administrators;
The Ministry of Health and local health administration

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

This activity started recently and is hiring personnel and drawing up an annual work plan.

Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries include Russian youth, women of reproductive age, infants and children, and the public. Indirect beneficiaries include the members of the Healthy Russia 2020 membership organization, commercial health promoters, media, health policy-makers, health care administrators and providers, and other advocacy groups working under the Healthy Russia 2020 umbrella.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The heart of Healthy Russia 2020 is a national membership association that will unite all organizations with an interest in improving the health of Russians. Through a program of technical assistance, training, and coaching, the U.S. partner and its Russian colleagues will implement health communication and advocacy activities, focused on:

- *NGO Development:* Creating sustainable structures by forming a thoroughly Russian, member-driven coalition to mobilize a broad range of stakeholders to advocate for healthy lifestyles and preventive medicine.
- *NGO Membership:* Forging a broad coalition by training members through an innovative, entrepreneurial focus on member satisfaction. It will create and publicize benefits that serve its diverse membership and actively solicit member feedback about needs and satisfaction.
- Creating a *dynamic Web Portal* that uses proven techniques to serve a wide range of interactive users—health professionals and community members, youth and adults, NGO members and the public. The web portal will facilitate and reinforce behavior change; enable members and peers to access and share health information and advocacy tools; serve as a locus for distance education; attract members; and mobilize collective action.
- *Advocacy and Social Mobilization* through work with community health leaders to create an enabling environment for primary health care innovation and healthy behavior. It will work with providers to improve policies and practices and support grassroots efforts to create demand for improved policies and practices.
- *Communication programs* to encourage healthy behaviors and to motivate individuals to take responsibility and see themselves as producers, rather than passive recipients, of health. Programs will provide the information, skills, supportive norms, and ongoing reinforcement people need to change and demand improved services and improved policies.
- *Capacity Building* linked to the core competencies the NGO and its members need to create a social movement for health. It will use training, distance learning, observation/study tours and other methods to provide on-the-job technical assistance, coaching and mentoring.

Primary and Community Health AIHA Health Partnerships

This activity brings together key community stakeholders in collaborative health assessment and intervention. The eight Primary Health Care partnerships adapted cost-effective preventive and curative techniques and improved outcomes for the average citizen by enhancing basic primary services.

Several cross-cutting initiatives –Primary Health Care, Women’s Health and Neonatal Resuscitation – were implemented to improve the quality of health care and increase access to more effective, evidence-based services.

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Khabarovskiy Kray (Pereyaslavka), Sakhalinskaya (Korsakov), Kurganskaya (Kurgan city and Shchuche), Samarskaya, Tomskaya, Nizhegorodskaya (Sarov), Chelyabinskaya (Snezhinsk), Saratovskaya, Tverskaya, and Volgogradskaya Oblasts, Saint Petersburg, Moscow city, and Republic of Buryatiya (Ulan Ude).

US Implementing Partners:

American International Health Alliance (AIHA) and U.S. institutions from Lexington, Kentucky; Appleton, Wisconsin; Los Alamos, New Mexico; Houston, Texas; Des Moines, Iowa; Bemidji, Minnesota; Livermore, California; Boston, Massachusetts; Little Rock, Arkansas.

Start: September 1998

Completion: September 2003

Russian Partners:

regional and municipal healthcare institutions in the above locations;
Ministry of Health and federal research institutions

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Eight community-based partnerships established in 1999-2001 developed programs to improve primary health care for families, women and adolescents. By the end of FY 02, four Primary Health Care clinics, five Women Wellness Centers, one Community Youth Health Education Center and one Public Health Center were established, and a Neonatal Resuscitation Training Center was duplicated in Saratov at the request of the oblast health authorities. The partnerships have introduced screening, diagnostics, counseling and prevention to increase the use of modern evidence-based practices. Each partnership targeted new community-based programs at vulnerable populations: combating substance abuse, STDs/HIV among adolescents and domestic violence and promoting breast health and breastfeeding.

- A partnership between the St. Petersburg Medical Academy and a Boston program revised a Ministry of Health protocol and developed recommendations to apply evidence-based practices to prevention and treatment of infections.
- A cross-cutting initiative adapted Clinical Practices Guidelines on prevention and treatment of bronchial asthma, diabetes mellitus, and arterial hypertension. The project trained health providers in the use of these protocols, and established patient education programs. Nine Women’s Wellness Centers, added public health outreach, including health education of adolescents and elderly women, to their regular portfolio of childbirth education and family planning.
- The volume and scope of patient education and health promotion has increased. By the end of September AIHA had helped found six Neonatal Resuscitation Training Centers, 28 Learning Resource Centers and three other cross-cutting initiatives – Emergency Medical Services, Nursing and Infection control.
- In 2002 AIHA sponsored a conference, “Ten Years of Health Systems Transition in Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States,” in Washington, D.C.

Beneficiaries

Russian communities and patients, Russian health-care providers, and Russian and U.S. health organizations.

Noteworthy Plans over the Next Year

Most of the partnerships will focus on graduation and phase-out. A five-year follow-on program will be designed.

World Health Organization (WHO) Tuberculosis Activities

This grant supports WHO's tuberculosis programs in Oryol, Ivanovo and Vladimir Oblasts and the Chuvash Republic, as well as activities at the federal level. Through its office in Moscow, WHO is providing:

- *Activity management, outreach, and follow-up;*
- *On-site monitoring, training and technical assistance;*
- *A sub-grant to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for social support to patients and their families in Oryol Oblast;*
- *A logistical framework to procure goods and services for activities in the three oblasts; and*
- *Consensus-building at the federal level.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Orlovskaya, Ivanovskaya, and Vladimirskaya Oblasts, and Republic of Chuvashiya

Start: October 1999

Completion: December 2004

Russian Partners:

Russian Ministry of Health
Research Institute of Phthisiology and Pulmonology of the Ministry of Health
Central Tuberculosis Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences

Other External Partners:

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Russian Red Cross Society
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- All four sites are implementing the Directly Observed Therapy Strategy (DOTS) Protocol for Tuberculosis Demonstration Projects developed by WHO, CDC, the Central Tuberculosis Research Institute and specialists from Oryol and Ivanovo.
- Office equipment, cars, laboratory equipment and drugs were delivered to Oryol, Ivanovo, and Vladimir, and procurement of equipment and program activities in Chuvashiya have started.
- Incentive schemes for patients and staff, introduced in Ivanovo in 2000 and later expanded to other pilot sites, significantly reduced default rates.
- Treatment success rates in Ivanovo have improved from 55% before program implementation to 68% for the latest cohort for which data are available.
- Treatment success rates in Oryol have averaged 73%. The prison systems in Ivanovo and Vladimir were integrated into the program in mid-2001. In Oryol and Chuvashiya, the prison system has a part of the program from its outset.
- The treatment of multi-drug-resistant patients began in Oryol.

Beneficiaries

Russian patients and oblast health care administrations in Oryol, Ivanovo and Vladimir Oblasts, and the Chuvash Republic are direct beneficiaries. More than 2,500 patients per year will be treated in the four regions. The Ministry of Health is an indirect beneficiary, as these regions will become models for broad dissemination and influence changes in the standard approach to treatment and control of tuberculosis.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The treatment of multi-drug-resistant patients will begin in Ivanovo. Infection control measures will be introduced in all four regions. Interventions to address the problem of TB/HIV co-infection will be developed. Increased cost-sharing from the regions will be implemented to begin making the interventions sustainable.

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Tuberculosis Activities

This grant supports the Red Cross' tuberculosis activities in three regions and at the federal level. Through its office in Moscow, the federation:

- *Assists regional authorities in developing an effective system of tuberculosis control;*
- *Assures access to care and follow-up for the most vulnerable patients;*
- *Improves links between prison and civilian services;*
- *Increases general awareness of ways to prevent tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections; and*
- *Strengthens the institutional capacity of the Russian Red Cross Society and its Visiting Nurses Service.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Pskovskaya and Belgorodskaya oblasts, and the Republic of Khakasiya

Start: October 2001

Completion: September 2004

Russian Partners:

Russian Red Cross Society
Russian Ministry of Health
Research Institute of Phthiology and Pulmonology of the Ministry of Health
Central TB Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences

Other External Partners:

World Health Organization

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Pskovskaya, Belgorodskaya Oblasts, and Republic of Khakasiya were selected as implementation sites for this activity. Assessment missions to the regions were conducted and supervisors for oblasts programs from TB research institutions have been nominated. Equipment and devices for Pskov were procured and delivered to the region, and the program started in Summer 2002 with training courses on TB control.

Beneficiaries

Russian patients and oblast health care administrations in the three project sites.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Programs in Khakasiya and Belgorod will open officially. Training for specialists from all three sites will continue. Procurement of equipment and devices for Khakasiya and Belgorod will begin. The program will be closely coordinated with the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Resource Support Service
Agreement with the U.S.
Department of Health and Human
Services, Office of International and
Refugee Health**

This activity supports the priorities of the U.S.-Russia Health Committee. USAID supports technical assistance, training, and information exchange in Access to High-Quality Health Care and Infectious Diseases (tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases).

Geographic Location:

Office: No office in Russia

Regions: Ivanovskaya, Orlovskaya,
Vladimirskaia, Ryazanskaya,
Novgorodskaya oblasts, Chuvashiya
Republic, Moscow City and other regions
TBD

US Implementing Partner:

U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services (DHHS)
Office of International and Refugee
Health; and agencies of DHHS: Centers
for Disease Control and Prevention
Agency for Healthcare Research and
Quality, and others

Start: October 2001

Completion: September 2004

Russian Implementing Partners:

Ministry of Health of the Russian
Federation
Central Tuberculosis Research Institute of
the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences
SANAM
Moscow Sechenov Medical Academy

Other External Partners:

Oblast administrations in project sites

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

This project has developed approaches to health care and other interventions targeted to high-risk groups based on findings of a behavioral study of these groups. Through a program of small grants, recommendations of a congenital syphilis study are being disseminated in several Russian regions.

The Center for Evidence-Based Medicine at Moscow Medical Academy provides training in the theory and practice of evidence-based medicine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provide clinical expertise to programs in Oryol, Ivanovo, Vladimir and Chuvashiya. CDC coordinated a technical protocol for treatment of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis in Ivanovo and Oryol and gives technical assistance in infection control to Ivanovo's TB hospitals.

Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries are the Ministry of Health, the Central TB Research Institute and SANAM. Secondary beneficiaries include patients and people at risk of hypertension, tuberculosis and STD in project sites.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The Evidence-Based Medicine Center will train information specialists from federal clinical research institutes as a prelude to large-scale implementation of quality assurance in 20 oblasts.

Assistance to Russian Orphans 2 (ARO2)

ARO2 will build on ARO's success in promoting emerging child welfare reform in Russia. It will promote activities to reverse the growing number of abandoned children. Specifically, the project will:

- *foster local child welfare initiatives to prevent abandonment and to de-institutionalize children;*
- *disseminate best practices in child welfare services;*
- *promote changes in public attitudes towards child abandonment; and*
- *improve related social policies.*

The ARO2 Team will provide training and technical assistance to Russian non-governmental organizations and their governmental partners, manage subgrants programs, and monitor and evaluate the overall activity.

Geographic Location:

Offices: Moscow, Nizhniy Novgorod,
Khabarovsk, Vladivostok

Regions: Tomskaya and Magadanskaya
Oblasts, Khabarovskiy Kray, and some
other selected regions (TBD)

US Implementing Partner:

International Research & Exchanges
Board

Russian Implementing Partner:

National Society for the Prevention of
Cruelty to Children

Start: October 2002

Completion: September 2006

Russian Partners:

Child welfare NGOs and local
governments in Volga Region,
Khabarovsk, Magadan, Primorskiy
Kray, and other regions.

Achievement Over the Life of Activity

ARO2 was launched in October 2002. It has opened a central office in Moscow, is recruiting staff, establishing regional support structures in the Volga Region, Magadan Oblast, Khabarovskiy and Primorskiy Krays, and is developing grant program mechanisms and procedures.

Beneficiaries

Children at risk of abandonment, families in crisis, and orphans across Russia are beneficiaries of this activity.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

The implementing agency will conduct regional assessments, develop strategies for focus regions, and submit a workplan. Subgrants, TA and training programs will begin and an interactive web site will be launched.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Population Services International/AIDSMark

This activity improves service delivery to reduce HIV/AIDS/STI in vulnerable populations through social marketing of condoms, communication and counseling skills among service providers, outreach to high-risk populations, and collaboration among key stakeholders in HIV/AIDS prevention. The activity incorporates social marketing and NGO partnerships.

Geographic Location:

Offices: Moscow, Saratov and Samara

Regions: Moscow city, Saratovskaya, Samarskaya, Tomskaya, and Tulsckaya Oblasts

US Implementing Partners:

Population Services International (PSI) and Stonewall, Seattle.

Start: October 1998

Completion: October 2005

Russian Partners:

Ministry of Health and Moscow federal organizations;
Samara and Saratov region governmental organizations;

Local NGOs:

NAN (Moscow, Balakovo, Tula),
Accent,
Siberia AIDS-AID (Tomsk),
Parents Against Drugs (Togliatti),
Center for International Understanding (Saratov),
Women of the Volga Region (Samara).

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- Moscow/NAN reports an average of 200 consultations to intravenous drug users per month, an increase of 78% since the project began; Balakovo reports a 56% decrease in needle sharing among clients. Last year, the project conducted 50 trainings for medical and educational professionals, local government officials and police. Balakovo has recorded a 20% increase in condom use since 1999.
- The project has distributed high-quality condoms and 10,000 pieces of educational material to commercial sex workers. Average monthly visits to a clinic serving this high-risk group have doubled, and Balakovo reports a sharp rise in the number of sex workers who say they purchase condoms.
- Over 200 Moscow clinics and social services were evaluated for their ability to improve sexual health. The project collaborates with a clinic in Moscow to treat health concerns in the gay community; designed and distributed health brochures for gay men and posted HIV/AIDS prevention measures to the web site Gay.ru; organized a series of educational shows in gay clubs in Moscow; funded research and promotion for water-based lubricants.
- Recommendations based on surveys of youth awareness of HIV/STDs in Moscow, Saratov and Tomsk have been used in pilot sites.
- Three partnerships were completed, and three Russia-to-Russia Partnerships began: in Tomsk and Balakovo, in Saratov and Samara, and in Moscow and Tula. These partnerships have designed and distributed public relations materials, and selected a local NGO partner in Togliatti.
- The project is strengthening NGOs' capacity through assistance in financial and resource management, strategic management and strategic planning.

Beneficiaries

Russian youth, especially vulnerable groups — young people aged 15-25; high-risk groups; Russian NGOs and other HIV/STD prevention organizations are the primary beneficiaries of this activity.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Social marketing programs will continue in Moscow, Saratov and Samara, with target activity funding for St. Petersburg. Exchange programs in Moscow/Tula and Saratov/Tomsk will continue. Federal-level media projects will disseminate programs more widely. PSI will increase its support to management of sub-grants to NGOs through the Condom Social Marketing, Child Survival and Partnerships components.

Women and Infant Health (WIN)

This activity aims to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality by improving the effectiveness of selected health services, with special emphasis on reducing repeat abortions and unwanted pregnancies.

Specifically, the project promotes:

- *Family-centered maternity care*
- *Perinatal and newborn care*
- *Post-abortion and postpartum family planning counseling*
- *Sexually transmitted infections /HIV counseling in family planning programs*
- *Micronutrients*
- *Adolescent reproductive health services*
- *Combating violence against women*
- *Healthy life styles.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Novgorodskaya and Permskaya Oblasts

US Implementing Partners:

John Snow, Inc., Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs, University Research Corporation Engender Health

Start: June 1999

Completion: June 2003

Russian Partners:

Local medical facilities, health care administrators and providers; The Ministry of Health

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- The Russian Ministry of Health sent an official letter of support for WIN to Novgorod and Perm Oblast authorities as the project began.
- Training courses for over 500 health professionals in WIN's approaches ultimately reached 1,560 providers.
- Following two large surveys of clients, potential clients, and providers, a monitoring system was introduced in each project facility. A survey of 500 health care providers revealed that they pay little attention to, and lack knowledge and skills to deal with, domestic violence. Recommendations were distributed to policy-makers, health care workers and NGOs.
- The project has prepared and distributed materials on key elements of its approach -- breastfeeding, post-abortion care, family planning, domestic violence and family-centered maternity care. It has translated a book on contraceptive technology and developed and distributed NGO directories in the two pilot regions. Two mass media campaigns on breastfeeding and family planning garnered free airtime estimated at \$2 million.
- Hospitals in Novgorod, Perm and Berezniki won UNICEF's designation of Baby-Friendly Hospitals. The number of infants exclusively breastfed increased from single cases to an average of 81% in Velikii Novgorod, 88% in Berezniki, and 75% in Perm. WIN's interventions saved an estimated 5 million rubles in Perm. Following a dissemination conference of these and other results, 12 regions expressed interest in duplicating WIN's models in their health facilities.
- National protocols on breastfeeding, post-abortion care were drafted.
- Following a mid-term evaluation in fall 2001, WIN was extended for one year.

Beneficiaries

An estimated 800 Russian health care workers from Novgorod and Perm oblasts, as well as an estimated 800,000 Russian women of reproductive age and their infants, benefit from this activity.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Round tables on the results of the survey on domestic violence will be held for health care workers in Perm and Berezniki who will then be trained in counseling victims of domestic violence. To replicate its approach, WIN will develop a model training center and materials. The program's approaches will be extended to other facilities in pilot regions. A protocol on infection control will be developed. Surveys to measure the project's results will be completed in spring 2003.

Women's Reproductive Health Operations Research

This activity supports operations research to improve post-abortion counseling on family planning. Research results will be used by program managers and policy decision-makers to improve existing services and plan for the future. The research is being conducted in conjunction with the Women and Infant Health (WIN) project. The objective of the research is to document reduced repeat abortions due to changes in service delivery practices. The study will compare women who receive counseling and information about family planning after an abortion, and women who receive these services plus access to contraceptive supplies. In the city of Perm', the selected project sites are outpatient and inpatient facilities of two maternity houses where abortions are performed.

Geographic Location:
Office (subcontractor): Moscow
Region: Permskaya Oblast

US Implementing Partners:
FRONTIERS (Population Council)
Engender Health

Start: June 1998

Completion: June 2003

Russian Partners:
Local health administrators and national policy makers

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- The baseline survey of postabortion clients and providers in 2001 showed that three out of four abortion clients had had a previous abortion, mainly for socio-economic reasons, and that 43 percent of them became pregnant while using a contraceptive. A follow-up survey showed that providers are less likely to counsel clients in family planning if contraceptives are not available on site. As a result, contraceptives were made available where women receive counseling, and educational material was made available at all sites.
- Training in postabortion care was conducted for service providers.
- In a survey after new models were instituted, providers' knowledge of postabortion family planning had increased, and 94 percent of clients said they were satisfied with the services.

Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries are health care workers at local service delivery sites. Indirect beneficiaries are Russian policy-makers involved in the WIN project, who will develop new standards and guidelines for post-abortion care. An estimated 2,000 Russian women of reproductive age who will visit the sites. All Russian women are the ultimate beneficiaries as the research leads to changes in treatment and care.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Findings on the project's effectiveness in reducing repeat abortions will be derived from follow-up client interviews done this year. Regional and national conferences on results and recommendations are scheduled for Spring 2003.

The results will be disseminated among a wide audience of service providers and policy-makers and will help to define future program needs.

Women's Reproductive Health Policy Advocacy

This activity strengthens the capacity of the Advocacy Network for Reproductive Health (the Network) and its five regional branches to advocate for policy change that promotes access to high-quality family planning, maternal health and STD/AIDS prevention services.

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Moskovskaya Oblast, St. Petersburg, Khabarovskiy Kray, Ivanovskaya Oblast, Krasnodarskiy Kray, Sverdlovskaya Oblast, Tverskaya Oblast, Novosibirskaya Oblast, Republic of Udmurtiya, Permskaya Oblast, Arkhangelskaya Oblast, Tomskaya Oblast, Altay Kray and Ulyanovskaya Oblast

US Implementing Partner:

POLICY (The Futures Group and the Center for Development and Population Activities)

Start: March 1998

Completion: April 2003

Russian Partners:

Over 20 Advocacy NGOs
The Ministry of Health

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Capacity Building. The Network organized itself into four task forces and a coordinating committee, adopted a charter, conducted a baseline self-assessment and wrote and distributed a brochure. Regional network branches have been created and trained in advocacy in the Far East, Altay Kray, Tver, Tomsk and Perm.

Research. Three publications were produced in Russian and English. The Network used the research to publicize its decisions and to develop fact-based advocacy tools.

Advocacy.

- The Network's first two newsletters were distributed to NGOs, which used the first newsletter to build support at meetings. These meetings yielded a database of supportive partners, mass media coverage and the opportunity to bring regional policy-makers into dialogue with NGOs.
- Regional networks' advocacy campaigns produced free public transport for pregnant women, discounts for purchases of vitamins, an adolescent reproductive health program, a School of Motherhood and a "Safe Motherhood" program that provided contraceptives free to vulnerable groups.
- Network members in Yekaterinburg and Izhevsk organized a campaign to introduce reproductive health programs in their regions. A Network member from Khabarovsk organized a regional network of 13 local NGOs to advocate for reproductive health with a focus on youth.
- Technical assistance resulted in laws on reproductive health in Ivanovo and Tul'skaya Oblasts. A roundtable with national policymakers on reproductive health raised awareness and began a policy dialogue.
- A training-of trainers workshop on advocacy for 18 people from Russia and other NIS countries, resulted in training for 527 people.
- A fact sheet on contraception and abortion was developed and distributed. A press seminar, cosponsored by the UN Family Planning Agency, resulted in five articles and 11 radio broadcasts.

Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries are more than 20 Russian NGOs in the Advocacy Network for Reproductive Health. Indirect beneficiaries are Russian policy-makers who receive accurate information and Russian women of reproductive age.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

A third newsletter will be published and distributed. A special edition of the Russian *Health Management* journal on reproductive health advocacy will be distributed to policy-makers. Small grants will enable regional networks to conduct advocacy campaigns and will train them in organizational development, strategic planning and fundraising, and advocacy. Network members will train members of a newly formed Association of Youth-Friendly Clinics in advocacy.

Health Care Quality Assurance

This activity is a part of the US-Russia Health Committee's Access to Quality Health Care. It is aimed at measuring and improving performance in primary health care service delivery. Specifically, this activity:

- *Develops and disseminates quality improvement concepts, develops and tests a core set of quality indicators, techniques, and activities;*
- *Demonstrates quality improvement in targeted areas;*
- *Trains health professionals and policy-makers in principles and application of quality improvement.*

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: 30 regions of the Russian Federation

US Implementing Partners:

University Research Corporation

Start: February 1998

Completion: June 2004

Russian Partners:

Ministry of Health

Health administrations, hospitals and out-patient clinics of the target regions

Other External Partners:

U.S. Agency for Health Research and Quality

Central Research Institute for Health Care Organization and Information of the Ministry of Health

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- Tul'skaya and Tverskaya oblasts have adopted evidence-based clinical guidelines, redesigned systems of care and introduced quality monitoring in hypertension, pregnancy-induced hypertension and neonatal respiratory distress syndrome in 42 maternity hospitals in Tver Oblast and 500 clinics in Tula Oblast.
- These new practices decreased hospitalizations for hypertension, the leading cause of death in Tula, by 85%. Similar changes in Tver reduced neonatal mortality from respiratory distress, the principal cause of death for newborns, by 64%; and reduced maternal deaths to zero. Improved systems of care markedly reduced costs of care: for women with pregnancy-induced hypertension by 87%, for patients with hypertension by 41%.
- Such results have created a demand to spread this work nationwide. Russian health care providers now perceive quality assurance as a powerful tool for grassroots health care reform. Thirty oblasts have asked to participate in the national scale-up and have committed their finances to cover the costs of participation.
- In the next phase of the project new clinical areas will be added: tuberculosis treatment, early detection and care of breast cancer, depression in general practitioner settings, and others.
- A Working Group for Quality Assurance will coordinate activities and refine health care management.

Beneficiaries

Russian doctors and their patients benefit from this activity. At least 1,000 medical personnel have participated in workshops under this program, affecting over 1 million patients.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Up to 30 regions will participate in nationwide scale-up of quality assurance, to be launched at a December meeting. In its third phase the project will link technical assistance closely to the use of evidence-based medicine.

Cross-Cutting Activities

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Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey

This activity makes objective and nationally valid information on Russian economic and social conditions routinely available. Up-to-date information allows policy-makers to monitor the impact of economic and political reforms on Russian households over time.

Geographic Location:

Office: No office in Russia

Regions: Moscow, Leningradskaya,

Novosibirskaya, Smolenskaya,

Kaluzhskaya, Orenburgskaya,

Tambovskaya, Saratovskaya,

Chelyabinskaya, Penzenskaya,

Nizhegorodskaya, and Tomskaya

Oblasts, Krasnodarskiy, Krasnoyarskiy,

Primorskiy, Altayskiy, and

Stavropolskiy Krays, Republic of

Komi, Republics of Chuvashia, Mariy-

El, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Tatarstan.

US Implementing Partners:

University of North Carolina at Chapel

Hill, Paragon Research International

Start: 1992

Completion: May 2004

Russian Partners:

Institute of Sociology and Institute of

Nutrition, Russian Academy of Science

Other External Partners:

National Institutes of Health

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Ten rounds of the RLMS have been completed. Rounds 1-4 were conducted between 1992 and 1995 with the State Statistical Agency (Goskomstat). Rounds 5-7, completed between 1996 and 1998, were conducted independently with a new national sample. In both cases, the sample included about 4,000 households and 10,000 individuals. Summary information on economic status, health conditions, and family planning/abortion is provided to USAID within two months of completion of the field work. Data from Rounds 1-10 are available at www.cpc.unc.edu/rlms.

The survey has highlighted issues of poverty, wage arrears, housing changes and incidence of abortion, and has confirmed the movement of the labor force into the private sector. Both the OECD Labor Report on Russia and the World Bank Report on Poverty rely on RLMS. The data have also been used to assess potential changes in the Russian tax code.

Results of the tenth round were presented a conference in May. During this round, the implementer also collected data and produced a report on sexual behavior, knowledge and beliefs. This report was widely distributed within the Russian health care community.

Beneficiaries

Sound analysis and data of household behavior benefit the entire Russian population. The Presidential Administration and numerous Russian think tanks use the data to help develop and implement economic and social policy programs.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

Data is being collected for the eleventh round. Reports will be presented at an annual conference in May.

Strategic Technical Assistance for Results with Training (START/Russia)

This activity offers integrated learning opportunities to Russian professionals so that they can build organizational capacity in guiding Russia towards a stable civil society and a free market economy.

Over three years, 60 training programs for 900 participants will be arranged, and 24 workshops for over 700 alumni of various USG-sponsored training and exchange programs will be held.

Geographic Location:

Office: Moscow

Regions: Participants come from selected Russian regions. Training courses will take place in the U.S., third countries and selected Russian cities. Alumni workshops are held in places with high concentration of USG alumni and/or presence of active alumni groups.

US Implementing Partners:

Academy for Educational Development (AED)

Start: September 2001

Completion: September 2004

Russian Partners:

National Guild of Professional Consultants
Ecoline
Fond Partner
Others TBD

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

Since 2001 this program has offered short-term training courses in the U.S., Russia and third countries to more than 350 Russian professionals. These courses incorporate managerial and technical areas of expertise and introduce trainees to essential knowledge, connections across disciplines and application of skills to real work environments.

The skills and knowledge acquired through training are sustained within Russian institutions and improve their overall performance. The graduates commit themselves to sharing new perceptions with their colleagues. For example, a group of directors of 11 small TV stations trained at California State University in January 2002 reported significant progress six months after the training in news production and programming, revenues, efficiency and reputation of their stations. One station increased annual revenue eight-fold; another developed a weekly program of news analysis and signed an agreement with a national cable network for more programming. Participants made presentations to 330 co-workers.

Alumni development activities keep alumni of USG training in touch. Two pilot workshops in Samara and Vladivostok were designed to build capacity of networking organizations in which the alumni are members. The workshops addressed strategic planning for networks, mobilization of local resources, membership and volunteer development, and interaction with the communities.

Training courses enhance professional capabilities and leadership potential of Russian professionals. For example, 16 participants were trained on children's issues by Children's Institute International in Los Angeles in February. Since then, the team from the Psychological Medico-Social Services Center OZON/Moscow won an award from the Russian Federation Government for its project, "Preventing Neglect and Offenses by Minors by Preventing Violence against Children."

Beneficiaries

Russian professionals who gain capacity through training and participant organizations benefit from this activity. In addition, the activity develops local training capacity through a training-the-trainers component and in-country training courses.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

About 400 Russian professionals will complete 20 training courses in the U.S., Russia and other countries. More than 250 alumni of USG-sponsored programs will participate in regional management workshops, among them alumni development workshops and training courses on public advocacy, public awareness campaigns and other cross-sectoral topics.

PartNER (Partnerships, Networking, Empowerment & Roll-out)

PartNER is a multi-dimensional activity targeted at the Volga Federal District (VFD) and focused on developing U.S.-VFD partnerships' capacity to foster local socioeconomic development in the region. The program addresses social reform, local governance and economic development, and the rule of law.

Geographic Location:
Nizhniy Novgorod

Regions: Republics of Bashkortostan, Komi, Mordoviya, Mariy-El, Tatarstan, Chuvashiya, and Udmurtiya, Nizhegorodskaya, Kirovskaya, Orenburgskaya, Penzenskaya, Permskaya, Samarskaya, Saratovskaya, and Ul'yanovskaya Oblasts, and Permyakskiy Autonomus Okrug,

U.S. Implementing Partner:
International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)

Start: October 2001

Completion: September 2004

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

In the first round of grant competitions 5 partnerships received funding for community organizing, local economic development, preventive health care, and social infrastructure development. As a result:

- A Teen Adaptation Center was established in Perm. The center's social workers visited a large number of teenagers' homes and interviewed street children. As a result, a dozen teenagers stopped sniffing toxic substances and drinking alcohol, moved to the shelters, and enrolled in a course on career choice and preparation.
- The Forest Cluster working group was created; it consists of 20 representatives of local administration, forest enterprises, scientific research institutions, NGOs, and educational institutions.
- The New Opportunities project expanded to ten more regions; local officials were trained to deal with child abuse and neglect; 50 social workers were trained to work with families and at-risk children using unique American methodology; 70 students from Nizhniy Novgorod – volunteered for the project. More than 20 contacts were established with U.S. governmental and non-governmental organizations working to prevent child abuse.

Regular networking meetings with representatives of the local administration, the presidential envoy's office, partner organizations and donor organizations cover a strategic plan for social and economic development, the role of NGOs in local economic development, etc.

About 14 new partnerships will receive funding under the second round of grants competition, which introduced inter-religious and inter-ethnic understanding as a topic.

Beneficiaries

The program benefits various Volga Federal District institutions and communities through joint activities with American partners, training, and consultations. In addition, it strengthens existing Russian NGOs and provides resources for social services development in Russia.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

In November 2002 IREX will present the results of the second round of grants competition, major program accomplishments and donor coordination.

IREX will submit an application for the second phase of the program

U.S.-Russian Far East Partnerships

The U.S.-RFE partnerships program develops U.S.-RFE partnerships and promotes collaboration between businesses and organizations on the U.S. West Coast and the RFE, which will integrate the RFE into the Pacific Rim. The program addresses the rule of law, professional association strengthening, SME development, environmental advocacy, good governance, and social and economic infrastructure development.

Geographic Location:

FRAEC Office: Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

Regions: Amurskaya Oblast, Khabarovskiy Kray, Jewish Autonomous Oblast, Primorskiy Kray, Magadanskaya Oblast, Chukotskiy Autonomous Okrug, Koryakskiy Autonomous Okrug, Kamchatskaya Oblast, Sakhalinskaya Oblast, Republic of Sakha (Yakutiya), and Republic of Buryatiya

U.S. Implementing Partner:

Foundation for Russian-American Economic Cooperation (FRAEC)

Start: October 2001

Completion: September 2004

Achievements Over the Life of the Activity

- Outreach activities under the first round of grant competition helped 160 organizations to partner and submit grant applications. 10 activities funded under the first round cross strategic focus areas and include activities in indigenous land rights, microfinance, community organizing, maternal and infant health, emergency and preventive healthcare, eco-tourism association strengthening, and legal and judicial training.
- A Health Fair Center has been legally registered in Vladivostok and has coordinated several health fairs in the RFE that were attended by more than 1,000 people. The visitors are able to have short medical check-ups and receive consultations from doctors.
- Social partnership for eco-tourism conducted a model eco-tour for RFE tour operators to introduce in Nogliki and the Lazo region. The partners mobilized local residents to organize tours and determine the best route.
- Collaboration with the National Judicial College (Reno) the Academy of Justice, has become strengthened the Far Eastern Branch. The Branch received a license to work with students enrolled in higher education, and to grant diplomas and government accreditation to judges enrolled in continuing education to increase their qualifications.
- An online database lists Russian and American organizations in partnership in the RFE or seeking partners. Several hundred organizations have asked to have their information posted and the directory will continue to grow over the life of the program. Informal and formal contacts have already been made as a result of the directory.
- The second round of grant competition focuses on SME Development and Good Governance. Approximately 10 partnership projects will receive funding to implement joint activities and sustain their collaboration.

Beneficiaries

The program benefits Russian Far East institutions and communities through training, consultations and joint activities with American partners. In addition, it strengthens existing Russian NGOs and provides resources for development of social services in Russia.

Noteworthy Plans Over the Next Year

FRAEC will brief USAID on second round grants competition results in December.

The second phase of the program will start in April 2003.